

## ACORN

New Street, Oldbury Green, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

Joseph Brown [1850]

John Daly [1853] – [1855]

## NOTES

### Birmingham Journal 14/12/1850 - Advert

“Sale at the ACORN, Oldbury Green.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, upon the Premises as above, on Monday Next, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Part of the Household Furniture, Public House Fixtures, Brewing Vessels, Malt Mill, well-seasoned Casks, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Joseph Brown*, who is declining the Public Business.

Catalogues are ready, and may be had from the Auctioneer, Brierley.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock.

The House to be Let, with immediate Possession.”

*John Daly*, beer retailer, ACORN, New Street. [1855]

### Birmingham Journal 3/11/1855 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury.

Whereas a Petition of *John Daly*, now and for these three years last past residing in New Street, Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Worcester, carrying on business as a Beerseller, and occasionally working as a Labourer at Messrs. Chance and Brothers' Chemical Works, at Oldbury aforesaid, 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 *John Daly* under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *John Daly* is hereby required to appear in the said Court, to be holden at Oldbury aforesaid, before the Judge of the said Court, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1855, 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 *John Daly*, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Joseph Heapy Watson, the Clerk of the said Court, who is the Official Assignee of the Estate and Effects of the said Insolvent, at his Offices at the Court House, in Oldbury aforesaid.

Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1855.

J. B. Smith, Attorney, Horsley Heath.”

## ACORN

Shidas Lane, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

### ALBION

15, (41), (42), Freeth Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Richard Clifton  
Mrs. Clifton, Whiteheath  
W. Showell and Sons  
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.  
Ind Coope and Allsopp (acquired in 1936)  
Ansells Ltd. (acquired in 1960)

### LICENSEES

Richard Clifton [1850] – **1856**;  
Edwin Clifton (**1856** – [1859]  
Emma Clifton [1860] – [1865]  
Richard John Cooper [ ] – **1868**);  
Mary Chatwin (**1868** – [ ]  
Richard Cooper [1870]  
Richard Whitehead [1871]  
Joseph Pugh [ ] – **1872**);  
Philip Pigott (**1872** – [1873]  
John Russell [1874] – [1875]  
Arthur Bradley\* [1876] – [1883]  
Felix Wills [1884]  
Arthur Bradley\* [1886] – **1891**);  
Walter Pitto (**1891**);  
Robert James Roberts (**1891** – **1892**);  
Thomas Garbett (**1892** – **1894**);  
Walter Showell and Sons (Showell's Brewery Co. Ltd) (**1894** – **1914**);  
Robert Jones [1896] – [1901] manager  
Thomas Jones [1900] – [1903] manager?  
Joseph Aston [1911] – [1912] manager  
Joseph Aston (**1914** – **1922**);  
Joseph Onions (**1922** – **1932**);  
Harold Troman (**1932** – **1935**);  
Raymond Phipps (**1935** – **1939**);  
George William Priest (**1939** – **1941**);  
Gertrude Priest (**1941** – **1942**);  
Frank Arthur Pratley (**1942** – **1945**);  
William Homer (**1945** – **1951**);  
Leonard 'Len' Feeney (**1951** – **1952**);  
Stanley 'Stan' James (**1952** – **1953**);

Edwin Morse (1953 – 1954);  
Frederick Henry Phipps (1954 – 1955);  
Bertram Broadway Newman (1955 – 1956);  
John William Grainger (1956);  
Wilfred Bass (1956 – 1957);  
Dennis Lewis (1957 – [1962])

## NOTES

42, Freeth Street [1871], [1873]  
41, Freeth Street [1881]  
15, Freeth Street [1896], [1916], [1921], [1939]

### Birmingham Journal 21/7/1849

“On Monday last a man named Garrett Callagan, who said he came from Birmingham, was committed to prison by James Hunt, Esq, for passing bad money, on Saturday, the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. The prisoner, it seems, went to Mrs. Flavell’s, in Truth Street, Oldbury, and tendered her a shilling in payment for some bread, but she detected that it was not so good as it should be, and ordered the prisoner about his business. At this time the prisoner had a lad with him; however, he left the lad in the street, and went into Mrs. *Clifton*’s, the ALBION INN, and called for half a pint of beer, for which he again tendered the shilling, which Mrs. *Clifton* also told him was a bad one, and one of the other customers put the shilling between his teeth and bit it in two. The prisoner was allowed to go away, and in about twenty minutes returned again and called for half a pint of fourpenny, and tendered a sixpence in payment, which was also detected as bad, very bad. The prisoner then tried to make his escape, but was secured and handed over to the care of the police. The boy effected his escape.

### Worcester Journal 18/7/1850

“On Monday morning last, a man named Frederick Brown, was apprehended by Inspector Chipp and PC Bullock, in Lowesmoor, in this city, on suspicion of stealing a horse, he having sold a most valuable animal in our fair on Monday se’night, for £6 10s. The prisoner lives in the neighbourhood of Oldbury, and the horse belongs to Mr. *Richard Clifton*, of the ALBION INN in that place. He came to this city again on the morning of his apprehension with another fine horse which he had stolen from Mr. John Johns, of Oldbury, and which he was offering for sale for £8, when the officers took him into custody. Mr. Johns values his animal at £20. He will be taken to Oldbury this (Wednesday) afternoon, in custody of Inspector Chipp, and no doubt committed for trial at the Assizes.”

### Birmingham Journal 27/7/1850

“Worcester Assizes.....

Frederick Brown, for stealing a horse, the property of *Richard Clifton*, Hales Owen, seven years’ transportation.”

### 1851 Census

Freeth Street

- [1] *Richard Clifton* (45), maltster and victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Clifton (41), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Susan Clifton (20), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Edwin Clifton* (18), son, maltster, born Oldbury;
- [5] Samuel Clifton (16), son, grocer’s apprentice, born Oldbury;
- [6] Vaughton Clifton (13), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Sarah Clifton (8), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Mary Clifton (10 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [9] Elizabeth Price (13), house servant, born Oldbury;

Birmingham Journal 1/1/1853 - Advert

“Valuable and Improving Freehold Houses, Buildings, and Wharf Land, in the centre of the Town of Oldbury, in the County of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hammond and Oldfield (by order of the Executors of the late Samuel Nightingale) on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January inst, at Six o’clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Richard Clifton*, the ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1853 - Married

“On the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst, at the Parish Church, Oldbury, (by the Rev. Mr. Griffin) Mr. Elijah Davis, of Portway House, to Susan, eldest daughter of Mr. *Richard Clifton*.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/10/1855

“On Wednesday evening the coroner, R. Docker, Esq, held an adjourned inquest at the house of Mr. *Richard Clifton*, the ALBION INN, Oldbury, on the body of a man named Thomas Turner, aged 61, who met with his death on Tuesday week, whilst engaged in a pumping pit belonging to Captain Bennitt. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was employed by Captain Bennitt as managing engineer, and that having with another man been engaged during the night of Monday week in drawing a number of rods out of an engine pit at Rounds Green Colliery, he at the time of the accident was standing upon a scaffold in the pit while a large weight was being lifted, and that the capstan rope broke in the attempt, fell upon him, and crushed him in a fearful manner. The other man escaped. It is supposed to have been a sudden jerk that caused the capstan rope to break. A portion of the rope was examined by the jurymen, who were perfectly satisfied with its condition. It was stated to have been the business of the deceased to see that the tackle was in good working order, as he had the sole management, and could have had a new rope whenever he thought proper. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/11/1855

“On Tuesday, at the ALBION INN, Oldbury, before R. Docker, Esq, an inquest was held on the body of a man named Thomas Hughes, who was killed on the 1st instant by a fall of about 30cwt of coal, whilst engaged in a coal pit at Langley Green, belonging to Messrs. Johnson, Probert, and Mason. The inquest was attended by T. Wynne, Esq, who had made an examination of the pit, and who expressed himself as being satisfied that there had been no want of usual precaution in the matter, and a verdict was then returned of Accidental Death.”

AND

“On Tuesday an inquest was held before the Coroner, R. Docker, Esq, at the house of Mr. *Richard Clifton*, the ALBION INN, Oldbury, on the body of a young lad named John Little, who was killed on the night of the 25<sup>th</sup> ultimo, in a coal pit belonging to Mr. Joseph Hackett, at Causeway Green. Mr. Wynne, the Government Inspector of Coal Mines, was present.

It will be remembered that one of the two men (William Harris) who were engaged with the deceased at the time of the occurrence was also suffocated, and the other, William Booth (erroneously stated last week to be Gould), had an extraordinary escape by climbing the pit chain.

From the evidence of Booth, who was sufficiently recovered to be able to attend the inquest, and from the evidence of other witnesses, who went to the pit bank on the morning following the occurrence, the additional facts to those before stated appear to be these.

That the deceased, and the witness Booth, were on the night in question engaged in driving a gate road (which was nine feet wide and from two to three feet high) at the bottom of the shaft, which they descended at six pm; that they had driven the rock to a distance of twenty yards from the bottom of the shaft, which was about 180 yards deep; that at 9.35 they came out of the workings to the bottom, to have supper; that the damp came first down the shaft to the candles, there being a heading or air-way fourteen yards above them, which led into another shaft; that their candles were put out by this damp; that the ‘fire stink’ began to rush upon them very heavily; that both the deceased tried to climb the chain, but failed; that Booth then took off his shoes, climbed the chain, and after ‘hard struggling for his life’ as he ascended through the ‘fire stink,’ reached a height of 150 yards, and there remained fastened by his strap and shirt to the chain for the whole

of the night, till five next morning. The others remained at the bottom, they having nowhere else to go, and were suffocated.

There was no one allowed to remain on the pit bank during the night; neither was there any arrangement in case of danger, to enable the men at the bottom to communicate to the top. He (Booth) once did 'beg hard' for the whimsey man to be allowed to remain during the night, but this was when they were first engaged in blowing the rock. They had a whimsey man for one night, but he was refused afterwards by the doggy, whose name was William Mogg. Booth had never met with the damp in that pit previous to that night.

In answer to the Inspector, the man said they had commenced the trumpeting from the air-head referred to to the part of the pit where the deceased were engaged, but owing to its being unfinished, it was of no service, and owing to this the smoke of the powder used in blasting was almost overpowering. He and the other men frequently complained of this to the doggy, who said there was not much of the trumpeting to finish, and it should be done. If there had been means of carrying away the fire stink, he did not think the occurrence would have taken place; and he (Booth) was also of opinion that there could not have been sufficient dams in the air-head to keep back the fire stink. The other pit ought to have 'drawn,' but owing to the high winds on that particular night, the shafts 'strove' with each other, as they sometimes would, so that the fire stink went into the bottom of the blowing shaft; nothing was said or done to prevent this, which was not usual. There were no signals in the pit.

The pit was under the superintendence of a ground bailiff (Mr. Charles Bromley), according to whose evidence he visited the pit on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult, and again of the 30<sup>th</sup>. On the first occasion he gave instructions to the doggy for the trumpeting to be done, and 'if the shaft was safe to work in, he was to work, and not without.' The fire stink had previously broken out in the other pit. The trumpeting was being finished on the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, and consequently had not been done when the men were killed.

Mr. Wynne strictly cross-examined this witness, who candidly admitted that nothing had been done by way of meeting the provisions of the act passed in August, and to come into operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January next, although if its rules had been observed, the accident could not have happened.

In summing up the Coroner said the ground bailiff's orders to the doggy did not appear to have been so peremptory as the nature of the case demanded; it was a great pity in this case that there was no law which went further than the law at present did for the careless manner in which he understood the pits in this district were worked; it ought to be, and would be hoped in a short time be the subject of legislation. Under these circumstances, Mr. Docker concluded, I cannot advise you there is anybody criminally to blame here, but I regret it is not so.

The Jury consulted and returned a verdict of Accidental Death, it being their opinion that the doggy should be reprimanded for not getting the trumpeting done speedily, and there ought to be some one at the top of the pit during the night.

The Inspector: Let me catch a pit after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January without a signal; or if anybody will give me the information I shall be glad; the penalty is £5 and £1 per day, while the omission is continued.

The Coroner suitably reprimanded Mogg, expressing his belief that if he had properly discharged his duty the lives of two persons might have been saved."

#### Birmingham Journal 22/12/1855

"On Wednesday, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Richard Clifton*, the ALBION INN, before the Coroner, R. Docker, Esq, on the body of a man, 26 years of age, named William Dearn, who was employed as a carpenter by Mr. Samuel Johnson, and who was killed in one of the water pits, at the Brades, on Thursday, the 13th instant. The evidence showed that the deceased descended the water pit at eight o'clock in the morning, to change one of the pumping buckets, and that at half-past nine he gave a signal to be drawn higher up the shaft. He was then 150 yards down, and when drawn up about 16 yards higher (he intended to have ascended 50 yards), the horse of the gin which was drawing him up was suddenly stopped, and it was supposed the deceased had become entangled in some of the scaffolding. The gin horse was driven backwards, and after waiting for a while for a signal from the deceased, the driver drew up the 'horse' on which the deceased had descended, and found it was empty. John Darbey, an engineer, descended the shaft, and found Dearn on the scaffold in a state of insensibility. He must have fallen 16 yards. There was cut at the back of the deceased's head. He died in half an hour. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

*Richard Clifton* – see also WHITEHEATH TAVERN, Rowley Regis.

Worcestershire Chronicle 29/10/1856

“At Halesowen, on Tuesday week, the following licenses were transferred.....  
ALBION, from *Richard Clifton* to *Edwin Clifton*, his son.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/3/1858

“J. Marshall of Oldbury not being satisfied with his late defeat with Adrian Mountfield of Blackheath, will run him again, 200 yards, for £10 a side, if he will give three yards start, to come off in a fortnight from the first deposit. Money ready at Mr. *E. Clifton*'s, ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, any night next week.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/1/1859

“John Marshall of Oldbury will run Samuel Smith 120 yards, and give him two yards start, for £5 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Clifton*'s, ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, any night next week.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/10/1859 - Advert

“Clifton Mining Company, Tittford, Oldbury, Worcestershire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joshua Hammond, on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November next, at six o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Edwin Clifton*, called the ALBION INN, Oldbury (in consequence of the death of one of the Partners), subject to such conditions as will be then produced.

All the Ungotten Mines of Coal, Ironstone, and other Mines and Minerals (except surface Clay) lying and being in and under those closes and parcels of Land, situated at Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, containing 20A 3R 35P, or thereabouts, of surface measurement, together with the twenty-eight horse-power Steam-Engine, Tramways, and Colliery Plant, belonging to the said Colliery; and also so much of the Surface Clay as may be necessary for working and getting the said Mines and Minerals.

The Purchaser may have the option of purchasing the Pit Railways, Skips, Rings, Boats, and other Working Materials, at a fair valuation.

Note. The Thick Coal has been worked on the west side of the Estate by H. B. Whitehouse, Esq, and on the east side by Messrs. Johnson and others.

The Mines may be viewed, and a plan of the workings seen, upon application to Mr. Aaron Peacock, Mine Agent, Brades, Oldbury.

Plans and further particulars may be obtained on application to Messrs. Ingleby, Wragge, and Evans, Solicitors, Bennetts Hill; or the Auctioneer, 21, Waterloo Street, all of Birmingham.”

1861 Census

Freeth Street – ALBION INN

[1] *Emma Clifton* (27), widow, publican, born Holms Chappel, Cheshire;

[2] Sarah Clifton (1), daughter, born Oldbury;

[3] Ellen Joiner (21), domestic servant, born Wotton Werain [Wootton Wawen?], Warwickshire:

*Richard John Cooper* issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/6/1870 - Advert

“ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury.

Capital Old-Licensed House, doing a good trade.

By C. Wootton. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty. Rent £40; let off £13. In-coming about £200. Satisfactory reasons.

Apply, C. Wootton, Paradise Street, West Bromwich.”

1871 Census

42, Freeth Street

[1] *Richard Whitehead* (43), charter master and publican, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Elizabeth Whitehead (39), wife, born Donnington Wood, Shropshire;

[3] Hannah Whitehead (16), daughter, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[4] William Whitehead (13), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[5] Elizabeth Whitehead (2), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[6] Sarah Jane Lanford (13), general servant, born Oldbury:

AND

41, Freeth Street – Malthouse

*Richard Whitehead* issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/11/1871 - Advert

“Sale of Property, at Langley Green, Oldbury.

Mr. Edward Cox has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, on Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November next, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions of sale then to be read.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/12/1871

“At the ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, an inquest was held on Thursday by Mr. R. Docker, coroner, upon the body of William Bastable, 61 years of age, who resided in Inkerman Street, and had been for many years engaged as watchman at the Furnaces. On the evening of Christmas Day deceased was on his way to Rounds Green in search of a man who was wanted at the works, when he was taken suddenly ill, and fell down in the road near Mr. Sadler’s offices. Some men came by shortly afterwards, but, thinking Bastable was helplessly drunk, passed on. The circumstance was afterwards communicated to the deceased’s wife, who went in search of her husband, but upon her arrival at the place indicated, the old man had ceased to breathe. The deceased had been unwell for some time, and the Jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

London Gazette 10/1/1873

“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 *Joseph Pugh*, formerly of the ALBION INN, Freeth-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, but now of Broadwell-road, Oldbury aforesaid, Painter, in furnished lodgings.

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 William Shakespeare, No.55, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Solicitor, on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1873, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1873.

William Shakespeare, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/4/1873

“Worcestershire Easter Sessions.....

Susanna Charland pleaded guilty to having robbed her mistress, Mrs. *Piggott*, of the ALBION INN, Oldbury, of various articles of clothing, and was sentenced to four months’ hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/6/1874 - Advert

“Bargain. Four-wheeled Phaeton for Sale, as good as new. Price £15.

Apply at Mr. *John Russell*’s, ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury.”

Worcestershire Journal 9/1/1875

“Worcestershire Epiphany Quarter Sessions.....

Esther Kiteley, 34, labourer, was indicted for stealing £4 10s from the person of William Hare, at Oldbury, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December. The prosecutor, a married man, stated that he met with the prisoner on the evening of the day in question, and whilst he was in her company, he asserted, the robbery was committed. Mr. Godson prosecuted. The prisoner stated that she was with a few friends at a public house on the evening upon which the robbery was committed. The prisoner was found guilty. She had been previously convicted

for felony, and had twice been indicted for stealing from the person. Sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

The learned vice-chairman said that the Court would mark its sense of the conduct of the prosecutor by disallowing his personal expenses."

AND

Worcestershire Chronicle 9/1/1875

"Worcestershire Epiphany Sessions.....

Esther Kiteley (34) was charged with stealing from the person of William Hare on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1874, at Oldbury, £4 10s. Mr. Godson prosecuted, the prisoner being undefended.

It appeared that the woman was not so virtuous as might be desired, and when at the ALBION INN, on the evening in question, she met the prosecutor, she 'relieved' him of the money in question.

After deliberating for nearly an hour without agreeing upon a verdict, the Chairman reminded the Jury that it would be his duty to order them to be locked up if there was any probability of a verdict not being returned shortly, as it was important that the business of the Court should be proceeded with without unnecessary delay. Another consultation ensued amongst the Jury, after which the foreman said they preferred to be 'locked up,' as there was no prospect of them agreeing upon a verdict. They were accordingly taken in charge by the officer of the Court, and imprisoned in a room without fire, food, or water. After being absent about 20 minutes, the Jury returned and recorded a verdict of guilty. Previous convictions were proved against the prisoner, who the Chairman, in sentencing to 12 months' hard labour, characterised as an habitual prostitute thief. The Court disallowed the expenses of the prosecutor."

County Express 8/5/1875

"At the Police Court, on Monday, *John Russell*, landlord of the ALBION INN, Freeth, was fined 40s and costs, for keeping open during prohibited hours on the 18<sup>th</sup> ult, and three men who were found drinking on the premises at the time were each fined 5s and costs."

London Gazette 21/1/1876

"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 *John Russell*, late of the ALBION INN, Fruth-street, Oldbury, Licensed Victualler, but now living in lodgings at the GREYHOUND INN, Spon-lane, West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, out of business.

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, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 2nd day of February, 1876, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 17th day of January, 1876.

William Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Solicitor for the said Debtor."

Sporting Life 8/4/1876

"Alexandra Park, Rood End, Oldbury. Easter Holidays.

Mr. John Gumbley will give £13 to be run for in a 200 yards all-England dog handicap on Saturday and Monday, April 15 and 17 – first prize £10, second £2, third £1. Entrance 1s each, no acceptance. All entries to be made at the ground, or at.....

Mr. *A. Bradley*'s, ALBION INN, Oldbury."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/2/1877

"Mr. Nuttall will give £10 to be run for in an all-England dog handicap, distance 200 yards, for dogs of all weights, on be run on Mondays, February 12 and 19 – first prize £8; second £1 10s; third 10s. Entrance 1s each; no acceptance. Entrances to be sent not later than Wednesday, February 7 (Thursday morning's post in time), to be made at the grounds; Mr. Rickbury, Old Plough, Suffolk Street, Birmingham; Mr. *Bradley*, ALBION INN, Oldbury; Mr. Fairn, RAILWAY INN, Wednesbury; Mr. Brindley, COCK INN, Willenhall; Mr. Stevens, RAILWAY INN, Walbrook; Darby Tom, 29, New Cross Street, Tipton; Mr. E. Darby, CROSS KEYS INN, Walsall, or Mr. Parsons, FOX AND GOOSE INN, Darby End. Conditions as usual."



### 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. *A. Bradley*'s, ALBION INN, Oldbury.”

### Sporting Life 13/10/1877

“Cross Keys Running Grounds, Hednesford.

Messrs. Birch and Bullock will give £10 to be run for in a 135 yards all-England foot handicap on Hednesford Wakes, Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 29 and 30 – first prize £8, second £1 10s, third 10s. Entrance 1s, no acceptance. Entries to be made to.....

Mr. *Bradley*, ALBION INN, Oldbury.”

### Sporting Life 9/3/1878

“Alexandra Running Grounds, Bloxwich.

Mr. T. Marshall, jun, will give £7 10s to be run for in an all-England 150 yard dog handicap on Mondays, March 18 and 25 – first prize £6, second £1, third 10s. Entries 1s each. Entries to be made at.....

Mr. *A. Bradley*'s, ALBION INN, Oldbury.”

### Sporting Life 13/11/1880

“William Oakes, of Oldbury, will run his bitch, the French poodle against Bradley's Jenny (if Mr. Bradley will agree to run at Lea Brook Grounds), the best of twenty-five courses, for £20 a-side. The French poodle to be 14lb, and Jenny 13½lb. If this does not suit, any dog or bitch in England can have the job on the same terms. A match can be made at the ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury.”

### 1881 Census

41, Freeth Street – ALBION INN

[1] *Arthur Bradley* (44), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Hannah Bradley (40), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Sarah H. Bradley (19), daughter, born Hagley Hay, Staffordshire;

[4] Nelly Bradley (18), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Mary A. Bradley (15), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] Annie Bradley (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] Florence Bradley (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[8] Frank Bradley (2 months), son, born Oldbury;

[9] Ellen Dalton (21), visitor, barmaid, born Shenstone, Staffordshire:

### Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1883

“Edwin Markwick, of SEVEN STARS INN, Park Lane, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Arthur Bradley*, ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, on the 18<sup>th</sup> ult.

Police-constable Camden proved the case, and defendant was fined 40s and costs, in all £2 8s.”

\*probably the same person

### Birmingham Daily Post 31/3/1887

“To Brewers, Wine Merchants, Investors, and Others.

Highly-important Old-established Full-Licensed Inn and Premises, Malthouse, and Superior Residence, situate respectively in Freeth Street and Low Town, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester.

Mr. Joseph Hackett has received instructions from the Representatives of the late Mr. *Richard Clifton* to Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at 7 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced, incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

Lot 1. All that Valuable and Important Freehold Old-established, Full-Licensed Inn, known as the ALBION, occupying a good position in Freeth Street, Oldbury, aforesaid, containing three Cellars, Liquor Vaults, Smoke Room, Parlour, Kitchen, Scullery, spacious Club Room, three Bed Rooms, Brewhouse, Coach-house, Stable, large enclosed Yard, with gateway entrance leading to Orchard Street, Out-buildings, and other Appurtenances, and now occupied by Mr. *Arthur Bradley*; and also the Substantial and Well-arranged Malthouse adjoining, the whole having a frontage of 13 yards to Freeth Street, aforesaid. The Malthouse has until lately been in the occupation of Messrs. J. A. and A. Thompson, and the whole property will let at an annual rental of £50.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/11/1889

“Last night a numerously-attended meeting of tradesman and the members of the police force in the Oldbury Division was held at the ALBION INN, Freeth Street, for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to Police-sergeant Stanton, who has been stationed at Oldbury during the last eight years, and who has been recently removed to Ombersley, near Worcester. Mr. Arnold (assistant to the magistrates’ clerk) presided; and on behalf of the subscribers presented Sergeant Stanton with a gold watch of the value of twenty guineas as a mark of their appreciation of the way in which he had discharged his duties during the past eight years. Several tradesmen spoke in eulogistic terms of the way in which Sergeant Stanton had discharged his duties, and Mr. T. Pouter referred to the readiness of the inhabitants to subscribe to the testimonial fund. Police-sergeant Stanton suitably acknowledged the gift, and said he was pleased to know that he had given satisfaction to the people of Oldbury during his stay in the town. Superintendent Speke said he was pleased to hear that the police of Oldbury were on such good terms with the people.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/8/1890

“At the Police Court, yesterday, Mr. Joseph D. Wood, architect, of Birmingham, applied to the magistrates to approve plans for extensive alterations which it is proposed to carry out at the CHEMICAL INN, Park Lane, and the ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury. It was explained the both houses belong to Messrs. Showell and Sons (Limited). The application was granted, subject to approval of the licensing justices.”

*Arthur Bradley* – see also BRIDGE, Station Road.

Birmingham Daily Post 27/5/1891

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, the magistrates granted a temporary transfer of the license of the ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, from *Walter Pitto* to *Robert James Roberts*, the goalkeeper of the West Bromwich Albion team.”

*Robert James Roberts* – see also THREE CROWNS, West Bromwich.

Smethwick Telephone 3/9/1892

“On Wednesday evening last Ye No.4 Tent of Jollie Bohemians held their weekly meeting at the house of Mr. *Tom Garbett*, ALBION HOTEL, Freeth Street, Oldbury.....

The ruling idea in the formation of this club has been to afford to each and every member the advantages of social good fellowship, intellectual advancement, musical entertainment, and the unbiassed consideration of the leading questions of the day, while the arrangements for charitable distributions to deserving institutions without pecuniary calls on the members, should at all times recommend it to the consideration of every well-balanced mind.

The officers chosen, and their duties, are as follows ..... Ye Treasurer, Bro. *Tom Garbett*, whose duties will be to receive the monies from the Scribe and Major, and pay away as the Committee decide.....

There are three tents in Birmingham, No.4 being at Oldbury, at which our representative was present on Wednesday evening, and a rare jolly night was spent. There are between 40 and 50 members in connection with No.4 tent.”

Smethwick Telephone 1/10/1892 - Advert

“Order of Ye Jollie Bohemians.

Time & Places of Meeting.....

No.4 Tent. ALBION HOTEL, Freeth Street, Oldbury. Proprietor, Bro. *Garbett*. Wednesday Nights at 8 o'clock.”

### 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.....

*T. Jones*, ALBION INN, Oldbury, 100.”

### 1901 Census

15, Freeth Street

[1] *Robert Jones* (57), manager licensed house, born Kidderminster;

[2] *Phoebe Jones* (57), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Thomas Jones* (27), son, barman, born Wigan;

[4] *Theodore Hughes* (11), grand-son, born Smethwick;

[5] *Ethel Hughes* (9), grand-daughter, born Smethwick;

[6] *Albert Barrett* (24), lodger, leather carrier, born Birmingham;

[7] *Jane Parkes* (22), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Thomas Jones* was born on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1872 in Aspull, near Wigan, Lancashire.

He was the son of *Robert Jones* (brick setter / furnace builder) and *Phoebe Charlton*.

He married *Mary Ann Chambers* on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1902 at Harborne Parish Church.

See also OLDE BULLS HEAD, CROSSWELLS and WHITE SWAN.

He died in 1925.

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

### 1911 Census

Freeth Street – ALBION INN

[1] *Joseph Aston* (40), manager hotel, born Rounds Green;

[2] *Sarah Jane Aston* (36), wife, married 16 years, born Langley;

[3] *Doris Aston* (15), daughter, born Rounds Green;

[4] *Ida Aston* (12), daughter, school, born Rounds Green;

[5] *Lizzy Aston* (4), daughter, school, born Brades Village:

### Smethwick Telephone 6/10/1923

“*Joseph Onions*, the ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, was summoned for driving to the public danger and further for failing to stop when signalled to do so by a constable. Mr. William Hadgkiss prosecuted on behalf of the Chief Constable, and Mr. Hooper defended.

Mr. Hadgkiss said the offence took place on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, when defendant drove a motor-cycle and side-car combination along High Street from the direction of Oldbury towards Cape Hill. Near the Law Courts he was seen by a police constable travelling at 30 to 40 miles an hour. There was a great deal of traffic about and he was approaching a very dangerous point at Rolfe Street. However, he did not stop when Police-constable Tomkinson stepped into the roadway and signalled to him. Continuing along the main road Police-constable Cotterell also signalled *Onions* to stop. The latter’s signal could not easily have been unnoticed because the officer was wearing white gloves. The speed at which defendant was travelling was altogether excessive from the point of view of public safety. Mr. Hadgkiss added that when great efforts were being made to clear the streets of the borough of road-hogs it must be regarded a particularly flagrant case for a man to rush about the streets in this way, especially when two officers signalled to him to stop and he took no notice.

Police-constable Tomkinson estimated the speed of the motor-cycle as it approached the Law Courts at 30 to

40 miles an hour. Witness said he walked into the road and signalled for the man to stop but he took no notice. Witness also saw Police-constable Cotterell signal to the man. Some days later when he saw *Onions*, he said that he could not remember being signalled to stop. When told the speed which it was estimated the machine was travelling, *Onions* said that officer must have good eye-sight to have caught his number. In reply to Mr. Hooper, this witness described the rate at which defendant was travelling as 'flying.' Police-constable Cotterell said that he thought *Onions* must have been under the impression that he was at Brooklands.

Independent witnesses also gave evidence.

One said that there were disabled men giving to the Employment Exchange at the time that *Onions* drove past; had any of them been crossing the road they would have had a difficulty to escape. One witness said that defendant was travelling three or four times the speed of an ordinary motor-car.

Mr. Hooper said that defendant was going to see his tailor.

The Clerk (Mr. B. Shakespeare): Hurrying to pay his bill, evidently. (Laughter.)

Mr. Hooper: Possibly, being an honest man.

Mr. Hooper pointed to discrepancies in the evidence, the speed having been estimated by witnesses at anything from 30 to 100 miles an hour. He contended that the case had been presented with all the vigour of a police prosecution and also with the utmost prejudice against his client. Further, the defendant had no earthly chance of finding witnesses because of the delay in instituting the proceedings.

Defendant in his evidence regarded himself as one of the most careful drivers on the road. He estimated the speed at 16 miles an hour.

The Magistrates said that they were satisfied that defendant drove to the danger of the public and would be fined £5. For failing to stop when signalled to do so he was fined a further £2. Costs were allowed and the total penalty was £10 2s."

#### Western Mail 7/9/1938 - Advert

"Smart Bar-General wanted, age 22-23; good home, food, and wages.

Apply, with references, Mrs. R. Phipps, ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, near Birmingham."

#### 1939 Register

15, Freeth Street (2 of 4)

[1] *Raymond Phipps*, date of birth 8/2/1899, manager fully licensed house, married;

[2] Ellen L. Phipps, dob 3/11/1899, unpaid domestic duties, married;

#### Nottingham Evening Post 22/11/1948

"William Fisher, 20, of Sheldon Road, All Saints, West Bromwich, was at Oldbury, Worcestershire, today remanded in custody until Wednesday, accused of stealing a charity money box containing 28s, and with the unlawful use of a gun for the purpose of evading arrest.

Supt. Bache said that on November 18<sup>th</sup> *William Homer*, the licensee of the ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, saw Fisher with a charity money box in his possession. *Homer* challenged him and persuaded him to return to the public house where he put the box back on the counter and then disappeared.

PC Palmer and PC Stafford joined in the chase of Fisher which led to a railway stable yard. There Fisher was cornered and produced a German Luger pistol. He said to the police officers, 'Don't move another step or else I will shoot.'

He then dashed away towards some waste land on the outskirts of the town where he was lost to sight.

Some clothing was found in a recreation ground at Carlton on Saturday, which was identified as that which Fisher was wearing at Oldbury. At about midnight, Fisher walked into the trap which was laid for him and was arrested after another attempt to escape."

#### Sports Argus 21/4/1956

"All members of are urged to attend the Oldbury Referees' Association meeting at the ALBION INN, Oldbury, on April 27 (8.0). The meeting will complete the arrangements for the rally on June 2."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/9/1956

“Twenty-nine-year-old Miss Mavis Preece and 30-year-old Mr. Derek Atsbury walked disconsolately to the ALBION INN, Oldbury, on Saturday afternoon to look at the wedding cake they could not cut. Because of a misunderstanding about just who should obtain the licence, the marriage of Mavis, of 268, Oldbury Road, Smethwick, to Derek, of 9, Church Way, Alvanley, Cheshire, could not go on at St. Francis Xavier Church, Oldbury, where Father Ralph was to have married them. Instead, the wedding and the reception for 40 guests, were postponed until next Saturday, ‘when,’ says Derek, ‘I shall make sure the licence is there.’”

*John William Grainger* – see also NEW MARKET TAVERN.

*Dennis Lewis* – see also NEW MARKET TAVERN and WHIMSEY.

[1982]

Closed [January 1983]

Demolished

## **ANCHOR**

Anchor Bridge, Birmingham Road, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

## **LICENSEES**

## **NOTES**

Tokens were issued bearing ANCHOR Sick and Dividend Society.

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/6/1814 - Advert

“Stock in Trade, Shop Tools, Household Furniture, Horse, Cart, &c, at West Bromwich.

By Robins and Terry. To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, this present Monday and Tomorrow, the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of June, the Whole of the Household Furniture, finished and unfinished Stock, Shop Tools, and other Effects, of Mr. Benjamin Turner, of Mares Green, West Bromwich, in the County of Stafford, Bayonet Maker, a Bankrupt.....

Catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale; at the SWAN and BULLS HEAD INNS, West Bromwich; TALBOT INN, Wednesbury; LIMERICK INN, Tipton; ANCHOR INN, Oldbury; BUSH INN, Dudley; and at the Auctioneers' Office, Birmingham.

To commence each Morning exactly at Ten o'Clock, subject to the usual Conditions, which will be strictly attended to.”

## **APPLE TREE**

26, (14), Halesowen Street, (Birmingham Street) / Canal Street, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Jacob Griffiths

Mary Griffiths, Whyley Street, Oldbury  
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (leased)

## LICENSEES

Edward Darby [1839] – [1851]  
Jacob Griffiths [1854] – [1861]  
William Jones [1862] – [1865]  
Henry Jackson [ ] – **1866**;  
George Price (**1866 – 1869**);  
William Eggington (**1869 – 1870**);  
Thomas Jackson (**1870** – [1871]  
Thomas Ward [ ] – **1872**);  
Joseph Richards (**1872** – [1881]  
Edward and Frederick Richards [ ] – **1884**);  
Frederick Richards (**1884 – 1888**);  
Joseph Barnsley (**1888 – 1892**);  
Mrs. Elizabeth Barnsley (**1892 – 1898**);  
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1898 – 1906**):  
George Woodhall [1901] manager?

## NOTES

Birmingham Street [1864]

14, Halesowen Street [1871], [1881], [1873], [1880], [1884]

26, Halesowen Street [1896], [1901]

### Aris's Birmingham Chronicle 16/9/1839

“At the Petty Sessions held at Hales Owen on Monday last, Victuallers' Licenses were granted to the following parties residing in the township of Oldbury.....

*Edward Darby*, Hales Owen Street.”

### 1841 Census

Hales Owen Street

[1] *Edward Darby* (41), publican;

[2] *Mary Darby* (40), wife;

[3] *Mary Darby* (16);

[4] *William Darby* (5);

[5] *David Roberts* (49), labourer:

### 1851 Census

Halesowen Street

[1] *Edward Darby* (57), widower, victualler, born Rowley;

[2] *Jacob Griffiths* (25), son-in-law, coal miner, born Tipton;

[3] *Mary Griffiths* (25), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] *Mary Griffiths* (7), grand-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] *James Griffiths* (2), grand-son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *Sarah Griffiths* (7 months), grand-daughter, born Oldbury;

[7] *Margaret McDurman* (17), house servant, born Ireland:

Birmingham Journal 26/4/1856 - Advert

“The APPLE TREE INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, the Licenses and Possession of the above excellent Roadside House. The Fixtures and Brewing Utensils only to be taken to at a fair valuation.

For particulars, apply upon the Premises; or to the Auctioneer’s Offices, Oldbury.”

London Gazette 29/7/1856

“Whereas a Petition of *Jacob Griffiths*, at present and for eight months last past, residing in Halesowen-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Collier, and for about two years and nine months immediately preceding thereto, residing in Halesowen-street, Oldbury aforesaid, Licensed Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Ale, Beer and Tobacco, and Butty Collier, part of the last-mentioned period, being in copartnership and carrying on business with Bryan Baugh, as Butty Colliers, at Oldbury aforesaid, and other part thereof in copartnership and carrying on business with Simeon Griffiths, as Butty Colliers, at Oldbury aforesaid, and formerly and for about twelve months residing in Halesowen-street, Oldbury aforesaid, Fruiterer and Dealer in Vegetables, 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 *Jacob Griffiths*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Jacob Griffiths* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 23rd day of August next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon precisely for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of creditors’ assignee is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *Jacob Griffiths*, or that have, any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver them 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 insolvent.”

1861 Census

Halesowen Street – APPLE TREE INN

- [1] *Jacob Griffiths* (36), coal miner and victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Griffiths* (36), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Mary Griffiths* (17), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *James Griffiths* (13), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Sarah Griffiths* (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Jacob Griffiths* (7), son, scholar, born Oldbury:

London Gazette 28/8/1861

“*Jacob Griffiths*, heretofore of Hales Owen-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, following the business of a Licensed Victualler and Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Wines, Beer, and Tobacco, afterwards of Pudding Bag-street, Oldbury and county aforesaid, working as a Miner, then of West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, out of employment, then of Queen-street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, part of the time out of employment, and afterwards working the Moxley Coal Pit, in the parish of Bilston and county aforesaid, as a Butty Collier, in copartnership with Jabez Griffiths, James Griffiths, and Benjamin Dimmock, then of Oak-lane, West Bromwich, in the county aforesaid, Licensed Brewer and Retailer of Beer and Tobacco, at the same time working the Lodge Coal Pits, in copartnership with William Drew, then of High-street, West Bromwich aforesaid, trading as aforesaid, and at the same time working as a Butty Collier on his own account, afterwards in copartnership with James Williams, and late of Hales Owen-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, following the business of a Licensed Victualler and Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Wines, Beer, and Tobacco, at the same time working the Birchley Coppice Colliery as a Butty Collier, in copartnership with Thomas Bird, Samuel Brockhouse, and Peter Holcroft.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/2/1862

“P. Morris of Birmingham and J. White of Halesowen are matched to fight at 8st, Morris staking £50 to £30. They meet tomorrow (Monday) at Mr. W. Jones’s, APPLE TREE, Halesowen Street, Oldbury to sign articles and to make the stakes into £5 a side.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/11/1863

“Young White of Halesowen will fight Lamb of Coventry at 8st 2lb or 4lb, for £25 a side; or he will fight any lad in England and confine himself to 8st 1lb, for the like sum. Money ready at *W. Jones's*, APPLE TREE INN, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/5/1864

“Aston Cross Grounds.....

T. Jones (Brushy) of Birmingham and J. Turner of Bilston are matched to run 100 yards, for £15 a side at the above grounds, on July 4. A further deposit of £1 a side to be made on Monday, May 23, at *Jones's*, APPLE TREE INN, Oldbury.”

The Era 23/10/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, Immediately, a Pair of good Niggers.

Apply to *W. Jones*, APPLE TREE, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, Staffordshire.”

The Sportsman 16/9/1865

“David Jones, of Oldbury, a lad eleven years of age, will take three yards start in five score yards, of J. Jones, of the same place, for £5 a side. Money ready at *Mr. Jones's*, APPLE TREE INN, Oldbury.”

Stourbridge Observer 30/9/1865

“On Tuesday at the Halesowen Petty Sessions, *William Jones*, licensed victualler, of Oldbury, was charged by the Police with having, on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst, sold a quantity of ale in a booth upon the racecourse, during the hours of divine service. Police-constable Simmonds proved the case, and defendant who promised to behave cautiously for the future, was fined 20s and costs.”

Sporting Life 26/5/1866

“J. Preston, of Oldbury, can be matched to fight Mick the Grecian at 9st or catch-weight; or he will fight any 9st lad in the Black Country, for from £5 to £15 a-side. Man and money ready at *Mr. Jackson's* APPLE TREE INN, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 15/9/1866

“The annual licensing meeting of the magistrates was held on Tuesday.....

The following licenses were suspended till the adjourned meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst, to enable further enquiries to be made ..... *Henry Jackson*, APPLE TREE, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1866

“At the Public office, on Tuesday, at the close of the usual business, the Magistrates proceeded to determine on the licenses which were suspended at the first meeting, and decided as follows. The licenses of ..... APPLE TREE, kept by *Henry Jackson*, would be granted, promises being given for future good management.”

London Gazette 16/11/1866

“*Henry Jackson*, of the APPLE TREE INN, Halesowen-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in Her Majesty's Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, on the 6th day of November, 1866, is hereby required to surrender himself to Alfred Hill, Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 28th day of November instant, at twelve of the clock at noon precisely, at the said Court, Birmingham. Mr. George Kinnear, of Waterloo Rooms, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee, and Messrs. Whitehouse, of Wolverhampton, and Messrs. James and Griffin, of Birmingham, are the Solicitors acting in the bankruptcy.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/8/1869 - Advert

“APPLE TREE INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.



Old-licensed House, in populous neighbourhood, and close to several large Iron and Steel Works, Manufactories, and Brickyards. In-coming not to exceed £100.

Apply, A. Atree, Church Square, Oldbury.”

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/8/1869

“Leamington. Singular Hallucination. A Man Supposing Himself to be Jesus Christ.

Yesterday, at the Town Hall, a young man who gave the name of Benjamin Ingram, was brought up as a wandering lunatic, and ordered to be removed to Hatton Asylum. The poor fellow had been found wandering about the streets, representing himself to be the Saviour, and literally ‘overcoming the enemy’ by knocking down persons whom he met, and each of whom he declared to be the devil. Before the bench he was remarkably quiet, although evidently labouring under great mental excitement. His peculiarity was that of making the representation above mentioned, accompanied by stamping his feet and raising one arm in a horizontal and the other in a perpendicular position, with the persistency of a Shaker.

Dr. Brady certified as to his being a lunatic. In reply to the bench, the poor fellow stated that he was born at Brierley Hill, that his father and mother were dead, that he subsequently lived with his uncle, Henry Jones, who lived at the APPLE TREE INN, Oldbury Green, near West Bromwich, and that a short time since he visited his uncle and asked him for sixpence, which he refused him. He had not been long in his present state. He added, ‘It is our Wake before long, and I hope to be there.’

Mr. Superintendent Lund stated that on the previous evening the man knocked down a gentleman in Warwick Street, and said he was the devil.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1869 - Advert

“By Parkes and Walker, Today (Tuesday), at Eleven o’clock, at the APPLE TREE INN, Oldbury. The Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, Ale Casks, dark brown Mare, Cart, &c, &c.”

#### 1871 Census

14, Halesowen Street – APPLE TREE INN

[1] *Thomas Jackson* (40), bricklayer and publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Louisa Jackson* (34), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Henry Jackson* (14), son, bricklayer, born Oldbury;

[4] *Sarah Jackson* (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] *Joseph Jackson* (7), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *William Jackson* (1), son, born Oldbury;

[7] *Isaac Hadley* (46), boarder, labourer, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/4/1871 - Advert

“To be Let, the APPLE TREE INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury. Apply on the Premises.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/5/1871 - Advert

“In Liquidation.

Unreserved Sale, at the APPLE TREE INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury. (By Order of the Trustee.)

To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. J. Cooper, on the above Premises, on Monday Next, 8<sup>th</sup> May, the whole of the Public House Effects, Household Furniture, and other Goods; comprising Beer Machine, Measures, mahogany Counter, Bar Fittings, oblong and other Tables, Clock, Chairs, Benches, Screens, Bedsteads, Bedding and Chamber Furniture, Gas Fittings, the whole of the valuable Brewing Utensils, Licenses, Goodwill and Possession, and other things, too numerous to mention. Sale to commence at 11am.

Auctioneer’s Offices, Perrott Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1875

“At the Oldbury Police Court, yesterday, an application was made by Mr. *Richards*, of the APPLE TREE INN, secretary of the Licensed Victuallers’ Association of the town and district, for an extension of the hours

of keeping open licensed houses during the three days of the wake, on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday. The application was opposed by the Local Board of Health, the ministers of religion, the local Good Templars, and by one or two religious societies. The Rev. W. T. Taylor, vicar of Oldbury, presented a petition on behalf of the Come and Welcome Lodge of the I.O.G.T., requesting the magistrates not to grant any lengthening of the hours, or any extra facilities for the sale of intoxicating drinks. He said that although not a Good Templar himself he sympathised with them in their wish to diminish intemperance, and he thought any lengthening of the hours of keeping open would be an evil, for the present hours were quite sufficient for all practical purposes.....

The Bench retired for deliberation, and on their return Mr. Adkins said that hitherto the magistrates had granted every application for an extension of hours on similar occasions. But he reminded the licensed victuallers that previously there had been no opposition to the extension. They had discussed the matter carefully, and had come to the conclusion that they could not grant any extension.”

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 12/4/1879

“Worcestershire Easter Quarter Sessions.....

James Adams, (49), puddler, was indicted for uttering a false florin to Sarah Jones, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. Mr. Streeten prosecuted.

The prisoner offered the florin in payment for some beer. He pleaded that he did not know it was a bad florin; but it appeared that he afterwards offered the same coin to another publican, Joseph Parkes, the same night. Parkes bit a piece out of it. Prisoner said that he got the florin in change for a sovereign at the APPLE TREE INN, but the landlord of that house denied that change was given to the prisoner. Now he said he got the coin among his wages.

Guilty; sentenced to nine months' hard labour.

Maria Jones (44), charwoman, with whom the last prisoner lived, was indicted for uttering a counterfeit half-crown. She offered it in payment for some bread, &c, and was identified as the person who had twice endeavoured to pass counterfeit florins.

Guilty; nine months' hard labour.”

#### 1881 Census

14, Hales Owen Street – APPLE TREE INN

[1] *Joseph Richards* (61), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Mary Richards* (60), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Elizabeth Richards* (25), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Frederick Richards* (22), son, clerk, born West Bromwich;

[5] *Agnes Richards* (19), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[6] *Albert Richards* (17), son, clerk, born West Bromwich:

Spirit Vaults [1888]

#### 1891 Census

Halesowen Street

[1] *Joseph Barnsley* (40), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Elizabeth Barnsley* (36), wife, born West Bromwich:

#### Swindon Advertiser 7/5/1892

“On Tuesday afternoon Mr. E. Docker (coroner) resumed the adjourned inquest at the APPLE TREE INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, relative to the death of Alfred Frederick Steventon, aged six months, whose mother, a single woman, resides in Canal Street. Mr. Corrie Grant, of London, appeared for the mother, and Dr. Acland represented the Royal Commission on Vaccination.

Elizabeth Steventon, the mother, stated that the child was healthy up to the time it was vaccinated by Dr. Lyddon. There seemed to be a lot of corruption underneath the scab, and as the corruption worked out the scab sank in. In all four of the marks there were holes in the child's arms large enough to get her finger in. On the Tuesday after Christmas she went to Dr. Lyddon's surgery. Up to that date the doctor had not pre-

scribed any treatment for the child's arm. She asked the doctor what was the best thing she could do for the child's arm, and he told her to apply cold spring water. She did so, and in about a fortnight after Dr. Lyddon said the arm was getting well. The running of the sore wholly ceased about five weeks before death, but a blue mark appeared round the circle, and Dr. Lyddon gave her some lotion. About a week afterwards the child's arm appeared to be well. She took him to Dr. Lyddon's surgery a day or two before his death. Mr. Short, the assistant, examined him, and said that deceased would gradually pine away. On Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, deceased had a fit, and he never properly recovered from it. He died about a quarter to five o'clock on the following Sunday morning.

Dr. Lyddon, at this point, presented the vaccination return, which showed that deceased was vaccinated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1891.

In answer to Dr. Acland, witness said she weaned the deceased when he was five weeks old, and from that time he was fed on bread and water and brandy. When she first noticed the arm it was not inflamed below the elbow. An abscess formed under the armpit as large as a small nut, and continued to discharge for several weeks. There was also a lump behind the ear, which discharged very badly.

In reply to Mr. Grant, witness stated that sometimes Dr. Lyddon was not at home, and then his wife would mix the medicine.

Amelia Cannon stated that the mother of deceased lived with her on the Saturday previous to the child's death, but witness had previously taken control of the child out of kindness to the mother.

At this point the enquiry, which had lasted three hours, was adjourned until May 5."

#### Worcester Journal 7/5/1892

"Mr. E. Docker yesterday resumed an inquest at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, relative to the death of Alfred Frederick Steventon, aged six months. Deceased was alleged to have died from vaccination. Mr. Grant appeared for the mother, and Dr. Acland represented the Royal Commission on Vaccination. Witnesses stated that about a fortnight after vaccination the arm began to swell, and that the child never recovered from the effects of vaccination.

Dr. Cunningham deposed to making a post mortem examination of the body on the 19<sup>th</sup> ult. Death was in his opinion due to inflammation of the lungs, brought on by improper feeding and neglect. He did not think vaccination had anything to do with the cause of death.

Mr. Grant addressed the jury, and suggested that vaccination was the indirect cause of death. The child, being previously weakened by the effects of vaccination, was ultimately killed by inflammation of the lungs. The Coroner, having summed up at considerable length, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the child died from inflammation of the lungs. They did not think vaccination was the cause of death, but were of opinion that the vaccination had tended to weaken the system of the child, so that it could not battle with the inflammation.

The enquiry lasted seven hours."

#### 1901 Census

26, Halesowen Street

[1] *George Woodhall* (37), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] Emily Woodhall (35), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] Harry Woodhall (7), son, born West Smethwick;

[4] Lily Woodhall (11), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[5] May Woodhall (5), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Edith Woodhall (2), daughter, born Oldbury;

[7] Annie Woodhouse (14), domestic housemaid, born Oldbury:

*George Woodhall* was signed by West Bromwich Albion in May 1883 and was right-winger for several seasons.

He played in three FA Cup finals and made two appearances for England.

He died in 1924 and was buried at All Saints Church, West Bromwich.

*George Woodhall* – see also THREE CROWNS, Great Bridge Street, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Walsall Street,

and GOLDEN CUP, Cross Street, all West Bromwich.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.  
It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

1. APPLE TREE, Halesowen Street.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/8/1905

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee having decided to refuse fifteen Oldbury licenses, as the amount of the compensation fund available allows, sat yesterday at the Shire Hall, Worcester, to decide who are the persons entitled to compensation.....

In the case of the APPLE TREE INN, Mary Griffiths (owner), Messrs. Showells Brewery Company (licensees), Frederick Wright, Cheltenham (first mortgagee), and the trustees under a settlement (second mortgagees) were declared to be the persons interested. Mr. Milward contended that the persons entitled under the settlement should be named, but the court held that those persons must look to the trustees.”

Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years' purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years' purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

APPLE TREE, £550.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division.....

The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

APPLE TREE, Halesowen Street, £1,085.

The committee made awards as follows.....

APPLE TREE, £352 10s to the licensed lessees, Showells' Brewery Company, and £732 10s to the owner, Mary Griffiths.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

## ASH TREE

1, Broadwell Road / John Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Henry Jerrams, Tat Bank  
George Jerrams, Tat Bank  
David Pearson, Oldbury Road, Smethwick  
Henry Swain and Co., Albion Brewery, Oldbury  
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (leased) [c.1915]  
Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired c.1936)  
Ansells Ltd. (acquired in 1960)

## LICENSEES

James Lines [1869] – [1871]  
Thomas Cartwright [1881]  
Thomas James King [ ] – **1884**);  
John Thomas Emery (**1884 – 1888**);  
Joseph Sambrook (**1888**);  
David Weston (**1888 – 1890**);  
George Edward Pearson (**1890 – 1893**);  
Reuben Rollason (**1893 – 1903**);  
William Hayes (**1903 – 1908**);  
Levi Gough Harrison (**1908 – 1910**);  
George Thomas Delahay (**1910 – 1917**);  
Phoebe Jane Delahay (**1917 – 1919**);  
George Thomas Delahay (**1919 – 1929**);  
Alice Jeacock (**1929 – 1930**);  
James Walton (**1930 – [1962]**)

## NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

*James Lines* = James Lyons

Stourbridge Observer 11/9/1869

“*James Lyons* landlord of the ASH TREE INN, Oldbury, was charged by Superintendent Overend with keeping his house open during prohibited hours, on the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo.

Police-sergeant Simmonds proved that he saw five men come out of the house. He went into the house, and found they had two quarts of ale.

Police-constable Potter gave corroborative evidence, and said the men were not travellers, but lived near the

defendant's house.

Defendant admitted that he had given the men two quarts of ale. Fined 5s and costs.

Isaiah Gill and Samuel Bennett were charged by Superintendent Overend with being on premises belonging to *James Lyons*, on the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo.

Police-sergeant Simmonds proved the offence.

Pleaded guilty. Fined 6d and costs.”

### 1871 Census

Broadwell Street – ASH TREE INN

- [1] *James Lines* (33), brickmaker, born Walsall;
- [2] Sarah Lines (34), wife, born Langley;
- [3] James Lines (8), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] William Lines (5), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] Thomas Lines (4), son, born Oldbury:

*James Lines* – see also CRYSTAL PALACE and NAGS HEAD.

### Birmingham Daily Post 1/1/1880

“At a meeting of colliers held last night, at the ASH TREE INN, Oldbury, to consider the sliding scale, and the advisability of altering it, and also the present rate of wages, addresses were delivered by Mr. H. Barnes, secretary to the Miners' Union, and Mr. T. Griffiths, miners' agent, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

That this meeting requests the trustees of the Pelsall Hall Colliery Relief Fund to devise some scheme to disburse the money in hand for the benefit of the widows and orphans of those who have lost their lives in the mines.

That this meeting is of opinion that the sliding scale should be altered as soon as possible from 3d to 4d in the shilling.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 1/1/1881

“On Thursday a meeting of miners was held at the ASH TREE INN, Oldbury, to consider the subject of the Employers' Liability Act. Mr. H. Rust presided, and said if they worked under the Act they would find many disadvantages.....”

### 1881 Census

Broadwell Road – ASH TREE INN

- [1] *Thomas Cartwright* (63), coal miner &c, born Oldbury;
- [2] Eliza Cartwright (59), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Abraham Cartwright (30), son, general labourer, born Oldbury;
- [4] Ann M. Cartwright (16), daughter, domestic servant, born Oldbury;
- [5] Mary Hale (13), grand-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Betsy Hale (6), grand-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Lilly Hale (8), grand-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Ann M. Hale (11 months), grand-daughter, born Oldbury;
- [9] John Hale (3), grand-son, born Oldbury;
- [10] George Porter (25), boarder, road labourer, born Leicester;
- [11] Eliza Porter (24), boarder, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Mail 24/3/1884

“Today, at the Oldbury Police Court, before Messrs. Chance and Wilson, David Williams, blacksmith, of Saltley, was charged with stealing 1lb of beef, the property of *Thomas James King*, of the ASH TREE INN, Broadwell Road, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. Evidence was given to the effect that the defendant went into the prosecutor's house in company with some other friends, and they took the meat from before the fire and shared it amongst them. Defendant was fined 10s and costs, or in default 14 days.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/10/1887

“Oldbury. Excellent Beerhouse the ASH TREE INN. The business of this centrally situated Beerhouse is for sale. The incoming, including Fixtures, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession is £85. The business is paying well, and affliction is the sole cause of leaving.  
Apply *Oldbury Weekly News Office*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/11/1887 - Advert

“Oldbury. ASH TREE INN, Broadwell Road. This old-established Beerhouse to Let, doing good in and out door trade. Satisfactory reasons for disposal.  
Apply on the Premises.”

*Joseph Sambrook*, beer retailer, Broadwell Road. [1888]

1891 Census

1, Broadwell Road – ASH TREE INN

- [1] *George E. Pearson* (30), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Ellen Pearson* (27), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Alfred S. Pearson* (4), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Clara E. Pearson* (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *George E. Pearson* (14 months), son, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/10/1894

“The annual show of pigeons arranged by the Oldbury Homing Society was held yesterday, at the ASH TREE INN, Broadwell Road. The entries were numerous, and included birds from fanciers at Blackpool, London, Birmingham, Handsworth, Sunningdale, Kidderminster, and Redditch. There was also a large number of local entries.....”

*Reuben Rollason*, beer retailer, 1, Broadwell Road. [1896]

West Bromwich Weekly News 6/1/1900

“A meeting was held on Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, in the club room of the ASH TREE INN, Broadwell Road, for the purpose of starting a Sick, Death and Dividend Society. There was a good number of persons present. Mr. William Hays was voted to the chair ..... The election of officers was then proceeded with.....”

1901 Census

1, Broadwell Road

- [1] *Reuben Rollason* (42), beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Phoebe Rollason* (38), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Edwin Rollason* (12), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Dora Rollason* (11), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth Rollason* (8), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Annie Rollason* (7), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Lillie Rollason* (5), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Phoebe Rollason* (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [9] *Nellie Rollason* (8 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [10] *Jemima Beard* (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Smethwick Weekly News 22/2/1902

“Wanted, a good General.  
Apply Mrs. *Rollason*, ASH TREE INN, Broadwell Road, Oldbury.”

*Reuben Rollason* – see also GOLDEN BALL.

*William Hayes* – see also GEORGE AND DRAGON.

*Levi Gough Harrison* – see also BOAT and NAVIGATION, Tat Bank.

#### 1911 Census

1, Broadwell Road – ASH TREE INN

[1] *George Thomas Delahay* (30), publican beer retailer, born Oldbury;

[2] *Phoebe Jane Delahay* (37), wife, married 2 years, born Wigan;

[3] Robert Sadler (8), step-son, born Oldbury;

[4] Mary Sadler (7), step-daughter, born Oldbury:

*George Thomas Delahay*, beer retailer, 1, Broadwell Road. [1912]

#### 1939 Register

1, Broadwell Road

[1] *James Walton*, date of birth 22/9/1902, heat treatment assistant, aluminium rolling mills, married;

[2] Elsie Walton, dob 4/10/1903, unpaid domestic duties and public house business, married;

[3] Doreen M. (Walton) Sweet, dob 30/8/1932, at school, single:

A full license was granted on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1954.

On this day, plans were approved for alterations to the premises, to allow for sanitary accommodation for the licensee's family.

### ASH TREE

82, (80), (61), Dudley Road, (82, (61), Dudley Road West), TIVIDALE

#### OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1939]

#### LICENSEES

Timothy Thomas [1858] – **1864**);

John Thomas (**1864** – [ ]

Joseph Thomas [1865]

Thomas Smith [1865] – **1867**);

John Evans (**1867** – [ ]

James Vaughan [1868] – **1869**);

Benjamin Attwood (**1869** – [1881]

Samuel Baker [1888] – [1889]

Thomas Bedworth [1891] – [1896]

Benjamin Hollis (**1897** – **1903**);

Mrs. Rachel Hollis (**1903** – **1905**);

Albert Paskin (**1905** – **1906**);

Arthur Turner (**1906** – **1907**);

George William Hill (**1907** – [1912]

William Henry Murray (**1912** – **1922**);



Alfred Burns [1920] ?  
Edwin Shelton (1922 – 1929);  
Albert Thomas Sisman (1929 – 1930);  
Joseph Marklow (1930 – [1933]  
Ernest John Stanton [1936] – 1961);  
Dennis Edward Cheshire (1961 – 1964);  
Ronnie Holland (1964 – [1965]  
V Cox [1983]

## NOTES

61, Dudley Road [1881], [1891], [1901], [1896]  
61, Dudley Road West [1900], [1904]  
80, Dudley Road [1908]  
82, Dudley Road West [1912], [1916], [1932]  
82, Dudley Road [1911], [1939], [1940]

### Birmingham Journal 13/3/1858

“On Wednesday afternoon an inquest on the body of James Mullens was held at the house of Mr. G. G. Cardo, the OLD INN, Evehill, before the Coroner, W. Robinson, Esq, and a Jury, of which Mr. John Watson was the foreman.

Timothy Mullens, the brother of the deceased, was the principal witness examined, and he said: I and my brother James worked at Mr. Round’s colliery, at Tividale, as miners. We were at work there on Friday night, the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, and on leaving work at about seven on Saturday morning, we went to Mr. Pratt’s public house, near the colliery, and remained there drinking till about twelve o’clock. We then left and went to the house of Mr. *Timothy Thomas*, the ASH TREE, also at Tividale, where we had more ale, and we remained there till between three and four o’clock. We then left, in company with two other men, and a little way along the road we overtook a man with a horse and cart coming towards Dudley. I and another man (not my brother) said something to the carter which led to blows, and I and my brother struck him. The carter, however, drove on, and we thought it was all settled, and we went on; but one of the two men having stayed a little behind I turned back, and observed him running towards us from a crowd of persons in the road who had come up to him. In doing so he fell down, and I and my brother and the other man went back to him. On reaching him, he was surrounded by the crowd of men referred to, who were striking him as he lay on the ground, but I cannot say whether with their fists or with sticks. I believe I commenced striking some of my companion’s assailants in order to rescue him; and after the fight we went to another public house called the GATE, where we remained probably an hour, then came straight to Dudley. I believe my brother took part in both fights; but I did not see anybody strike him at all. He seemed to be in good health on Saturday morning and went to work on the Monday following, but he complained of being stiff and said he was very bad. He finished his days’ work at three o’clock, and then came home. I saw him on Wednesday, and he was then ill, and continued so until he died on Monday night. Neither he nor I was sober when the fighting took place. I do not know the names of the other men engaged in the quarrelling, but I know that the man who drove the cart was employed by Messrs. Hopkins and Bradley.

The evidence of Mr. James Fisher, surgeon, was to the effect that he attended the deceased on Wednesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant. The latter complained much of pain in the head and side and other parts of his body, and he also vomited very much. His left eye was black, and there were bruises on his cheek, shoulder, and side. The skin was knocked off the whole of the knuckles of the left hand and some off the right, and he was partially delirious. He told him (Mr. Fisher) he was in a row on the Saturday before. Mr. Fisher continued his attendance on each of the five subsequent days. From the post mortem examination which he made on Tuesday he found the left lung very much diseased indeed. There was no fracture of any kind, and the cause of death was clearly inflammation of the left lung, which might have been produced by various causes, such as cold, or a fall, or a blow, or by all combined. The inflammation might have commenced either before or subsequent to the Saturday.

The wife of Timothy Mullens said she saw one of the crowd strike the deceased with a pike-helve several times. The fight originated in her opinion from the row with the carter  
The Coroner pointed out to the witness Timothy the senseless folly of sending so much of his time in public houses, and then addressing himself to the Jury said that with such evidence as Mr. Fisher had given it was impossible that any person could be convicted of manslaughter, and therefore that it was not necessary that additional evidence should be obtained to the identity of the men who struck the deceased.  
The Jury then gave a verdict of died from inflammation of the lungs, but how or by what means that inflammation was caused does not appear in the evidence.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/7/1858 - Advert

“Freehold Houses, Tividale.

By Mr. S. Powell, at the house of Mr. *Timothy Thomas*, the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, at Six o’clock in the evening – Five Freehold Dwelling Houses, situate in Chapel Street, Tividale.”

County Advertiser 5/11/1859

“On Monday, the 17<sup>th</sup> ult, the attention of the police was directed to certain disturbances at Tividale, caused by the holding of foot races, at which a large number of disorderly characters – extending along the turnpike road upwards of a mile – assembled from the entire district for many miles around. These ‘races,’ which appear to have been the occasion for drinking and its accompanying evils, led to various excesses, which resulted in the interference of the police. ....

A charge was also brought against *Timothy Thomas*, landlord of the ASHTREE public house, Tividale, for allowing drunken conduct in his house on the same day – the occasion of the races. This charge was also proved by Police-constables Denholme and Torr. The Bench, after a patient attention to the evidence, fined the defendant (for whom Mr. Lowe appeared) 5s and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/8/1860

“At the Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, before James Bagnall and D. Round, Esqrs, the following beer sellers were summoned and convicted of having kept their houses open for the sale of beer at the wake beyond the hours allowed by the statute, viz, till half-past eleven at night ..... *Timothy Thomas*, Dudley Road ..... They were all fined 5s and costs, and cautioned as to their future transactions.”

*Timothy Thomas*, retailer of beer, Tividale. [1862]

*Timothy Thomas*, beer retailer, Tividale. [1864]

Birmingham Journal 19/9/1863 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale. ASH TREE INN, Tividale.

To Publicans, Brokers, Private Families, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Bent, upon the Premises, on Thursday Next, September 24, the whole of the Public House Fixtures Gas Fittings, Bell Pulls, Brewing Utensils, Mash Tub, Vats and Piping, Coolers, Boilers and Fittings, superior Five-pull Beer Machine with Piping complete; Tap Tables, metal tops; cross-leg Drinking ditto; hogshead and half-hogshead Casks; 36-gallon ditto; quantity of Old and Fresh Ale; Pewter Spirit and Ale Measures; labelled Spirit Barrels; Cups, Jugs, and Glasses, together with the neat and genteel Household Furniture, Feather Beds, Bedsteads, Linen, mahogany Centre Table, Loo ditto, mahogany Sofa, horse-hair seating; Dressing Tables, Washstands, Swing Glasses, Chairs, Barometer, Carpets, Fat Pig, and numerous other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Timothy Thomas*, under a Bill of Sale.  
Sale to commence at Twelve o’clock.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/9/1863 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale, ASH TREE INN, Tividale, near Dudley.

By Mr. John Bent, This Day (Thursday), Sept. 24 – the Stock-In-Trade, Public House Fixtures, Gas-fittings, Brewing Utensils, Stock of Ale, Beer Machine, quantity of Fencing, Rick of Hay, fat Pig, together with the neat and clean Household Furniture, Feather Beds, Linen, and numerous other Effects, belonging to Mr.

*Timothy Thomas*, under a Bill of Sale.  
Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock."

Birmingham Daily Post 4/2/1864

"The report of the case in which Thomas Bowater, a miner, was examined before the Dudley Bench, on the charge of having caused the death of William Brazenall, in the New Road, on Sunday morning last, was given in the *Daily Post* of yesterday, on which day Mr. E. Hooper, the Coroner, held an inquest on the body of the deceased, at the house of Mr. *T. Thomas*, the ASH TREE INN, Chapel Street. Similar testimony to that given was given before the Magistrates having been adduced, the Jury found a verdict of Accidental Death. The accused had been liberated on his own recognisances by the Dudley Magistrates, who heard the case on Monday."

Worcestershire Chronicle 10/2/1864

"On Saturday morning, just before one o'clock, a man named William Brazenall, who resided in Chapel Street, Tividale was knocked down on the Birmingham Road, near to the Dudley railway bridge. It would appear that deceased, on running down the hill, accidentally came against a man named Thomas Bowater, who was coming from Tipton in a state of intoxication. Bowater put his hand forward to save himself, and they both fell. Brazenall was severely hurt by the fall or the collision, and died in a few hours afterwards."

Birmingham Journal 1/4/1865 - Advert

"Important Sale, at the ASH TREE INN, Tividale.

To Publicans, Brokers, Parties Furnishing, and Others.

Messrs. Hipkins and Thomas have received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April inst, without the least reserve.

The whole of the Furniture, Gas Fittings, feather Beds, Bed Clothing, Bedsteads, Sofa, Eight-day Clock, copper Tea Kettle, Chest of Drawers, Chimney Ornaments, Windsor and other Chairs, Tables; and all the Stock-in-Trade, Five-pull Beer Machine, Malt, a quantity of prime Old Ale, prime Herefordshire Cider, Cups, Jugs, well-seasoned Ale Barrels, cast and wrought iron Boilers, and numerous Effects, belonging to Mr. *Joseph Thomas*, of the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, under a Bill of Sale.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/5/1865 - Advert

"The ASH TREE INN, Tividale.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Roadside Public House, situated in the centre of the Ebro Works, the Globe Tin Works and Sheet Mills, Gilbert's extensive Brick Works, and several large Collieries. The House has undergone a thorough state of repair, and consists of Front Tap Room, capital Bar, Back Kitchen, four Chamber Rooms, good Cellaring, Brewhouse, and Soft Water Cistern; Coach-house, six-horse Stable, with Store Room over, Piggery, large and extensive enclosed Yard, and well supplied with Hard and Soft Water. The above offers a first-class opening for an enterprising party. The Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation.

For Rent and particulars, apply to Mr. John Bent, Auctioneer, No.5, Union Street, Dudley."

County Advertiser 26/8/1865

"At the Police Court, Benjamin Wiley, a police-constable stationed at Tividale, was charged with assaulting John Griffiths, a carter, belonging to the same place. Mr. Stokes appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Shakespeare defended. The case occupied the Court for a considerable time.

The evidence of prosecutor, which was in some respects borne out by a witness, was to the effect that he was going into the ASH TREE public house, Tividale, at a few minutes to twelve o'clock on the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. Defendant came to him and told him to go home. On his refusing to do so, the defendant pushed him down the steps, and then struck him a blow on the head with a stick. Witness was quite sober.

The witnesses were subjected to a long cross-examination by Mr. Shakespeare, and the answers given by the complainant were not altogether satisfactory.

A summons had been taken out against Griffiths for assaulting Wiley at the same time, and another for

alleged disorderly conduct. Three or four of Griffiths's relatives, who took part in the row, were also summoned to answer similar complaints. Before any evidence was called, however, the Bench said that as it was a trifling affair, the case against the policeman would be dismissed, and the charges preferred by the police would be withdrawn."

#### County Advertiser 26/8/1865

"At the Police Court, on Wednesday, *Thomas Smith*, landlord of the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, was charged with unlawfully permitting gambling in his house, on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Shakespeare, who appeared on the part of the prosecution, asked for a heavy fine, as the defendant had himself taken part in the gambling. Police-constable Daulman stated that about nine o'clock in the evening of the day named he visited defendant's house in plain clothes. In one of the rooms he found a party engaged in the game of 'ringing the bull.' He also saw the defendant receive money he had won from one of the players. Police-constable Wiley came in soon after, and the game was at once stopped. After Wiley had left the game was resumed; and witness heard defendant say that if he met Wiley in the dark he would 'make it hot for him.'

In answer to the Bench, the police gave the house a bad character.

The defendant admitted that gambling had taken place, but vehemently protested that he had not taken any part in it.

Fined 40s and costs."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1867 - Advert

"ASH TREE INN, Tividale.

To be Let, the above-named Old-licensed Inn, fronting the Birmingham Road, near to extensive Works. The Premises are convenient, and the Fixtures let with the Premises. Coming-in under £50.

Apply on the Premises; or to John G. Wright, Auctioneer, &c, Castle Street, Dudley."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1867

"At the County Court, yesterday, Mr. Watson (Watson and Topham) applied for an order of committal against John Collis Smith, beerhouse keeper, of Wednesbury, for non-obedience to a judgement given against him in the Dudley County Court, at the suit of Isaac Cohen, furniture dealer and jeweller, Birmingham.

The plaintiff's case was that prior to June last he sold a gold watch to the defendant – who, at that time, was keeping the ASH TREE INN, at Tividale – for £20, the arrangement being that the purchase money should be paid at the rate of 10s per fortnight. The arrangement was faithfully adhered to for some time, but at last the payments were discontinued, and the defendant was sued in the Dudley County Court, in the name of Thomas Smith, plaintiff having all along known him by that name. Before the case came on for hearing, defendant consented to judgement being entered against him for payment at the rate agreed upon in the first instance, and actually paid one sovereign, but before the second became due he had removed to Wednesbury with his family. When an execution was issued he stated that his name was John Collis Smith, and that the watch and chain must have been supplied to his son *Thomas*. Mr. Watson accordingly applied that 'John Collis' should be substituted for 'Thomas' in the judgement, and that the defendant should be committed.

Mr. Dale, who appeared for defendant, objected to his Honour making any alteration in an order from the Dudley Court.

His Honour remarked that it was not necessary for him to send the defendant to prison in any other manner than that in which he had been sued. The order might, therefore, remain as it was.

Witnesses were then called.

The plaintiff positively denied that he had ever had any transactions with the defendant's son *Thomas*, or that the instalments of the purchase money were ever paid to him by anyone but the defendant's wife (for whom he was told the watch was bought) or the defendant himself. The defendant had, too, always negotiated with him with reference to the suit on his own behalf and not on behalf of his son.

For the defence the defendant swore that the watch and chain were not ordered by him, or intended for his wife, and that, although the instalments due to Mr. Cohen were sometimes paid by himself, sometimes by his daughters, and sometimes by his wife, they were always made for his son *Thomas*.

In cross-examination he admitted that before he went to live at Tividale he kept the Horse Shoes Inn, at

Kings Norton, where he was unfortunate, his furniture being sold under a distress for rent, and he became bankrupt. His son, *Thomas*, then took the house at Tividale, defendant finding the greater part of the furniture, with money which he obtained from relatives, and with his wife and daughters attending to the business while his son was at work at Smethwick. He also paid three quarters rent for his son. Business fell off after a time, and his son gave up the house, defendant then buying the business, which he still has at Wednesbury, and taking with him some chairs which his son had had from Mr. Cohen.

Defendant's son *Thomas* corroborated this statement, declaring that he ordered the watch and chain, and wore them until his difficulties induced him to sell them to a man named Thomas, who had gone abroad. He did not wish to dispute the debt, but was anxious to pay if the plaintiff would only take a moderate sum per month until he got work again.

His Honour said his impression was that the whole affair was a juggle between the defendant and his son. He had no more doubt than if had been present of the scheme which was concocted between them, and he should make an order of committal, not to be executed for three months. Order made accordingly. The case occupied the Court between four and five hours."

#### The Sportsman 15/8/1868

"Tim Thomas, of Tividale, will run H. Tudor, of Dudley Port, 100 or 120 yards, for £10 or £20 a-side, and will meet him at *J. Vaughan's*, ASH TREE INN, Tividale, any time he likes. To run at Burnt Tree Grounds in six or eight weeks from signing."

#### Dudley Herald 28/11/1868

"To be let ..... old established roadside public house. The premises are very compact and in excellent condition and situate in the midst of very important works."

#### 1871 Census

##### Dudley Road

- [1] *Benjamin Attwood* (36), licensed victualler, born Dumbleton, Gloucestershire;
- [2] Ann Attwood (34), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] Elizabeth H. Attwood (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Emma Attwood (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] James Attwood (5), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Caroline Attwood (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Alice Attwood (8 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Sarah Jones (16), domestic servant, born Brierley Hill:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1878 - Advert

"Lost (10s reward), between Oldbury Station and Tividale, a Silk Umbrella, with bone horse-shoe handle. Anyone returning it to *B. Attwood*, ASH TREE INN, Tividale, will receive the above reward."

#### County Express 1/1/1881

"Henry Cooke, Denis Clapham, and Thomas Street, three young men, living in the Dudley Road, Tividale, were charged with assaulting Edward Read and William Read, at West Bromwich, on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst, and stealing from the person of Edward Read the sum of £2 5s, and a watch and chain. Mr. Stokes defended. The prosecutors are father and son, and it appeared from the evidence adduced that on the night of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst, they were drinking at the ASH TREE INN, Tividale. The three prisoners with others were present, and William Read 'stood in' with Cooke in some tossing that took place. This was succeeded by a conversation between Read and Cooke; and high words ensuing Read challenged Cooke to fight. Subsequently the prisoners left the house, and a few minutes afterwards the prosecutors followed in company with Mr. *Attwood*, the landlord of the ASH TREE INN, who quitted them after he had walked a short distance. They proceeded on through Tividale tunnel, when on a sudden they came in contact with five men, three of whom were the prisoners. They were set upon, and beaten, and the elder Read was knocked senseless to the ground. His son, who received several blows upon the face, seized Cooke, and drew him to the mouth of the tunnel, whereupon one of the other prisoners cried out to Cooke, 'Don't let him go, settle him.' Read, the younger,

believing that his father had been killed, hurried to the police station at Greets Green, West Bromwich, and fetched a policeman. On returning to the tunnel, however, they saw nothing of the prisoners, but met the father who had recovered his senses. He told them that he had missed his watch and purse, which contained £2 10s in gold and silver, and that he knew the men who had taken them.

In cross-examination the prosecutors swore that they were sober when they left the public house.

Samuel Spicer, a labourer, of Tividale, said he was in the ASH TREE INN, on the night in question. Cooke in company with Clapham and Street came to him and asked him 'If he would be one in this mess.' On the witness asking for an explanation, Cooke said he meant to rob Read. Witness told them that he had some money without doing that. He saw Cooke the next morning, and the latter said to him, 'I have done the deed that I was talking to you about last night.'

Thomas Edwards, miner, Tividale, said Cooke had invited him to come and help to rob Read. Three of them had made a bargain, and they wanted him to go.

*Benjamin Attwood*, landlord of the ASH TREE INN, was called as a witness, and he stated that he accompanied the Reads a part of the way home, because from a rumour afloat he suspected that an attack would be made upon them.

Police-constable Robinson, of West Bromwich, and Police-constable Winfield, of Tividale, gave evidence as to the arrest of the prisoners, and stated that in answer to the charge each of them denied having had anything to do in the matter. A search made upon their persons and in their houses revealed nothing to connect them with the offence.

The prisoners pleaded not guilty, and were committed to take their trial at the Assizes. Bail was allowed."

#### Staffordshire Sentinel 31/1/1881

"Staffordshire Winter Assizes.....

Harry Cook, Dennis Clapham, and Thomas Street, young men, surrendered to their bail and were now arraigned on an indictment charging them with feloniously assaulting Edward Read, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, at Rowley Regis, and stealing from his person the sum of £2 5s, one watch, and one purse, his property. Mr. Amphlett appeared as counsel for the prosecution; Mr. Darling defended the prisoners Cook and Street; and Mr. Brindley appeared for Clapham.

For the prosecution it was urged that on Christmas Eve the prosecutor and his son were drinking at a public house called the ASH TREE, at Rowley Regis. After having been there about three hours – the prisoners being also in the house – the prosecutor and his son left, and walked down the road, three quarters of a mile, when they came to a tunnel under the railway and canal. The prosecutor, soon after entering the tunnel, was set upon by four of five men – as being among whom he positively swore to the prisoners – who robbed him of his money, to the amount mentioned; his watch and his purse, and brutally ill-used both him and his son. Cook, it was contended, had previously been heard deliberately planning the outrage to the other men.

When the case for the prosecution had closed, and Mr. Darling was about to address the jury for his clients, the learned Judge asked the opinion of the jury as to the strength of the case against the prisoners Street and Clapham. The only evidence against them and that on which they were asked to convict, was the assertion of the elder Read that he could identify them eighteen yards down a dark tunnel on a Christmas night, when there was no moon – not by their voices, which he had heard, he said, in the public house, but by their appearance. He put it to the jury whether, as rational men, they could believe such a statement, and thought it safe to convict upon.

The jury consulted for a few moments after hearing the remarks of the learned Judge, and ultimately coming to the conclusion that the evidence against Clapham and Street was not clear and satisfactory, acquitted them.

Mr. Darling then addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner Cook, urging that, as in the case of the other prisoners, the evidence evidently was not conclusive against him, and arguing that, apart from the light in the tunnel being insufficient for the purpose of recognition, the elder Read was so drunk that he did not know what he was about, and could not therefore, with any certainty, swear to the prisoner as being one of the men who assaulted him.

The learned Judge summed up to the jury at great length, and finally they acquitted the prisoner."

61, Dudley Road

[1] *Benjamin Attwood* (44), licensed victualler, born Dumbleton, Gloucestershire;

[2] Ann Attwood (42), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] Emma Attwood (17), daughter, born Tividale:

Dudley and District News 2/8/1884

“On Tuesday Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire coroner) held an inquest at the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, Rowley Regis, respecting the death of John Thomas Martin (6), who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal. When playing with a schoolfellow the deceased accidentally fell into the canal, and was drowned, although efforts were made to rescue him. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/11/1885

“Three police constables, named Winfield, Mountney, and Smith, were charged at Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, with having committed perjury in a case heard at that court in June last, in which a man named Midian Evans and three others were convicted of being the principals in a cock-fight at Tividale. A number of witnesses were called who swore that Evans was not present at the cock-fight, and that at the time it was taking place he was in the ASH TREE INN, Tividale. After a prolonged hearing the case was adjourned until the 20<sup>th</sup> inst.”

County Express 21/11/1885

“At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, before Messrs. W. Bassano, W. Holcroft, and J. Walker, the three police-constables, Winfield, Mountney, and Smith, were charged on adjourned summonses with having committed wilful and corrupt perjury in connection with some prosecutions for cock fighting in June last. The details of the former hearing were given in our issue of Saturday last. No one appeared yesterday to continue the prosecution, and the magistrates said that there was really no additional evidence to offer, and that the summonses would be dismissed; the prosecution had completely failed to make out cases, and there was nothing whatever to show that the police officers had committed perjury. The magistrates further ordered the depositions to be sent to the Public Prosecutor in order that proceedings may be taken against several of the witnesses for perjury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/3/1886

“Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest yesterday, at the ASH TREE INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, relative to the death of a female child, not identified, whose body was found in a canal basin at Tividale, on Wednesday last.

A girl named Alice Tunley stated that on the day named, whilst she was playing near the canal, her attention was called to something which was floating near the side. It proved to be the body of a child, and a lad named John Cox pulled it out of the water by a piece of pack cord which was tied loosely round its neck. The police were fetched, and the body was removed to a public house. When the witness saw the body it was quite naked, and there was no cloth or paper near it.

Mr. E. Price stated that he had made a post mortem examination of the body. The child was born alive, and was now in an advanced state of decomposition, having been dead probably between a week and a fortnight. There were no external marks of violence of the body, but he discovered a large swelling on the back of the head, which was not discoloured, and which he found was a large clot of blood. This had been evidently caused by a blow, and could not well be the effect of a fall. There was no evidence of strangulation or suffocation, and the cause of death was shock, resulting from the severe injury to the back of the head.

Police-constable Winfield said he had made enquiries about the child, but had failed to obtain any further evidence. The police officer produced the cord which was round the child’s neck, and pointed out that there was a loop in the loose end which might have been made for the purpose of attaching a brick to it.

The Coroner said he did not think the jury could do otherwise than return a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown on the evidence they had before them. The police could still go on prosecuting their enquiries, and if further action was necessary it might be taken by magistrates.

The jury concurred, and a verdict was accordingly returned of Wilful Murder against some person or persons unknown.”

### County Express 18/8/1888

“*Samuel Baker*, landlord of the ASH TREE INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, was charged with selling ale during prohibited hours, on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst.

Police-constable McDermott said that at half-past two on Saturday morning he saw two men come from the back of the defendant’s house with a bottle containing four quarts of beer. One of the men, Samuel Onions said the beer was ordered before eleven o’clock. The other man ran away.

The defendant said the men, who were puddlers, came to his house almost fainting in consequence of the heat, and witness thought he was doing his duty in supplying the beer. Defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

### County Express 1/9/1888

“The annual licensing session took place at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

The names of the following appeared on the black list, and were dealt with as follows.....

*Samuel Baker*, landlord of the ASH TREE, Tividale, fined £1 and costs for selling ale during prohibited hours on the 15<sup>th</sup> August. License granted.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 25/3/1889

“On Saturday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, relative to the death of Arthur Hawthorne (18), who formerly resided in Chapel Street, Tipton, who was found drowned on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst in a pool at Oakham, Tividale.

Thomas Hawthorne, father of the deceased, said his son left home about 11am on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February for the purpose of going with a companion to the Jubilee Colliery, Tividale. He heard no more of him until his body was found.

Ebenezer Morris said he was with the deceased, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN at 9pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, and at that time deceased was drunk.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead.”

### Dudley Mercury 22/6/1889

“Thomas Smith, Providence Street, Great Bridge, and Sampson Boon, Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich, were charged with stealing two pigeons, the property of *Samuel Baker*, landlord of the ASH TREE, Tividale, on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst.

Prosecutor said he left his pigeons in the yard safe on the morning in question. At nine o’clock the same night the pigeons were gone.

Isaiah *Baker*, son of prosecutor, said he saw the defendants in the yard at his father’s house, near to the pigeon pen. He missed the pigeons about an hour after.

Police-constable Winfield arrested the defendants, and found the two pigeons under their shirts.

Boon was fined 20s and costs, and Smith was sentenced to one month’s imprisonment.”

### 1891 Census

61, Dudley Road – ASH TREE INN

[1] *Thomas Bedworth* (48), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Mary Bedworth (48), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Mary Bailey (25), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] William H. Bailey (27), son-in-law, grocer’s assistant, born Harborne:

### Birmingham Daily Post 23/5/1892

“On Saturday afternoon Mr. W. F. Topham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, respecting the death of Emmanuel Sheldon (20), moulder, Dudley Road, Tividale, who was found drowned in a disused stone quarry on Thursday evening.

It was stated that deceased had often expressed a desire to learn to swim, and had frequently remarked to his brother-in-law that the pool in which his body was found was a nice place to bathe in.

George Quinton, brother-in-law of the deceased, said he had accompanied Sheldon to the pool previously, and they had sent the dog into the water. He was of opinion that deceased stripped and entered the pool for



the purpose of bathing, and, being unable to swim, was drowned.  
The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

County Advertiser 15/8/1896

“Tividale. Football Club.

A meeting was held last Saturday in connection with the above club at the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, before a good attendance of members and supporters, to make full arrangements for the coming season. The club did very well considering it was their first season last year, only losing three matches, and it is hoped they will do better this season.”

County Advertiser 5/12/1896

“On Tuesday morning, Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner), held an inquest at the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, concerning the death of Edwin Butler (48), blacksmith, formerly residing at Chapel Street, Tividale, who died on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November from the effects of injuries received whilst following his employment at Messrs. Round’s Furnaces, Tividale, on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult.

Clara Butler, wife of deceased, identified the body, and said deceased worked at Messrs. Round’s Furnaces, Tividale. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, he went to his work as usual in good health. When he returned home at 5-30 witness said she thought he had been working over, but he replied that he had hurt himself. He said he was lifting a plate, when he slipped and fell on his right side. He complained of much pain, but there was no bruise on his side. At 5-30 the next morning deceased endeavoured to get up to go to his work, but he could not do so. Witness suggested that she should call in a doctor, but he said he would wait to see if he got better. On the 21<sup>st</sup> ult witness took him to Dr. Lyddon’s, at Oldbury.

The Coroner: It was very foolish of you to take the deceased in such a state to the doctor. Why did you not call in a doctor to him? – Witness: It was his wish that he should go to the doctor.

Deceased began to grow worse on Monday night, and complained of the pain in his side. Witness sent for Dr. Lyddon on Tuesday morning, but he came in the afternoon. The doctor examined deceased, and said it was a bad wrench he had sustained. On Wednesday he still continued to grow worse, and as Dr. Lyddon did not come before afternoon, she called in Dr. Price, who immediately came and made an examination of deceased. He said there were no ribs broken, but some bone had been displaced, causing an internal bruise. On Wednesday deceased was very wild, and was raving about his work and the plates, and it took two persons to carefully watch him. He died at 4-30 on Thursday afternoon. Deceased said he asked Mr. Hewitt, in the employ of the firm, to have someone to help him, as he had got a heavy job on. Mr. Hewitt said they must work together, meaning deceased and the other workmen.

Edwin Butler, son of deceased, said he was a striker, and helped his father at Messrs. Round’s works. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of November deceased was cutting boiler plates. He had been previously engaged on the same kind of work. Witness and deceased were engaged in carrying the plates when one of them suddenly twisted and deceased slipped and fell down. The plate struck deceased on the side, and he said the pain was very severe. Dr. Charles Lyddon said he saw deceased on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. Witness examined him carefully, and considered that the deceased was very ill, and was suffering from a sprain of his side, and a severe cold. Witness gave him some medicine for influenza. He was very ill, and suffering from inflammation of the lungs on the 24<sup>th</sup> ult. He thought that deceased died from pneumonia, following influenza.

William Wall, an employe of Messrs. Round, said he was helping deceased and his son on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, but he did not see any accident occur or any plates twist. Deceased did not complain of a bad cough the day before the accident occurred.

Police-constable Robinson said he had made inquiries, and found that deceased had been ill for some time, and complained of pains to his fellow workmen.

The coroner said there was strange conflict of evidence, as two medical men saw deceased before his death, he thought it would be advisable to adjourn the inquest for Dr. Price’s attendance, and in the mean time he would order a post mortem examination of the body to be made.

The inquest was adjourned until Tuesday next.”

County Advertiser 12/12/1896

“On Tuesday afternoon Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner) resumed the adjourned inquest on the body of

Edwin Butler (48), blacksmith, formerly residing at Chapel Street, Tividale, who died under strange circumstances, at the ASH TREE INN, Dudley Road, Tividale. Mr. J. Jackson, Her Majesty's Inspector of Factories and Workshops, was present, Mr. J. Round appeared on behalf of Messrs. Round Bros. Mr. S. Hopper, of Dudley, represented the widow of the deceased.

The Coroner said the inquiry was adjourned for a post mortem examination.

Dr. Edwin Price, of Dudley Port, said he made a post mortem examination of the body on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. He found undoubted signs of inflammation of both lungs, and pleurisy of both sides. The heart was also affected. There was no signs of influenza or any internal injury. He considered that deceased died from pleuro-pneumonia.

In reply to Mr. Hooper he said he had never attended deceased before. When witness examined deceased he did not say that he had been to a supper the night before the accident, and he was as well as ever. What he did say was that he was fairly well. Deceased did not seem as if he had been neglected.

It then transpired that Dr. Lyddon signed a form from Messrs. Rounds works, and gave it to deceased's son. The Coroner asked for the production of the form, and Mr. Hewitt, clerk at the works, was despatched for it. On the form being produced the Coroner said it was signed by Dr. Lyddon, and showed that deceased was suffering from an injury and was disabled from work.

A juryman asked Dr. Lyddon why he made that declaration.

Dr. Lyddon: The man complained of the injury and I put it on the form. He examined him and gave him some lotion, and as the man was weak he did it in a charitable way, thinking that he would benefit by it.

Questioned by the Coroner as to whether that was the usual course, he replied that it was. He was, however, firmly of opinion that deceased died from pneumonia, and that the accident had nothing whatever to do with the man's death.

Deceased's son brought the note which referred to the employers' liability.

Mr. J. Round said if deceased had met with an accident he would received 10s per week from the office, and £50 could be claimed by his widow at his death. He saw deceased's son, after the accident was supposed to have occurred, and he said his father was suffering from a severe cold.

The Coroner said the jury had only to consider how deceased came by his death.

After deliberation for some time the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

At the conclusion of the inquest Dr. Price said there was a great need for a public mortuary at Tividale, especially when doctors had to make post mortem examinations.

The Coroner said he was informed that the only mortuary in Tividale was at the infectious hospital, and that was not a nice place for post mortem examinations to be made.

Dr. Price: The nearest mortuary is at Tipton.

The Coroner said he would forward his recommendation to the proper authorities."

*Thomas Bedworth* – see also OLDE BULLS HEAD, YE.

*Benjamin Hollis* = Benjamin Hollies = Benjamin Hollier

County Advertiser 16/10/1897

"An interim authority of the ASH TREE TAVERN, Tividale, was granted to *Benjamin Hollier*."

County Advertiser 5/1/1901

"Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the ASH TREE INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, on Monday last, respecting the death of John Bennett (25), quarry labourer, Watson Street, Kates Hill, Dudley, who was found drowned in Barkers Pool at Oakham.

Thomas Bennett, a brother, stated that he was with the deceased on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, and they had four whiskies together, during which deceased remarked, 'We may not meet another Christmas.' The next time he saw him he was dead.

Samuel Bennett said deceased told him to fetch the dog to take to a coursing match, but when he returned with the dog deceased had gone.

Joseph Bunn stated that he met the deceased at 11.30 on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, and they walked together to Oakham.

On arriving at the railway bridge deceased said, 'You can go to the coursing meeting yourself; I shall go no

further.' In the evening, as the deceased was missing, he went in the direction of Barbers Pool, and found the deceased's hat hanging on a thorn bush, and underneath it was a coat. In a pocket was a paper, on which was written the deceased's name and address. He gave information to the police.

Police-constable Robinson said he dragged the pool in consequence of information received, and at a depth of fifteen yards recovered the deceased's body.

Dr. Price said death was due to drowning.

It was stated that four or five persons had committed suicide in the same pool.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide during Temporary Insanity."

#### 1901 Census

61, Dudley Road – ASH TREE INN

[1] *Benjamin Hollis* (59), licensed publican, born Tipton;

[2] *Rachel Hollis* (58), wife, born Tipton;

[3] Elizabeth Male (22), daughter, widow, born Tipton;

[4] William Hollis (20), son, ironworks labourer, born Tipton;

[5] Lylie Hollis (16), daughter, dressmaker, born Tipton;

[6] Kate Cook (16), domestic servant, born Tipton;

[7] Ethel Male (2), grand-daughter, born Tipton:

#### Nottingham Evening Post 4/3/1902

"Yesterday Mr. H. A. Pearson (Coroner) held an inquest at the ASH TREE TAVERN, Dudley Road, Tividale, respecting the death of Samuel Hinton, 15, labourer, formerly residing at Tabernacle Street, Oldbury, who was loading ashes from a mound at the Lye Cross Colliery, Rowley, on Saturday afternoon, when a fall of burning ashes from the top of the mound partially covered him. A woman, named Louisa Hickman, who saw the accident, ran to the mound, and was pulling deceased out when another fall occurred, deceased being completely covered by the burning ashes. A man named Thomas Bishton, who came upon the scene, also attempted to rescue him, but found that his leg was pinned against the ashes by one of the wheels of the cart. Deceased was eventually recused after a large quantity of ashes had been removed, but life was extinct, the body being burnt in a terrible manner from head to foot. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

*Benjamin Hollis* – see also ALBION, Tividale.

#### County Advertiser 13/6/1903

"The following licenses were transferred.....

ASH TREE INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, from *Benjamin Hollis* (deceased) to his widow, *Rachel Hollis*."

*Albert Paskin* – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tividale.

#### 1911 Census

82, Dudley Road – ASH TREE INN

[1] *George William Hill* (33), publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] Annie Elizabeth Hill (31), wife, married 6 years, assisting in business, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Tereasa Hill (6), daughter, school, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Stanley Hill (4), son, born Rowley Regis:

*George William Hill* – see also BROWN LION, Tividale.

#### Dudley Chronicle 23/9/1916

"At Tipton Police Court, on Tuesday, Mary Mills, a married woman, of Railway Street, Tipton, was summoned for assaulting Mary Ann *Murray*, wife of the licensee of the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. T. D. Hickman (Old Hill) prosecuted, and said that complainant was on a visit to her mother when she

met defendant, who was a complete stranger to her. Without any provocation defendant stuck the woman on the forehead and later met her in the street again and knocked her unconscious.

Evidence in support of this was called, and defendant, who behaved disorderly in court, was committed to 14 days' hard labour, Alderman Homer observing, 'It is a most outrageous and unprovoked assault.'

Defendant was also bound over for twelve months for threatening a sister of the complainant in the last case."

#### Dudley Chronicle 8/11/1919

"Tividale Labour Party, of which Councilor C. C. Lewis, is chairman and Mr. Arthur Birch secretary, held a very successful smoking concert at the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, yesterday (Friday) week. Mr. A. Birch presided, and included in the large attendance were Councillor C. C. Lewis, H. Dearne, J. Palmer, A. Bowdler, B. Street, H. Halph, H. Wood, J. Hollick, G. Taylor, and J. H. Walton (the Labour agent).

During the evening Mr. C. H. Sitch, MP for the Division, attended, and met with an enthusiastic reception, the company rising and singing 'For he's a jolly good fellow.'

The Chairman, on behalf of himself and a few friends, presented Mr. Sitch with a gold-mounted cigarette holder as a slight mark of the esteem in which he is held in Tividale....."

#### South Staffordshire Times 18/9/1920

"On Tuesday morning there was a very large party conveyed in Allsop's two fine 'sharries,' the 'Globe' and the 'Favourite,' from the ASH TREE INN, Tividale (host Mr. Alfred Burns). Their destination was Stratford-on-Avon."

*Edwin Shelton* = Edward Shelton

#### Dudley Chronicle 26/3/1925

"On Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> an inquest was held at the ASH TREE INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, relative to the death of William Clift, of 261, Dudley Road, Tividale, who died in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year. It was stated that the deceased was formerly a blacksmith, and that eight years ago he retired. He was in failing health for some time, but did not take to his bed until the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. On that date, at 5.30pm, Mrs. Clift went upstairs to see if he wanted a cup of tea, and she found that he was breathing faster than usual. He became worse, and died shortly afterwards. He had suffered from a rupture for about 14 years. Dr. Messiter, of Dudley, gave medical evidence, and the Coroner (Mr. W. C. Checkley) recorded a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

#### Dudley Chronicle 27/8/1925

"Tividale Parade. For the Help of the Hospitals.

Although it has been in existence for only eight months, the efforts of those who are responsible for the activities of the Tividale Hospital and Friendly Societies' Committee for the hospitals, are most praiseworthy. During the eight months there has been collected at the WONDER HOTEL £5 9s, MINERS ARMS £4 15s 9d, Tividale EMS £1 9s, ASH TREE INN 3s, a total of £11 16s 9d. From this amount there has been sent to the Dudley Guest Hospital £3, Dudley Dispensary £1 10s, Birmingham Orthopaedic 7s....."

#### Bilston & Willenhall Times 28/11/1925

"The circumstances surrounding the tragic death of a pretty twenty-year-old Tividale girl were investigated on Saturday afternoon by the South Staffordshire Coroner (Mr. W. C. Checkley), when the inquest was held at the ASH TREE INN, Dudley Road, Tividale. The deceased was Lilian Maud Murray, of 307, Dudley Road, Tividale, who was found in a deep pool known locally as 'Barber's Rest Pool,' near Oakham, Rowley Regis, on 18th November.

Mary Ann Murray, wife of William Henry Murray, a labourer, identified the body as that of her daughter. The deceased was 20 years of age and had been employed as a machinist at the Cable Accessories Co. Ltd., Tividale. She had always been a very healthy girl and had always appeared to be cheerful, although of a quiet disposition. She came home to dinner at about 12.40pm on the date in question, and after dinner she left home at 1.25pm with the object of returning to work. She took with her a thermos flask containing tea. She then appeared to be in her usual spirits. Witness expected deceased to be home about 5.40pm, but

she did not return. When witness went into deceased's bedroom later in the evening, about 9pm, she saw a handkerchief box on the dressing table, in which she found a note in deceased's handwriting. Alarmed by the contents of the note, witness went to the police station and gave information to the authorities. It has since come to witness's knowledge that the deceased had had some tickets to sell for a dance which was held at the Cable Accessories canteen some time ago, and that she had failed to hand the money for them to the promoter. The name of the man was mentioned in the letter by deceased, but he was not known to witness. She understood that deceased had not been out with the man for the past two years.

Albert E. Fletcher (19), labourer, of 10, Oakham, Dudley, said that about 4.30pm, on November 18th, he was walking on a public footpath at the side of a deep pool of water known as 'Barber's Rest,' situated about 100 yards from the Oakham Road, when he saw a thermos and a lady's hat on the bank about a yard from the edge of the water. Witness looked into the water, but could see no one, and so he took the flask and the hat to the police station.

PC C. T. Hill stated that about 10am on the following day, in company with PC Taylor, he commenced dragging operations at the pool in question. About half an hour later he recovered the deceased from about 20 feet of water. The body was fully clothed with the exception of the hat. Witness examined the bank at the side but could find no signs of a struggle. He removed the body to the mortuary.

In answer to the coroner, witness said he had no doubt that death was due to drowning. There were no signs of injury about the body.

The letter left by the deceased was read by the Coroner. It was as follows:

'Dear Mother. Do not blame me when you read this. It is temptation, mother, and this is the only way out. I know there must be an end of it, and this is the coward's way out. But then, mother, what could you expect from the black sheep of the family? I could not stand it any longer. I know it will wrong you, but I am in debt everywhere. Do not pay it, mother. If they find me after you will grant me my only wish, I hope, and that is to ask Mr. — to follow me at my funeral, because it will be the only one I love. Always remember me as your daughter, mother. I am heart-broken, and there is above one tear on this letter. Please remember me to my friends, if I have any.'

The letter concluded with, 'You were a good mother and dad to me,' the mother and dad being underlined. The letter was signed, 'Your loving daughter, Lil,' and several crosses were appended.

The coroner asked the mother if she could account for her deceased daughter calling herself the 'black sheep of the family.' Mrs. Murray said that she could not. She had always idolised her daughter.

The Coroner: Then that is pure imagination? – Witness: Yes.

With regard to the tickets, the Coroner said he understood that the deceased had had 50s worth. She had not paid the money in to the promoters. He asked witness if there would have been any difficulty in finding the money for the deceased, had she told her of her difficulties.

Witness replied that she could have found the money for her daughter.

The Coroner said that the letter led him to the conclusion that the deceased had allowed something to prey on her mind, and that she had thrown herself into the water in a moment of mental aberration.

A verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind was recorded."

#### Dudley Chronicle 22/4/1926

"The South Staffordshire Coroner (Mr. W. C. Checkley) held an inquest on Friday at the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, on the death of William Cole, aged 39, a widower, who resided with his mother at the BARLEY MOW, Oakham.

Joseph Cole, a stone-sett worker, and a brother of the deceased, said the latter left for work with his horse and cart, on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7am. At 5.15pm witness was told that his brother had met with an accident in Brades Park.

William Davies, a boy of 13 years, said at 4.20pm, on April 13, he was standing near the canal bridge in Brades Road when he saw a horse and tip-cart coming round the bend of the road. The horse was running away, and the driver was in the cart, holding the reins and trying to pull the horse up. Just before the horse reached witness he saw the driver get over the front of the cart on to the left shaft. He loosed the reins and jumped, and as he did so his feet appeared to get entangled in the reins, which caused him to fall to the ground, and a wheel went over his head. Witness went up to him, and said he was bleeding from the ears and mouth. A postman arrived and picked the deceased up.

A postman named Edward Jones gave similar evidence, and added that when he went to the man he found him unconscious. Witness moved deceased to the side of the road, and feeling his pulse, could discover no movement.

Ernest Wood, a farm labourer, who also saw the accident, said the horse was obviously running away, but what had startled it he could not say.

PC Hill said he was on duty in Dudley Road when he heard a shout and saw the horse galloping towards him and no one in charge. He tried to stop the horse, but could not do so. He saw Cole lying dead on the pavement. He examined the body, and found a fracture at the base of the skull and a fracture of the left jaw bone, and there were marks on the face, as though the wheel had passed over it. He made enquiries, but had found no one who saw the horse start.

The Coroner said that they could not tell what startled the horse. It was a sad case, and that they had to suppose that the driver thought that by keeping the reins in his hands and getting on to the shafts he had a chance of stopping the animal. He recorded a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Bilston and Willenhall Times 20/10/1928

“Tipton Man’s Tragic Death at Tividale. ‘I am pleased that the jury have to find the verdict in this case and not myself.’ This was the remark of the Coroner (Mr. Frank Cooper) to a jury at an inquest at Tividale on Monday afternoon, when some difficulty was experienced in ascertaining the true circumstances of a man’s death.

The inquest, which was held at the ASH TREE INN, was on George Percival (64), a brick burner, of 36, Wellington Road, Tipton, whose body was recovered from the canal at Tividale on Friday last week. Lily Selina Percival, the widow, stated that her husband, who had been unemployed since Easter, left home at 9.45 on Friday morning to visit Tipton Employment Exchange. He said he should be back at three o’clock. He had not been depressed, and had not complained of feeling unwell. He was always jovial. James Brick, a boatman, of 49, Portway Road, Oldbury, who first discovered the body on Friday afternoon, said Percival was in a stooping position in about three feet of water. The water at that spot was not more than four feet deep, and a man could easily walk across the canal.

PC Haynes, who recovered the body, said there was a wound over the man’s left eye, but he could not say how it was caused, and there were no marks on the towing path to suggest that Percival had fallen and injured himself. Witness had ascertained that the man received £1 4s unemployment pay from the Employment Exchange, and a sum of £1 4s 9½d was found on the body.

The Coroner said there was no doubt the man died from drowning, but it was difficult to say how he got into the water. The jury might come to the conclusion that Percival stumbled, injured himself and fell in while dazed, but he did not think the man’s cap would have remained on his head if that had happened. An open verdict was an unsatisfactory one, and if they thought Percival committed suicide he (Mr. Cooper) believed they would hesitate before expressing the view that the man was of unsound mind.

After a deliberation in private, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 23/5/1929

“The tragic death of an Oldbury woman while travelling in a tram car on a Mothers’ Union outing, was related to Mr. J. H. S. Addison (Deputy Coroner) at the inquest held at the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, on Wednesday afternoon week. The woman was Mrs. Mary Ann Downes, aged 67, who lived at 100, Broadwell Road, Oldbury. Mrs. Downes was a member of the party participating in the annual outing of the Mothers’ Union, in connection with Oldbury Parish Church, which took place to Kinver, on Monday, and shortly after boarding the special tram, which she had to hurry to catch, Mrs. Downes collapsed and died immediately.

William Downes, the husband, told the Deputy Coroner that his wife’s general health had not been good for about ten years, during which she had suffered from heart trouble.

Dr. Eric Mence, of Oldbury, said he knew Mrs. Downes had been suffering from heart trouble. He saw her body in the mortuary on Monday, and had since made a post mortem examination, which revealed fatty degeneration of the heart, while the aortic valves showed disease of long standing. Excitement and exertion were probably responsible for the fatal attack on Monday. Death was due to fatty degeneration and valvular disease of the heart.

The Rev. J. R. Harrison (Vicar of Oldbury) said Mrs. Downes was a member of his congregation and intended accompanying the Mothers' Union outing on Monday. It was arranged that they should meet at the Council Buildings at 12 o'clock noon, to board the special car, but Mrs. Downes was one of the late comers. It was about 12.10 when she appeared hurrying round the corner from Church Street into Freeth Street, and suddenly she slipped and fell. The fall was not a violent one, and a young man helped her up. Witness then crossed the road and helped Mrs. Downes to the car. She was short of breath and appeared distressed, though not unduly so. She boarded the car and stood on the platform at the back for time to get all the air she could. When the tramcar started, she appeared to have recovered, and witness followed the party in his motor car.

Mrs. Mary Darby, of 98, Broadwell Road, Oldbury, another member of the party, said that when Mrs. Downes appeared to have recovered from the exertion of hurrying, she asked her to sit next to her. There did not seem to be too much wrong with her, but after witness had applied some eau-de-cologne to her handkerchief she started to vomit, and expired without speaking.

The Deputy Coroner recorded a verdict in accordance with the medial testimony, and remarked that it was a particularly tragic case."

*Joseph Marklow* = Joseph Marklew

#### Dudley Chronicle 9/2/1933

"Now that the resignation of Mr. James B. Holden from Rowley Regis District Council is complete, the question of a successor arises. It seems certain that a contest will decide who shall next represent Tividale in his stead. Names already being mentioned as possible, even probable, candidates are those of Mr. George Osell, of Dudley Road, Tividale, and Mr. *Marklow*, the licensee of the ASH TREE INN, Tividale, and it is whispered that a lady candidate may take the field and that she will be none other than Mrs. J. B. Holden. Arrangements are not yet definite on either side, but these three names bring with them anticipation of keen conflict. Mr. Osell is most popular as a first division football referee, and is well known in the district. Mr. *Marklow*, it is understood, is to fight under the Labour flag with official support, while Mrs. Holden is probably the widest known of all....."

#### 1939 Register

82, Dudley Road

[1] *Ernest J. Stanton*, date of birth 21/9/1889, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Emily Stanton, dob 9/11/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Iris E. (Stanton) Baker, dob 21/6/1920, sewing machinist for bedding, single:

A team from here took part in the Tividale and District Darts League. [1952]

*Dennis Edward Cheshire* – see also PLOUGH, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

Closed

Demolished

#### **BARREL**

1, (27), Nelson Street, Tat Bank, (Rood End), OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Francis Green

Frank Green, Smethwick

John Jordan and Co. Ltd.  
T. A. Sadler, Windsor Castle Brewery (acquired in 1919)  
Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. [1929]  
Atkinsons Ltd. [c.1935]  
Peter Walker and Co. Ltd. [c.1939]

## LICENSEES

William Smith [1861] – [1873]  
Francis Green [1881] – **1886**;  
Felix Wills (**1886 – 1890**);  
Amelia Jane Wills (**1890 – 1894**);  
Andrew Chilton (**1894**);  
Joseph Millard (**1894 – 1895**);  
John Henry Timmins (**1895 – 1896**);  
Edward Woodall Starkey (**1896 – 1899**);  
Joseph Henry Lowe (**1899 – 1904**);  
William Henry Draper (**1904 – 1918**);  
Mary Jane Draper (**1918 – 1943**);  
Charles Henry Lloyd (**1943 – 1956**);  
Ada Elizabeth Lloyd (**1956**):

## NOTES

27, Nelson Street [1881]  
1, Nelson Street [1891], [1901], [1911], [1939]

It had a beerhouse license.

### 1861 Census

Nelson Street – BARREL INN

- [1] *William Smith* (30), beerhouse keeper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Mary A. Smith (26), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Sarah J. Smith (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] John Smith (3), son, scholar, born Oldbury:

*William Smith*, beer retailer, Nelson Street. [1862]

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/3/1869

“At the Police Court yesterday, before Messrs. Adkin, James, and Thornton, May Ann *Smith*, Rood End, was charged with wilfully breaking the windows at the house of her husband, *William Smith*, beerhouse keeper, Rood End. A short time ago prosecutor proved his wife, the prisoner, to be an adulteress, and in consequence he turned her out of the house. The prisoner had repeatedly visited the house since, and had broken the windows on several occasions. On the 13th inst she again went to the house, and after creating a great disturbance, smashed several panes of glass in the windows. She was then given into custody. The magistrates inflicted a fine of 20s and costs, or in default, one month’s imprisonment.”

### 1871 Census

Nelson Street

- [1] *William Smith* (36), married, labourer and victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] John Smith (13), son, errand boy, born Oldbury;



- [3] Sarah J. Smith (15), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Selina Smith (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Emma Dearn (27), housekeeper, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/3/1873 - Advert

“Found on Saturday, March 8, black Retriever Dog. If not owned in three days will be sold. Apply, Mr. *Smith*, BARREL INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

1881 Census

27, Nelson Street – Beer House

- [1] *Francis Green* (29), bricklayer, born Oldbury;
- [2] Ellen Green (25), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Elizabeth Green (1), daughter, born Oldbury:

*Francis Green*, beer retailer, 27, Nelson Street. [1884]

1891 Census

1, Nelson Street

- [1] *Amelia J. Wills* (55), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Birmingham;
- [2] Jane Bell (14), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Edward Woodall Starkey* was fined 40s and 58s 6d costs, on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1898, for permitting drunkenness.

1901 Census

1, Nelson Street – BARREL INN

- [1] *Joseph Henry Lowe* (38), labourer sheet glass works and licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Emily Lowe (38), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Elsie Lowe (7), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Doris Mary Lowe (3), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Louisa Cook (15), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

A team from here took part in the Langley and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

1911 Census

1, Nelson Street

- [1] *William Henry Draper* (40), labourer wagon works, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Mary Jane Draper* (38), wife, married 13 years, born Smethwick;
- [3] Gladys Eva Draper (12), daughter, school, born Smethwick;
- [4] Horace William Draper (8), son, born Oldbury:

*William Henry Draper*, beer retailer, 1, Nelson Street. [1912]

In October 1930 customers of the BARREL INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury, donated £1 1s to the Norton Canes Mine Disaster Fund, which provided support for the widows and children of the 14 men who died.

1939 Register

1, Nelson Street – Public House

- [1] *Mary J. Draper*, date of birth 18/4/1873, public house licensee, married:

The license was surrendered on making the final Provisional Grant of Removal in respect of the WINDSOR CASTLE, Rounds Green to the BEECHES, Warley.

The Final Order was made on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1956.

## **BARREL**

5, Pound Road, Causeway Green, Cakemore, (Langley Green), OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Mrs. Esther Wood [1891]  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

## **LICENSEES**

Thomas Whale [1861] – **1864**);  
Henry Carter (**1864** – [ ]  
George Round [1868] – [1870]  
Henry Smith [1870] – [1872]  
William George Round [1873]  
Isaac Normansell [1881] – **1882**);  
Esther Normansell (**1882** – [ ]  
Francis Green [ ] – **1886**);  
Felix Wills (**1886** – [ ]  
Henry Thomas Wood [ ] – **1891**);  
Henry Bridge (**1891** – [ ]  
Samuel Bridge (**1892** – [1898]  
Benjamin Darby [1899] – [1901]  
James Smith [ ] – **1903**);  
James Thomas Cole (**1903**);  
Thomas Lowe (**1903** – [1904]  
Albert Moore (**1906** – **1912**);  
Thomas Williams (**1912** – [ ]  
Edward Evans [1913]  
William Edward Evans (**1915** – **1916**);  
Samuel George Newell (**1916** – [1921]  
Edward Evans [1930] – **1936**);  
Joseph William Smith (**1936** – **1940**);  
Elsie Gladys Smith (**1940** – **1944**);  
Frederick Birch (**1944** – **1950**);  
William Thomas Perrins (**1950** – **1953**);  
Clarence Norman Stanley (**1953** – [1964]  
Graham Pinches [c.1970s]  
Craig Pinches [1986]  
Anthony 'Tony' Billings (**1994** – [2004]

## **NOTES**

It originally came under the jurisdiction of Halesowen.

### 1861 Census

Causeway Green

- [1] *Thomas Whale* (38), victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Ann Whale* (33), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] *Louisa Whale* (3), daughter, born Halesowen;
- [4] *Thomas Whale* (2), son, born Halesowen:

*Thomas Whale* – see also GEORGE, Pottery Road.

Stourbridge Observer 1/2/1868

“*George Round*, landlord of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, was charged by Superintendent Overend with keeping his house open for the sale of beer during prohibited hours, on the 19<sup>th</sup> ult; and he was further charged with permitting drunkenness in his house at the same time. As there was only one Magistrate on the Bench, the case was adjourned to the next Petty Sessions.”

Stourbridge Observer 15/2/1868

“*George Round*, landlord of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, was charged by Superintendent Overend with keeping his house open during prohibited hours, on Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup> ult. He was also charged with permitting drunkenness at the same time. Defendant pleaded not guilty to both charges.

The case was proved by Police-sergeant Oliver and Police-constable Donnant, who visited the house at about 1am, on the above date, and found four men and a woman in the kitchen with a quart jug nearly full of ale. One of the men was very drunk and noisy.

The Bench considered both charges proved, and inflicted a fine of 10s and costs in the first case, and 5s and costs in the other.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/10/1868

“Peter Norman Webster, of Blackheath, was charged with holding an appointment of surgeon to a society called the Loving Brothers, held at the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, Oldbury, he not being a qualified medical practitioner. Mr. W. Shakespeare appeared to prosecute; and Mr. Topham, of West Bromwich, defended.

The secretary of the society was called, and proved that the defendant was the appointed practitioner, and the medical register was put in, proving that he was not qualified.

Mr. Timmins, surgeon, of Dudley, was called for the defence, but the Bench, after hearing all the evidence, considered the case proved, and inflicted a fine of £5 and costs, as this was the first case against him.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/2/1869 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others.

John Green and Son will Sell by Auction at the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, Oldbury, Tomorrow (Thursday), the 4<sup>th</sup> February – the whole of the Household Furniture and Effects, and Trade Fixtures. Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.”

County Express 1/1/1870

“An inquest was held on Monday by R. Docker, Esq, coroner, at the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, kept by Mr. W. Yeomans, to inquire into the death of a boy named John Solomon, aged seven years, who met with his death by running against a cart belonging to Mr. Wm. Darby, of Blackheath. Mr. Dunn, surgeon, of Halesowen, made a post mortem examination and certified death resulted from injuries received. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/3/1870 - Advert

“BARREL INN, Causeway Green, near Langley Railway Station.

To be Let, that well-situated, good-accustomed, Old-Licensed Public House, as above, with or without Two Fields of Land.

The Butchery, Grocery, Cow-keeping, or Horse Dealers’ Business may be carried on with the Public Business.

The House is situate in a healthy district, and close to the public main road. The present Tenant is leaving on

account of other important business.

Coming-in about £100.

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

#### Stourbridge Observer 4/6/1870

“William Gould was charged that he did, by false pretences, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, obtain from William John Yeomans, the Secretary of a Friendly Society held at the BARREL INN, Cakemore, £1 1s 6d, contrary to the statute.

William John Yeomans deposed: I am secretary of the Friendly Brothers’ Society, held at the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, Cakemore. The prisoner was a member of the society. By the rules of the society he was entitled, on the death of a child, to the sum of sixpence from each member. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of April he applied to me for the money, stating that a child of his had died, and that he was entitled to his money, and claimed it. I refused at first to pay him, and directed him to go to the trustees, because there was not money left in my hands to pay funerals. Prisoner left me, but came back again in about an hour, and said that Mr. Durne, who is one of the trustees, said I was to pay him. I then paid him £1 1s 6d, due according to the rules. Should not have given him the money had he not stated he had lost a child, and that he was entitled to it. He previously said that if I did not pay him he should put the club into the County Court. In consequence of information received, I asked the prisoner for his certificate of marriage, and he gave me the certificate of marriage now produced, which states his wife’s maiden name to be Sarah Mason. I after found out that Sarah Mason was dead, and also that the mother of the child was living with the prisoner as his wife, and that her name is Hannah Edmonds.

William Durne deposed: I am one of the trustees of the club. On the above date the prisoner came to me and said Mr. Yeomans would not give him the money he was entitled to, and that he had a child dead. He said he must have it, for the child was going black for the want of burying. I told him if the money was due to go to Mr. Yeomans, and get it out of him, and I would see he had it back.

David Deeley deposed: I am clerk at Quinton Church, and know the prisoner and his wife. She has been dead eleven years. The certificate of marriage produced is a true extract from the book. Prisoner’s wife was buried at Northfield.

Hannah Edmonds, who is the daughter of the prisoner’s wife by another man, deposed: I have lived with the prisoner for five years, and have had three children. One is living. The child that died is five years old. The reason I have not been married is because I cannot get the money.

Police-constable Dennant proved apprehending the prisoner, and charged him with the offence.

Prisoner was then cautioned in the usual way, and said: I did not know but what the money was due to me. I have paid into the society for three years, and paid all funerals, and if it not right I am willing to pay the money back, by instalments.

Mr. Yeomans, the secretary was re-called, and said the prisoner was well acquainted with the rules.

Prisoner was then committed to take his trial at the next Worcester Sessions.

Hannah Edmonds was severely censured by the Bench for her conduct, she being step-daughter of the prisoner.”

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 29/6/1870

“Worcestershire Midsummer Quarter Sessions.....

Bill Ignored. Against William Gould, for obtaining money by false pretences, from William John Yeomans, on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, at Halesowen.”

#### 1871 Census

Causeway Green

[1] *Henry Smith* (34), innkeeper, born Bromsgrove;

[2] *Elizabeth Smith* (34), wife, born Salop;

[3] *Emily Smith* (5), daughter, scholar, born Alton, Warwickshire;

[4] *Eva Smith* (3), daughter, born Alton, Warwickshire;

[5] *Henry Marsh Smith* (8 months), son, born Causeway Green:

Stourbridge Observer 9/9/1871

“William Smart and George Smart were charged with assaulting Jonathan Hadley, on the 5<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Lowe, of Dudley, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Hayes defended.

Complainant said he lived at Causeway Green, and was at the BARREL INN. Defendants were playing at bowls. He made a bet with the defendants, and won. George Smart refused to pay him, struck him and knocked him down, and he became insensible. He had two black eyes; his cheek was cut, and he was much injured.

Cross-examined: There was a dispute. I bet with the defendant George, and won. He refused to pay. Told him he would have to pay before he went home. Did not lay hold of him. Did not follow defendant to fight him. Defendant wanted to make it up, and offered to pay 5s. I offered to lose the summons money.

David Moreton said he went on the alley. Complainant bet a pint of ale with George Smart, who refused to pay it after he had lost it, and at once struck complainant, and knocked him down insensible among the pigs. They both beat him very badly.

Another witness gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Hayes addressed the Bench for the defence, and said if his instructions were right there was perjury on one side. It was a drunken row and they all fought, in consequence of a bet George Smart had with complainant, who caught hold of him by the collar, because he refused to pay.

John Jones was called, and said that George Smart and complainant both fought, and that Hadley struck first. William Smart did not strike.

James Thompson and Joshua Wood gave evidence to the effect that complainant struck first, and after fought with George Smart.

The Bench fined each defendant 5s and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 2/11/1872

“William Deane was charged by David Smith for that he, being formerly trustee of a certain Friendly Society, that he did then and now have in his possession certain money, amounting to £6, belonging to the said society. Mr. Shakespeare appeared for defendant.

David Smith said he was secretary to the Friendly Society held at the BARREL INN, Causeway Green. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 1871, defendant was a trustee of the society. It was agreed amongst the members that he should hold the money, £6, until they wanted it. The funds being very low, they went to defendant about twelve months ago, and made application to him for the money, and they had applied several times since then, and had also written to him respecting it. Defendant told him he would put it in the bank in his own name. Defendant had been out of the club twelve months, and he did not hold any office whatever, as they had elected a new trustee in his place.

The Bench examined a copy of the rules of the society, which stated that there should be three trustees, a treasurer and a clerk.

Mr. Shakespeare said: I will tell you at once we have the £6 in hand, and we consider we are entitled to hold it. Mr. Deane is really one of the trustees, and he was requested to keep the money by the society. He gave them a memorandum, and the society then passed a resolution that he should hold it.

Mr. Hayes to complainant: You are not prepared with your case, that is certain. You had better try to settle with some amicable arrangement.

The parties consented to do so, and left the Court.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1878 - Advert

“Oldbury. Capital Roadside Inn, the BARREL, Causeway Green, near Langley Green; with Shop and half an acre of good garden Land; stabling, pigsties, &c.

Apply on the premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1878 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Roadside Inn, the BARREL, Causeway Green, Oldbury, shop, half acre land.

Apply on Premises.”

1881 Census

## Causeway Green

- [1] *Isaac Normansell* (41), married, publican, born Smethwick;
- [2] Richard Normansell (19), son, labourer, born Whiteheath;
- [3] Alfred Normansell (17), son, labourer, born Whiteheath;
- [4] Annie Normansell (15), daughter, born Whiteheath;
- [5] Elsa H. Normansell (12), daughter, born Whiteheath;
- [6] Sarah Normansell (6), daughter, scholar, born Whiteheath;
- [7] Ann Jones (53), widow, domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

## West Bromwich Weekly News 11/6/1881

“On Tuesday afternoon the members of the National United Order of Free Gardeners, Pride of the Green lodge, held a dinner at the house of Mrs. *Normantel* [sic], the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, in commemoration of the opening of that lodge a few months ago. After the cloth was removed, Bro. John Bennett was voted to the chair, and Mr. Joseph Hadley to the vice-chair.....”

## West Bromwich Weekly News 17/12/1881

“Mr. R. Docker held an inquiry on Tuesday at the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, respecting the deaths of Hannah Maria Goode (65), Cakemore, and Mary Ann Carter (41), Causeway Green.

The former woman it appears, was walking along the canal side with a lantern to meet her husband in company with two grandchildren, when one of them named Rosannah Willetts said, ‘Mind grandmother, here are some bricks.’ The deceased, however, stumbled against them and fell into the canal at Cakemore Wharf. At the inquest the girl referred to said she held the clothes of deceased until she herself was pulled partly into the canal. She then shouted and a man named Charles came to her assistance, and pulled deceased out. She was conveyed home, and it was found that life was not quite extinct. She, however, died in half an hour. The evidence at the latter inquest was to the effect that on Friday deceased went in search of her husband with a lantern. She was met on the canal side by a man named Dyson, who directed her. She was not seen afterwards alive, but her dead body was found in the canal at Cakemore Wharf on Saturday.

Verdicts Accidentally Drowned.

The jury strongly condemned the fencing at the Cakemore Wharf, and expressed a wish that the Canal Company should be censured for their negligence, and the Coroner was instructed to communicate with the Canal Company on the matter.”

*Isaac Normansell* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1882.

## Dudley and District News 16/12/1882

“The following alehouse licenses were fully transferred.....

BARREL INN, Causeway Green, from *Isaac Normansell* (deceased) to *Esther Normansell*.”

*Esther Normansell* married *Henry Thomas Wood* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1884.

## Birmingham Daily Post 27/1/1886

“Last night Mr. Miller Corbet (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, touching the death of Michael Bailey (40), mechanic, of Back Lane, Causeway Green, who died suddenly on Friday night, under circumstances reported in Monday’s *Post*.

Agnes Jackson gave evidence to the effect that late on Friday night her husband came home and told her that Mrs. Bailey was lying in the road a short distance from her residence. Witness went to Bailey’s house, and informed deceased of the fact, and told him that his wife wanted him. Deceased got up, and walked out of the house for the purpose of going to the place indicated.

Silas Round, file manufacturer, said he saw deceased hurrying up the lane, and followed him. When he had proceeded a short distance he found deceased lying in the road, and breathing heavily. He was not able to speak. Witness lifted him up and placed him against the bank until assistance arrived. He subsequently went for a doctor, and Mr. Cunningham was quickly in attendance; but deceased expired before he reached the house. Deceased was a man of sober habits generally, and always appeared to be healthy. He thought

it would be about seven o'clock the same night when the deceased's wife procured the vermin killer, as she left the house between six and seven o'clock. In reply to a juror, witness stated that he was not aware that Mrs. Bailey had tried to obtain the poison on the previous night, but he knew that she had sent her daughter for it on Thursday afternoon. Deceased had had a great deal of trouble for about a week on account of his wife, which would cause him to be excited.

In reply to the Coroner, Superintendent Hardman stated that the case had been thoroughly investigated, and there was no suspicion that Mrs. Bailey had administered poison to her husband, as she did not return home after purchasing the poison until after the occurrence which resulted in the death of deceased.

Mr. A. Cunningham, surgeon, said he was called in to see deceased shortly after ten o'clock on Friday night, but he was then dead. There was nothing to lead him to suppose that death was due to other than natural causes. He thought the cause of death was heart disease.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.

Last night Mrs. Bailey was progressing favourably."

#### 1891 Census

Cakemore – BARREL INN

[1] *Henry Thomas Wood* (40), bricklayer, born Lapal;

[2] *Esther Wood* (53), wife, born Northfield;

[3] *Emily Cooper* (12), visitor, born Birmingham:

#### County Express 24/10/1891

"William Dyson, Causeway Green, Warley, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Henry Thomas Wood* on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst, and also with refusing to quit. Police-constable Nash said he visited the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, and saw the defendant there drunk. He was requested by *Wood* to leave, but he refused. Mr. *Wood*, the landlord, said he refused to supply defendant who was drunk. He remained in the house three quarters of an hour. Fined 1s and costs in each case."

#### Bristol Mercury 4/11/1891

"At Hales Owen police court, yesterday, *Henry Thomas Wood*, BARREL INN, Causeway Green, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September last. Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

PC Nash deposed that on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, about 8.30pm, he was on duty in Causeway Green, when he saw a man named Daniels being ejected from the defendant's house. The man was very drunk, and witness was compelled to lock him up. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, in company with PC Sherwood, he again visited the BARREL INN, and in the parlour he found defendant's wife helplessly drunk. She had to hold the walls in the passage to keep her from falling down. Mr. *Wood* was not at home. Witness found the defendant in the VINE INN, Whiteheath, the same night about 9.30, when he said he only supplied Daniels with two glasses of whisky. Defendant also said that his wife was very drunk in the house when he left at three o'clock.

Police Constable Sherwood corroborated.

For the defence, Mr. Shakespeare submitted that defendant had kept the house for eleven years without any complaints against him. There was no evidence to warrant a conviction, as the defendant was away from home, and he was not aware that any drunkenness took place.

Mr. Smith (magistrate) said the bench were of opinion that the defendant was not liable for drunkenness when he was away from home, and dismissed the case.

*Esther Wood*, wife of the landlord, was fined, including costs, £1 1s for being drunk on licensed premises on the 17<sup>th</sup> ult."

#### County Advertiser 7/11/1891

"Mr. Shakespeare applied for a transfer of the license of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, from *Henry Thomas Wood* to *Henry Bridge*. Mr. Shakespeare said the house had been kept by *Wood*, but it appeared he had been convicted of felony about twenty years ago. His wife, who owned the house, was not aware of this fact when she married him. There was a clause in the Licensing Acts which provided that no man who had been convicted of felony could hold a license. The Legislature, however, thinking this was too severe upon

licensed victuallers, passed an Act saying that there could be in these cases application made to carry on the business till the special licensing day. Mrs. *Wood* was the owner of the house, which was her separate estate, and settled upon her. *Bridge* was a most respectable man, and there was no objection, he understood, on the part of the police. It had been a licensed house for many years, and Mrs. *Wood* had kept it for eleven years without a previous conviction. The application was granted.”

Midland Sun 15/7/1893

“The monthly meeting of the members of the Oldbury Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held on Wednesday afternoon at the BARREL INN, Causeway Green. Mr. W. Smith presided.....”

County Advertiser 22/9/1894

“Owen Hadley was fined 5s and costs for being drunk in the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, kept by *Samuel Bridge*, on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst.”

County Advertiser 6/10/1894

“*Samuel Bridge*, landlord of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 8<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. W. Waldron prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. Shakespeare, of Oldbury, defended.

Mr. Waldron in his opening statement said that the defendant kept the BARREL INN, Causeway Green. On the 8<sup>th</sup> ult, two police officers visited the house at about 9.10pm, and went into the kitchen. There they saw a man named Owen Hadley sitting with a cup three-quarters full of beer, out of which he was drinking. The man was drunk. The officers called the attention of the defendant to the state of Hadley, and asked him how he accounted for it. Defendant replied, ‘I don’t know; he had only been here twenty minutes, and he is drinking with the other men.’ He (Mr. Waldron) held that if those facts were proved they would be sufficient to warrant a conviction, because, by the ruling of Mr. Justice Cave and others in the case of Hope and Warburton, decided in 1892, it was unnecessary to prove that the man was actually supplied with drink; if he was in the house or on the premises drinking that was sufficient.

Police-constable Walton gave evidence bearing out the opening statement of Mr. Waldron. There were three other men in the room at the time witness entered. The landlord came out of the kitchen when witness entered the house. After witness had called the attention of the landlord to the state of Hadley, the latter went outside, and was so helplessly drunk the he had to be supported home. Hadley had been convicted for the drunkenness.

By Mr. Shakespeare: Witness had heard nothing improper about the previous conduct of the house.

Police-constable Sherwood corroborated, but said he thought the landlord came out of the parlour.

Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, said defendant had conducted a public house for twelve years, and had never previously had a complaint of the management; and he was very anxious to maintain his good character. The case cited by Mr. Waldron stated that to justify a conviction for permitting drunkenness there must be connivance or wilful neglect on the part of the licensee, and the drunken persons must show signs of their condition which would readily arrest the attention of the licensee. Defendant’s house was used by the football club as a clubhouse. Defendant had been busy all day, and after the footballers had gone went out of the kitchen into the bar parlour, leaving two or three persons in the kitchen. Defendant lay down on the sofa and was talking to his wife and two customers. During defendant’s stay in the bar parlour, Hadley came in. A man named Haley came in shortly afterwards, and asked for some beer, which was supplied by the wife of defendant. When the landlady had gone out, Hadley, without asking permission, took up Haley’s cup and commenced to drink, and he was drinking when the officers went in. The landlord did not know that the man Hadley was there until he was called by the officers; and the officers did not see him come out of the kitchen but out of the parlour. He asked the Bench to say there was no offence on the part of the landlord. The defendant (sworn) said he had kept the BOAT INN for nine or ten years, and then removed to the BARREL INN, which he had kept for two or three years. When his attention was called to Hadley by the officers, Hadley had evidently had some beer, though in his opinion he was not very drunk. Witness did not tell the police that Hadley had been there only 20 minutes; he said ten minutes, because he had been in to serve a man about ten minutes previously, and Hadley was not then in the kitchen.

John Clift, moulder, of Causeway Green, stated that Hadley was not supplied with beer while in the house.



The landlady came to supply Haley, and she then ordered Hadley to go, but she took no means to expel him. Michael Haley said Hadley was in the kitchen when he went in, and after the hostess had supplied witness with a pint of fourpenny, Hadley picked up the cup and drank, and the officers then came in. The Bench considered the case proved. They did not think that defendant was himself aware of Hadley's presence in the house, but considered it proved that the landlady knew; and defendant would be fined 10s and costs, including solicitor's fee, £2 3s in all."

Bromsgrove Messenger 17/11/1894

"Wm. Poxon, of Wolverhampton, a boatman, was summoned for being drunk upon the licensed premises of James [sic] *Bridge*, of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green. Police-constable Multon stated that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October he visited the BARREL INN, and found defendant there very drunk. Defendant pleaded guilty and was fined 1s and costs."

Bromsgrove Messenger 7/3/1896

"William *Bridge* of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, was summoned for carrying a gun without a license. Mr. J. T. Bartwell prosecuted. Police-constable Price said that on January 9<sup>th</sup>, he saw defendant in Patricks Field, at Causeway Green, with a gun. He had no license. Defendant, who pleaded guilty, was fined 5s and costs."

Bromsgrove Messenger 14/11/1896

"*Samuel Bridge*, of the BARREL, Causeway Green, applied for two hours extension on the night of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. Applicant stated that Mr. North was giving a supper to the Cakemoor Parish Council. The Bench granted the application."

County Advertiser 21/11/1896

"On Tuesday night a dinner to celebrate the election of Mr. George Whitehouse as a member of the Cakemoor Parish Council, and the election of Mr. George Hadley, as vice-chairman of the Council and one of the overseers of the parish, was held at the BARREL INN, Causeway Green. About fifty persons sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *S. Bridge*). Mr. A. L. North presided....."

County Advertiser 18/9/1897

"Daniel Bastable, Cakemoor, was fined 1s and costs for being drunk in the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, kept by *Samuel Bridge*."

County Advertiser 10/12/1898

"*Samuel Bridge*, landlord of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, was summoned at the instance of Mr. Bertwell, supervisor of the Inland Revenue, for having received certain spirits without having entered them in the stock book, and also without having cancelled the certificates. Mr. Birtewell explained that defendant was liable to a penalty of £50 and costs in each case. Mr. Fearnley, officer of the Inland Revenue, said he called at the defendant's house on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. He found that the officer's previous visit was on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August, 1897, this being an interval of fourteen months. He examined the stock book and found several certificates lying in it. There were thirteen certificates, one being cancelled with blue lead, three with lead pencil, and nine of which were not cancelled. None of the certificates were entered in the stock book. The Bench inflicted a fine of £5 in each case, the total £10 18s."

*Samuel Bridge* issued tokens from here.

*Samuel Bridge* – see also BOAT, Tat Bank Road.

*Benjamin Darby* = Benjamin Darbey

Bromsgrove Messenger 2/9/1899

“*Benjamin Darby*, of the BARREL INN, applied for an occasional license to sell intoxicants on the occasion of a shooting match. Refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1899

“At Halesowen Police Court yesterday, *Benjamin Darby*, landlord of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, and supplying drink to a drunken person; and William Bastable, Causeway Green, was summoned for being drunk on the licensed premises. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted on behalf of the police, Mr. W. Shakespeare, jun., defended *Darby*, and Mr. W. Waldron Bastable.

Mr. Shakespeare said if any offence had been committed by his client it was purely a technical one, as he had no knowledge of Bastable being on the premises, or of his having been served with drink. He suggested that under the circumstances the case should be withdrawn on payment of costs. Mr. Sharpe agreed to this, and Mr. Waldron, on behalf of Bastable, pleaded guilty.

Formal evidence was given by Police-sergeant Jones, and the Bench fined Bastable 10s including costs. The costs in *Darby*'s case amounted to £3 7s 6d.”

County Express 3/2/1900

“Henry Mills, Causeway Green, Halesowen, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the BARREL INN, on the 20th ult; and further with assaulting the landlord, *Benjamin Darby*.

The landlord said he refused to serve defendant, who said he should not leave until he had had something to drink. The defendant and he fell on to the floor, but a customer pulled defendant off witness. Witness afterwards sent for a policeman.

Defendant, who expressed contrition, was fined 2s 6d and costs on the first charge and costs on the second charge.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 7/4/1900

“On Monday last, the quarterly meeting of the Sick and Dividend Society, held at the house of Mr. *B. Darby*, BARREL INN, Causeway Green, took place, when a good number of members were present. The Society at this house numbers 50 members and is progressing favourably.”

1901 Census

Causeway Green – BARREL INN

[1] *Benjamin Darby* (51), publican, born Smethwick;

[2] Lucy Darby (48), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Harriett Cutler (15), domestic servant, born Causeway:

Smethwick Weekly News 7/9/1901

“On Saturday last, about thirty members and friends of the Sick Club held at the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, sat down to an excellent spread provided by Mr. *Darby*. The club is in a good financial position. During the evening a musical programme was given and thoroughly enjoyed.”

*Benjamin Darby* – see also FOUNTAIN, Smethwick.

County Advertiser 31/1/1903

“*James Thomas Cole* applied for the transfer of the license of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, from *James Smith*, the present tenant. In reply to a question from the magistrates' clerk (Mr. A. Homfray) the applicant said he had given the required notice, and read through and signed the agreement before the court. The application was granted.”

County Advertiser 30/5/1903

“William Whitehouse, landlord of the VINE INN, Whiteheath, and *James Thomas Cole*, landlord of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, applied for an hour's extension on the nights of the 30<sup>th</sup> inst, 1<sup>st</sup> of June,

and 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, on the occasion of the Whitsuntide holidays. There was no objection of the part of the police to the extensions, it being pointed out that they were ten o'clock houses. The applications were granted."

A team from here took part in the Langley and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

*Tom Lowe* was the brother of Edward.  
He married Emma Fletcher.

#### Staffordshire Sentinel 27/4/1904

"The landlord of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, was fined £3 4s 6d at Halesowen on Tuesday for permitting a man who was drunk to remain on his licensed premises, although the man was not served with liquor."

AND

#### County Advertiser 30/4/1904

"*Thomas Lowe*, landlord of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst, and also with supplying a drunken person. Mr. J. W. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. S. Vernon, of Oldbury, defended.

Mr. Clulow explained that on the night in question Police-sergeant Gould and Police-constable Chamberlain, of the Oldbury police division, visited defendant's house, and in the tap room found a man named Henry Mills, who was in an advanced state of drunkenness.

Mr. Vernon pleaded guilty to the charge of permitting drunkenness, and urged that it was an act of stupid folly on the part of the waiter, who saw the condition of the man immediately he entered the house, and ordered him to leave. He, however, failed to see him safely off the premises, with the result that the police entered and found the man there. As soon as the landlord discovered the man in the house he ordered him to leave. He urged the Bench to deal leniently with his client, inasmuch as defendant was called upon to suffer for the action of his servant.

The Bench fined him 10s and costs for permitting drunkenness, and dismissed the other case on payment of costs. The total amount was £3 4s."

#### County Advertiser 11/2/1905

"On Tuesday the annual Licensing Sessions for the Halesowen Petty Sessional Division were held at the Police Court.....

Superintendent Hill's report was as follows ..... The following licensed persons have been proceeded against for offences under the licensing laws, and dealt with as follows.....

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 1904, *Thomas Lowe*, of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, permitting drunkenness, fined 10s and costs, £2 2s.....

I believe the license holders have conducted their houses well during the year and endeavoured to comply with the Licensing Laws ..... It was decided to renew the whole of the licenses, including those on the black list, a caution being administered in these cases."

#### Tipton Herald 14/8/1909

"On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, Samuel Gould, of Round Road, Causeway Green, was in the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, in an intoxicated condition. When asked to go by the landlord he refused, and the services of PC Edkins had to be requisitioned. When called to answer the summons at Halesowen Court on Tuesday, Samuel had nothing to say, and was fined 5s and 5s 6d costs."

#### Dudley Chronicle 30/7/1910

"*Albert Moore*, licensee of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, applied on behalf of the holders of ten o'clock licenses in the division for an extension of one hour on the nights of 30<sup>th</sup> of July and August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Inspector Brazier stated that there was no objection on the part of the police. The applications were granted."

## 1911 Census

Pound Road – BARREL INN

- [1] *Albert Moore* (42), publican, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Elizabeth Moore* (40), wife, married 18 years, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Florie Moore* (16), daughter, assists in public house, born Langley Green;
- [4] *Samuel Moore* (17), son, clerk, agency in builder's line, born Langley Green;
- [5] *Joseph Moore* (14), son, clerk, agency in builder's line, born Langley Green;
- [6] *Elsie Moore* (13), daughter, school, born Langley Green;
- [7] *Sarah Moore* (8), daughter, school, born Langley Green;
- [8] *Bertie Moore* (3), son, born Langley Green;
- [9] *Esther Cutler* (20), domestic servant, born Langley Green:

## Bromsgrove Messenger 6/4/1912

“William Hadley, of Langley, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises. Police-constable Edkins said that on 30<sup>th</sup> March he saw defendant being assisted out of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, by the potman. He was helplessly drunk. He afterwards fell down in the urinal, and was taken to the police station in a wheelbarrow. Defendant, who pleaded guilty, was fined 5s and costs.”

## Bromsgrove Messenger 20/4/1912

“*Thomas Williams*, licensee of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, was summoned for permitting drunkenness upon his licensed premises on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult.

Mr. Clulow, who prosecuted, explained that about 8 o'clock on the night in question Police-constable Edkins was standing outside the public house when he saw the potman, Harold Lowe, lead a man named William Hadley from the premises in a drunken state and leave him in an outbuilding. The man was in a helpless condition, and Edkins, who arrested him, had to convey him to the police station upon a wheelbarrow. Inspector Pass subsequently visited the public house, and when questioned defendant said, ‘I am very sorry, it would not have happened if I had been at home. If I can get through this I shall stay at home and attend to my business.’ The potman said he had requested Hadley to leave an hour before.

Replying to Mr. Sharpe, who appeared for defendant, Inspector Pass said he knew that defendant was captain of the Cradley Heath St. Luke's football team, and that he was playing in an important match at Willenhall.

Mr. Sharpe admitted that the man was drunk upon the premises, and urged that his client had suffered through placing too much reliance upon the potman. *Williams* was away at Willenhall playing in a match upon which the Birmingham Combination championship depended, and under ordinary circumstances would have been at home at the time. Unfortunately, the train service was interfered with, and defendant had to come back in the brake, which delayed his arrival at the house. Defendant would retire from the game at the end of the season and devote his time to his business.

The Bench fined defendant £5 and costs, and complimented the police upon the manner in which the case had been brought.

Superintendent Rudnick said he would convey those expressions to the proper quarters.”

[Cradley Heath St. Luke's won the game at Willenhall. They finished top of the Combination league.]

## County Express 10/8/1912

“The Bowling Green.....

The VICTORIA (Blackheath) achieved a smart performance by defeating the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, by nearly 100 points. Only one of the homesters lost, which speaks well for the home team's ability.”

## Bromsgrove Messenger 19/10/1912

“Samuel Cuft, of Cakemore, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Thomas Williams*, of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green.

Police-sergeant Stanley said that on Saturday night last he visited the above inn, and found defendant sitting down. He was drunk, and when he got up he staggered and caught hold of the door. Witness locked him up,

and he was bailed out next morning.

Police-constable Jackson corroborated.

Inspector Pass said he received the man in custody at the station. He was too drunk to bail out that night. Mr. Philip Baker (who defended) said his client was not drunk but sleepy. He had been up with his father, who was seriously ill, all night, and had only one pint of beer that night.

Defendant, his sister, and the landlord bore out this statement.

The Bench after retiring said they considered the case was a fit one to bring forward, but they were divided, and they had decided to dismiss the case.”

#### Bromsgrove Messenger 8/3/1913

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions.

The licenses adjourned from the annual licensing meeting were all renewed, viz.....

*Edward Evans*, BARREL INN, Causeway Green.....

Superintendent Rudnick said all the alterations had been carried out satisfactorily.”

#### Evening Despatch 16/7/1914

“Midland Bowls..... Langley and District League.

A match between the Birmingham and District Tramways and the BARREL, Causeway Green, on the Trams green at West Smethwick, in the Langley and District Bowling League last night, resulted in a win for the BARREL by one point, the scores being Trams 136, BARREL 137.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 26/8/1916

“At Halesowen Police Court, on Tuesday, *William Edward Evans*, licensee of the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, applied for the temporary license of the house to *Samuel George Newell*. The application was granted.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 17/11/1917

“Last Friday evening the distribution of prizes won by various clubs of the Langley Bowling League took place at the headquarters, QUEENS HEAD, Londonderry (Host Mr. Wheatcroft). The President (Mr. W. G. Holland) occupied the chair, and a very good company was present. The evening was enlivened by songs by members of the league, including Messrs. F. Weston (Old Hill CROSS), Siviter, and Jasper. Mr. J. Smith was the pianist.

Hill and Cakemore Liberal Club were presented with the cup ..... The BARREL, for the second year, secured the spoon.....”

[The BARREL finished last in the league of 11 teams.]

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/1/1921

“At Halesowen yesterday Joseph Cox, aged 45, a labourer, of Yates Lane, Cakemore, was fined 20s for refusing to quit licensed premises, and £2 10s for assaulting *Samuel George Newell*, licensee of the BARREL INN.

It was alleged that the defendant went to the public house and demanded to be served with drink. On being ordered to leave, defendant jumped on to the counter and endeavoured to get drinks from behind the bar.

Failing in this enterprise he picked up the pots of the other customers and drank the contents. The licensee knocked defendant off the counter and in the struggle that followed defendant struck *Newell* in the mouth.

Defendant was ejected and twice tried to re-enter the premises.

Defendant pleaded that he remembered nothing of the occurrence. He said he had had a jollification with some friends during the day.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 15/1/1921

“Stourbridge and Halesowen Hospital Committee.

The monthly meeting of this Committee was held at the Hayley Green Hospital, Halesowen, on Monday..... The Matron (Miss Lees) reported the following gifts to the hospital ..... 10s towards the Christmas tree from Master Tom *Newell*, a former patient, who resides at the BARREL INN, Causeway Green, Cakemore.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/2/1924

“Cross Country Runs.....

In order to propagate cross-country running in the district, Smethwick Harriers will hold a run from the BARREL, Causeway Green, next Saturday. The distance will be four miles, and actual racing will be strictly tabooed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/11/1925

“Weary Hours of Patients. Will You Help Our Wireless Fund?

Radio occupies your winter nights. Won't you help to make it occupy the winter nights of those to whom the pleasures of the home fireside are barred – the lonely patients who endure hour upon hour, day upon day, of weary isolation?

It is the easiest thing in the world to put your subscription into an envelope and post it to the *Gazette* Hospital Wireless Fund ..... The following amounts have been received.....

Customers of BARREL INN, Causeway Green, Langley, per Mr. Rose ... £1 0s 0d.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/6/1930 - Marriages

“On June 17<sup>th</sup>, at St. Paul's Church, Blackheath, by the Rev. C. D. Banks Gale, Joseph William, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Smith, Quinton, to Elsie Gladys, younger daughter of Mr. *Edward* and the late Mrs. *Evans*, BARREL INN, Causeway Green.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/1/1931

“The following contribution has been received for the *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* fund for the relief of the dependants of the victims of the Grove Pit disaster.

Previously acknowledged, £2,693 15s 1d.

Mr. *E. Evans* and Customers of BARREL INN, Causeway Green, Langley, £16 0s 9d.

Total, £2,709 15s 10d.”

Dudley Chronicle 30/4/1931

“William Edward Evans (38), a steel worker, of 78, Mackmillan Road, Rowley, was summoned for using threatening language to his father *Edward Evans* (64), landlord of the BARREL INN, Pound Road, Cake-more.

Complainant said his son stopped him as he was leaving the BARREL INN, and threatened to ‘break his neck.’ He had done so previously.

PC Bradbury said he saw Mr. *Evans*, sen., come out of the BARREL INN, and immediately defendant came out of the shadows on the other side of the road and threatened him. The elder man ran away, with the younger in pursuit. When witness stood between the two men defendant adopted a very civil attitude.

Mrs. Smith, defendant's sister, gave evidence, and defendant was bound over to keep the peace for 21 months, and ordered to pay 6s 6d costs.”

It had a bowling green and pavilion. [1940s]

It was transferred to the jurisdiction of Oldbury on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1934.

1939 Register

5, Pound Road (2 of 4)

[1] *Joseph William Smith*, date of birth 24/11/1904, manager of public house, married;

[2] Elsie G. (Smith) Neple, dob 5/11/1907, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Plans were approved for alterations to the servery to the smoke room on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1951.

Plans were approved for ladies' lavatory accommodation adjacent to the bowling green on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1955.

Plans were approved for alterations to the bar, smoke room and tenant's accommodation on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1957.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1964

“Mr. *Clarence Norman Stanley*, aged 53, licensee of the BARREL Public House in Pound Road, Causeway Green, Worcestershire, died after collapsing and falling down a flight of stairs on the premises yesterday.”

*Graham Pinches* was married to Margaret.

See also GAIETY, Smethwick.

A team from here took part in the *Sports Argus* Sports-Inn Quiz. [1978]

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/2/1986

“An Oldbury man who was the victim of an unprovoked knife attack when set on by a gang of eight was allowed home from hospital yesterday. Mr. Neil Pritchett, aged 22, of Apsley Road, Brandhall, was stabbed three times as he went to make a telephone call after drinking with his girlfriend on Friday night at the BARREL pub in Causeway Green, Oldbury. He walked about 100 yards to the box near the HEN AND CHICKENS pub, on Birmingham New Road, when the men, five white and the others black, came out of the premises. They started to punch Mr. Pritchett and when he retaliated one produced a knife and stabbed him in the back, head and chest. Police are looking for a half-caste male, aged 21 years, with short black curly hair and around 5ft 9ins tall, who is believed to have carried out the knife attack.”

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.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/3/1986

“Friends at Oldbury gave each other true support on a charity fancy dress pub crawl – by doing it three-legged. A group of 15 friends and workmates, some of them pictured, visited 11 public houses, starting at the BARREL in Pound Road and finishing at the ROWLEY RAG in Whiteheath. Through collections and sponsorship the group, many wearing fancy dress, expect to raise up to £100 for arthritis work at Selly Oak Hospital.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/1/1987

“A cheque for £1,005 raised by a 24-hour sponsored darts and pool evening is to be handed over to the BBC's Children in Need Appeal at a presentation at the BARREL public house, Pound Road, Langley, on Friday.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/9/1988

“Gig Guide.....

Monday: Indigo Blues Band (The BARREL, Langley).”

*Anthony Billings* was also a builder.

He was also a pigeon flyer.

It was extended in 1995.  
It reopened in August 1995.

Blackheath and District Homing Society was based here. [2005]

[2006]

Closed [2007]  
It was demolished in 2008.

Halesowen News 21/2/2008

“Sandwell planning committee last night.....

The committee approved an application from Karma Homes to build 13 houses on the former site of the BARREL public house, on Pound Road.”

Housing was built on the site.

## **BATH ROAD TAVERN**

Bath Road, Rounds Green, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

Thomas Sturges [1861] – [1865]  
Thomas Vaughan [1868] – [1870]

### NOTES

#### 1861 Census

Bath Road – BATH TAVERN

- [1] *Thomas Sturges* (26), roller in iron works and victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Phebe Sturges* (23), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Joseph H. Sturges* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *John Sturges* (7 months), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth Hatton* (13), housemaid, born Stourbridge:

*Thomas Sturges*, retailer of beer, Rounds Green. [1862]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 3/8/1863

“*Thomas Sturges*, beerhouse keeper, Rounds Green, and *Dennis Green*, beerhouse keeper of the same place, were convicted of selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, July 5. They were ordered to pay costs.”

*Thomas Sturges*, beer retailer, Rounds Green. [1864], [1865]

*Thomas Vaughan*, beer retailer, Rounds Green. [1870]



## BEECHES

105, Bristnall Hall Road, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd.  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.  
Admiral Taverns

## LICENSEES

Reggie Lewis [1961] – [1962]

## NOTES

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1936

“Oldbury justices yesterday refused application for.....

The removal of the licence of the WINDSOR CASTLE, Graves Road, Rounds Green, to premises known as the BEECHES, Bristnall Hall Road, Warley.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/3/1937

“Rowley Regis licensing justices adjourned meeting at Old Hill yesterday.....

Although 96 per cent of residents in the Bristnall Hall Road district of Warley want a new public house, the Oldbury Justices said ‘No’ to their demand yesterday. Atkinsons Brewery applied for the removal of the licence of the WINDSOR CASTLE, Brades Road, Oldbury, to premises proposed to be erected on a site at Bristnall Hall Road.

Mr. Douglas Jenkins, for the brewery company, said there were 525 houses nearer to the site than to any other licensed premises, and there was land available for the erection of a further 621.

Opposition was made by local clergy, who contended that the proposed building would be near three schools.

The application was refused.”

Provisional Order of Removal of the license of the WINDSOR CASTLE granted on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1939.

### Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1939

“Oldbury adjourned Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

Atkinsons Ltd, Aston, applied for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the full licence of the WINDSOR CASTLE, Brades Road, Oldbury, to premises known at the BEECHES, Bristnall Hall Road, Warley.

Mr. Douglas Jenkins (for the applicants) said that the position had changed since a similar application was made in 1936. More houses had been erected and today there were 644 houses nearer to this site than to any licensed house in the area. The effect of granting the application would be to remove a licence from a somewhat congested area to a district where no facilities exist. The brewery company was prepared to surrender the licences of two further houses that were doing considerable business.

Objection to the application was offered by the Rev. F. A. Payne (Warley Methodist Church) and the Rev. H. C. Hawkins (Oldbury United Ministerial Fellowship), who contended that facilities in the area are adequate.

The application was granted, subject to certain alterations in the plans of the proposed building.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/4/1939

“Mr. E. Guy Bigwood, who has succeeded the late Alderman Frank Smith as chairman of Worcestershire County Licensing Committee, presided at the annual meeting for the confirmation of new licences at Worcester yesterday.....

The following applications were granted.....

John Leslie Kimberly, Littlemoor Hill, Smethwick. Removal of the licence of the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, to premises to be known as the BEECHES, Bristnall Hall Road, Warley.”  
[This might have been delayed in consequence of the war.]

The Final Order was made final on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1956.

The Tewkesbury Register 16/6/1961

“An Oldbury publican, *Reggie Lewis* (aged 50), of the BEECHES, Bristnall Hall Road, Warley, was fined £20 and ordered to pay £4 13s witness fees at Evesham Magistrates’ Court on Wednesday, for driving without due care and attention.

Supt. T. E. Lewis (prosecuting) said the case arose from an accident at the junction of the Cheltenham and Evesham roads at Broadway, on April 13, the day of Cheltenham races.

The defendant’s car was in collision with a car driven towards Evesham by Mr. Colin Richard Williams, of 30, West Street, Evesham.”

[2008]

Closed [2009]

It was converted into a supermarket. [2012]

**BEEHIVE**

20, (10), (11), Birmingham Street, OLDBURY

OWNERS

William Cheshire

John Jordan, Shirley (later 15, Frederick Road, Edgbaston)

LICENSEES

William Powell [1871] – [1872]

Susannah Powell [1884] – **1885**;

Mary Ann Millward (**1885 – 1890**);

Henry Hall (**1890**);

Louisa Goodyere (**1890**);

John Slade (**1890 – 1892**);

James Clay (**1892 – 1893**);

Frederick Charles Guy (**1893**);

Maria Round (**1893**);

Harriet Goode (**1893 – 1895**);

Andrew Reade (**1895**);

Richard Willis (1895 – 1896);  
Harry Joseph Cox (1896 – 1897);  
Elizabeth White (1897 – 1902);  
Job Taylor (1902 – 1903);  
Edwin Field (1903);  
Isaiah Hughes (1903 – 1904);  
Esther Elizabeth (Stackhouse) Hadley (1904 – 1906):

## NOTES

11, Birmingham Street [1871]  
10, Birmingham Street [1881], [1889]  
20, Birmingham Street [1891], [1901]

LONDON HOUSE [1871], [1885]

It had a beerhouse license.

### 1871 Census

11, Birmingham Street – LONDON HOUSE

[1] *William Powell* (35), wholesale tobacconist and brewery agent, born Somerset;

[2] *Susannah Powell* (24), wife, born Worcestershire;

[3] Florence M. A. Powell (4), daughter, born Oldbury:

*William Powell*, beer retailer, Birmingham Street. [1872]

### 1881 Census

10, Birmingham Street

[1] *Sushannah Powell* (34), widow, tobacconist, born Halesowen;

[2] Florence Powell (14), daughter, born Oldbury:

### Smethwick Telephone 16/2/1889 - Advert

“Eligible Freehold Investments. Oldbury.

Mr. W. H. Pass is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1889, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.....

Lot 3. All that Freehold Shop and Beerhouse, situate and being No.10, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, in the occupation of *Millward*, at the annual rental of £25, and comprising good Front Shop, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Cellar, three good Bedrooms, and the usual Outbuildings, together with the Twelve Quarters Malt House and Premises, now in the occupation of Messrs. J. A. and A. Thompson, as annual tenants at a rental of £15. This lot produces an annual rental of £40 and being situate in the centre of the improving town of Oldbury, offers an opportunity of securing a valuable Freehold seldom to be met with.....”

### 1891 Census

20, Birmingham Street

[1] *John Slade* (25), maltster, born Oldbury;

[2] Anne Slade (26), wife, born Oldbury:

### Wednesbury Herald 19/10/1895

“On Wednesday, at the County Court, before Judge Griffiths and a jury, an action was brought by Joseph Henry Reynolds, Hawkes Lane, Hill Top, against John Price, public house valuer, Victoria Street, West Bromwich, to recover £25 paid by the plaintiff to defendant for the license, goodwill, &c of the BEEHIVE INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

Mr. W. Bache appeared for plaintiff and Mr. J. Clark defended.  
The Judge held that there was no case for the jury, and non-suited the plaintiff.  
A counter claim was withdrawn.”

#### Birmingham Mail 21/1/1896

“At Oldbury Police Court today Mr. J. S. Sharpe made an application for the transfer of a license from *Richard Willis* to *Harry Joseph Cox*. He explained that *Willis* held the license of the BEEHIVE INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, having rented the house from Mr. B. T. Sadler as a quarterly tenant. About seven weeks ago *Willis* suddenly left without paying his rent, and took the license with him. Mr. Sadler said he had been unable to trace the whereabouts of *Willis*. Mr. Sharpe said under the circumstances he applied on behalf of Mr. Sadler and Mr. *Cox* for the issue of a copy of the license, and then for a temporary transfer of it to Mr. *Harry Cox*. The applications were granted.”

#### 1901 Census

20, Birmingham Street

- [1] *Elizabeth White* (57), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Stourport;
- [2] Robert William White (30), son, deaf and dumb, born Oldbury;
- [3] Thomas Abraham White (18), son, born Langley:

*Elizabeth White* was fined 40s and 69s 6d costs, and her license was endorsed, on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1902, for suffering gaming on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1901.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/2/1903

“The adjourned licensing sessions were held at Oldbury yesterday.....

The police objected to the renewal of the licenses of the nine houses on the ‘black list,’ against which there had been convictions.

The magistrates refused to renew the licenses of the BEEHIVE INN, Bromford Lane, and also of the BEEHIVE INN, Birmingham Street.”

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 11/4/1903

“Two appeals are appointed to be heard at the Quarter Sessions on Tuesday.....

*Edwin Field* and John Gordon against the refusal of the Oldbury Justices to renew the license of the BEEHIVE INN, Oldbury.”

The renewal of *Edwin Field*’s license was refused on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1903, but was renewed on appeal, at the Quarter Sessions on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1903.

*Esther Elizabeth Stackhouse* married James *Hadley* on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1905.

She was fined £5 and £2 11s 6d costs, on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1905, for permitting drunkenness on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1905.

#### Lichfield Mercury 7/4/1905

“At Oldbury, on Tuesday, *Elizabeth Stackhouse*, widow, licensee of the BEEHIVE INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, was charged with permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises, and also with selling intoxicants to a drunken person.

It was stated that the police found James *Hadley*, of Tat Bank, drunk in the house. When asked how she accounted for it, the defendant said *Hadley* had been there all the evening, but he had only had two or three glasses of ale. She further alleged that *Hadley* had been holding her down whilst a woman named *Polly Hughes* punched her. When the officers called again at 10-45 the same night they saw that *Hughes* had both her eyes badly discoloured. The landlady then said that the man *Hadley* was courting her, and she had ordered him to go, but he had refused. *Hadley* also said, ‘I am courting the landlady, and I am happy, you see.’ (Laughter.) In the course of further evidence it was stated that the man *Hadley* married Mrs. *Stackhouse* last Saturday.

For permitting drunkenness Mrs. *Stackhouse* was fined £5 and costs, the charge of selling intoxicants to a drunken person being withdrawn on the payment of costs, the total being £7 19s. Hadley was fined 15s 6d, including costs, for being upon the premises, and Polly Hughes was also fined 2s 6d and costs for a similar offence.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905. It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

#### Birmingham Mail 24/6/1905

“The adjourned meeting of the Worcester County Licensing Committee was held today at the Shirehall, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, for the consideration of licenses of houses in Oldbury which had been reported by the local justices as not being necessary for the requirements of the district.....

In the case of the BEEHIVE, Birmingham Street, Mr. Matthews appeared for the landlord, John Jordan, but offered no evidence, saying he was content to leave the matter in the hands of the Court, believing he would be justly dealt with.

Superintendent Hill said the house had been badly conducted.....

After deliberating half an hour, the justices decided that all the houses brought before them were unnecessary, but not being certain how far compensation money would suffice to meet the claims to be paid, drew up an order of precedence in which houses are to be dealt with, houses not paid for keeping open provisionally till they are dealt with.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....  
6. BEEHIVE, Birmingham Street.”

#### Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years’ purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years’ purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

BEEHIVE, Birmingham Street, £25.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to con-

sider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division.....

The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

BEEHIVE, Birmingham Street, £480.

The committee made awards as follows.....

BEEHIVE, Birmingham Street, £30 to *Esther E. Hadley*, licensee, and £450 to John Gordon, registered owner.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

#### Birmingham Mail 20/3/1906

“Today, at Oldbury Police Court, there was a sequel to the compensation proceedings under the Licensing Act. Mrs. *Esther Elizabeth Hadley*, licensee of the BEEHIVE INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, was summoned, at the instance of Mr. T. Jones (assistant overseer) for the non-payment of a poor rate amounting to £1 9s 4d. Mr. H. Jeffries appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Jones deposed that at a previous court a distress warrant had been granted, but this was returned marked ‘No effects.’

Mr. Jeffries explained that Mrs. *Hadley* was not a passive resister, but was unable to pay the rate through poverty. Under those circumstances he asked the Bench not to commit defendant to prison. Mrs. *Hadley* kept the public house named, but the compensation authority thought it fit to take away the license, and this would expire in a few days. As soon as the Compensation Authority set its mark upon the house, the trade disappeared, and since that time the defendant had lived the best way she could. She was entitled to a small sum for compensation in respect of the house, but, unfortunately, it was due to, and had actually been assigned to, a judgement creditor. It was afterwards assigned to another creditor, and a garnishee summons had been served in respect of the amount to which defendant was entitled, and there was not the slightest chance of Mrs. *Hadley* receiving a single penny of the money. During the past year defendant had pledged almost all her furniture, and many of her effects were now in the pawnshops, and the money obtained on them had been used to live upon.

In reply to the Bench, Mr. Jeffries said the defendant was a married woman living apart from her husband, who did not contribute anything towards her support, and she had not a penny in the world. He asked the magistrates to exercise the discretion which was vested in them, and not grant a committal order in the case, or, if they did so, let it be for one day only.

In answer to the Clerk, Mr. Jeffries pointed out that the defendant was entitled to about £30 as compensation, but the garnishee summons and the other debts amounted to three or four times that sum.

The Bench committed defendant to prison for one day, which meant that she was immediately discharged.”

#### Birmingham Mail 17/7/1906

“At the Oldbury Police Court, today, *Esther E. Hadley*, wife of James Hadley, of Engine Street, Tat Bank, was charged with converting to her own use a piano, the property of E. F. Allen and Sons Limited, of High Street, West Bromwich, whilst under a hire purchase agreement.

Mr. S. R. Rhodes appeared to prosecute, and explained that defendant received the piano in January, 1905, in the name of *Stackhouse*, having since been married. She obtained possession of a piano of the value of £23 10s, agreeing to pay 10s 6d per month until the whole of the money was paid. The payments were kept up until March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1906, amounting in all to £3 17s 6d, and enquiries were made and defendant said the piano had been seized to pay for rent. Afterwards she said her step-son, who was working at Liverpool, had the instrument. She had told the complainants that she was not Mrs. *Stackhouse* nor Mrs. *Hadley*, and had tried in every way to mislead them as to her identity. They thought the piano had got into the possession of a pawnbroker named Harry Nightingale, for defendant had stated that he had paid her £12 for the piano. She also said Nightingale had given her £10 to pay the fine at the police court and £2 to take the piano away.

After some legal argument, Mr. Jeffries, who appeared for the defence, intimated that defendant intended to plead guilty. She had, he said, looked upon the transaction with Nightingale as a pledge. She had expected to receive money from the compensation authority when her former license (the BEEHIVE, Birmingham Street) was taken away, but that money had gone into another channel, and she had not been able to discharge her liability to Nightingale. She, however, never intended to deprive the prosecutors of the perma-

ment possession of the instrument

The Bench considered that the defendant possibly did not fully understand the agreement, but all the same she was liable, and would have to go to prison for one day.”

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

It was converted into a shop.

Demolished

## **BEEHIVE**

143, Bromford Road, (143, (10), Bromford Lane), OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

John Jordan, Birmingham Road, Oldbury (later at Shirley)

## **LICENSEES**

Joseph Baugh [1881] – **1888**;

Mary Anna Wooldridge (**1888 – 1892**);

Ellen Harris (**1892 – 1893**);

Nathaniel Hadley (**1893 – 1894**);

Elizabeth Baugh (**1894**);

Edwin Cutler (**1894 – 1898**);

Jemima Cutler (**1898 – 1899**);

Ernest Lucas (**1899**);

Frank Richards (**1899 – 1900**);

Leah Richards (**1900 – 1901**);

Francis Knifton (**1901 – 1902**);

Joseph Buttery (**1902 – 1903**);

Joseph Slater (**1903 – 1904**);

Mary Ann Raden (**1904 – 1905**);

Samuel Foxall (**1905 – 1906**);

## **NOTES**

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1871 - Advert

“BEEHIVE INN.

To be Let, the above New-licensed Inn, situate in Bromford Lane, the main road from West Bromwich to Oldbury, and near the extensive Ironworks of Messrs. Dawes and Son, the Railway Carriage, and other Works. In-coming about £50, which may be reduced to suit an in-coming tenant. Satisfactory reasons given for leaving.

Apply, John Green and Son, Auctioneers, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1873 - Advert

“Lost, on the 9<sup>th</sup> instant, a Sky Terrier Bitch, with ears and tail cut.  
Anyone returning her to the BEEHIVE INN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury, will be rewarded.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/2/1877 - Advert

“To Let, with immediate possession, Public House and Premises, with Stabling for four horses, the sign of the BEEHIVE INN, near Bromford large Ironworks, Oldbury. In-coming £50.  
Apply, British Queen Brewery, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.”

1881 Census

Bromford Road – BEEHIVE INN

- [1] *Joseph Baugh* (35), licensed victualler, born Sunderland;
- [2] Elizabeth Baugh (36), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Joseph Baugh (12), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Mary Baugh (6), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Anne Baugh (5), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Elizabeth Baugh (2), daughter, born Oldbury:

Evening Express 21/11/1881

“A meeting of the puddlers employed at Messrs. Dawes’s Bromford Works, Bromford Lane, was held on Saturday, at the BEEHIVE INN, for the purpose of hearing an explanation from Mr. Capper, operatives’ secretary to the Wages Board, of a portion of the existing system for regulating wages. The men complained of certain grievances, and Mr. Capper suggested that a deputation from the men should be appointed to accompany him to the office at Messrs. Dawes’s works, for the purpose of having an interview with the head of the firm. This suggestion it was resolved to carry into effect.”

AND

Birmingham Mail 21/11/1881

“On Saturday afternoon a meeting of the ironworkers employed at Bromford Ironworks was held at the BEEHIVE INN, Bromford Lane, to consider the demand of 3d per man per quarter made for the Conciliation Board, and a misunderstanding which had arisen at the works with reference to the heating of ‘cobbles.’ The meeting decided to continue to support the Conciliation Board, and a deputation was appointed, including Mr. Capper, to wait upon the proprietors of the Bromford Works with reference to the dispute concerning the ‘cobbles.’”

Birmingham Mail 27/8/1883

“The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held this afternoon at the Police Court.....

Police Superintendent Hardman presented his report.....

Since the last meeting 12 licensed persons had been summoned and convicted for offences against their licenses ..... *Joseph Baugh*.....

The Bench decided that all the applications for renewals made by those prisoners who had been convicted during the year should be postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, with the exception of two whose conviction took place on licensing day last year and who were then called up and cautioned. The persons whose renewals were refused would be required to attend and show reasons why their licenses should be renewed.”

*Joseph Baugh*, beer retailer, 10, Bromford Lane. [1884], [1888]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/10/1885 - Advert

“Lost, on Saturday night, a Black Greyhound Dog Puppy, near the Station, at Oldbury.  
Finder will be handsomely rewarded by returning him to *Joseph Baugh*, 10, Bromford Road, Oldbury.”

*Joseph Baugh* – see also NEW CART AND HORSES.



### 1891 Census

Bromford Road – BEE HIVE INN

[1] Fred Wollidridge (62), born Worcester;

[2] *Mary A. Wollidridge* (45), wife, publican, born Guildsfield, Montgomeryshire;

[3] Thomas Lloyd (22), step-son, born Meifod, Montgomeryshire;

[4] Sarah A. Stokes (15), domestic servant, born Brandford, Middlesex:

### Birmingham Daily Post 4/1/1893

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, *Nathaniel Hadly*, of the BEEHIVE INN, Bromford Lane, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquors without having a license on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December.

Superintendent Speke stated that on Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult, defendant called at the police station and intimated that he was going to have a few friends at his house on the following Sunday night. Witness elicited that defendant was keeping the above-named house, and that he had been there since the previous Monday. Defendant admitted that he had not got the transfer of the license, but said Mr. Jordan was attending to it. Witness told defendant that he ought not to be there, that he was selling at his own risk, and recommended him to see Mr. Jordan at once. Defendant promised to do so, and also to come and see witness afterwards; but he failed to do so, and, consequently, the present proceedings were instituted.

The magistrates' clerk pointed out that there was an application for the transfer by the defendant that day. Superintendent Speke added that since the summons was served Mr. Hopkins, a member of the firm of John Jordan and Co, had seen him and explained that there was a misunderstanding about the matter. He was under the impression that it was not necessary for the owner of a beerhouse to reside on the premises. Mr. Hopkins having given the assurance that it arose purely through a misunderstanding, under these circumstances he asked for the case to be withdrawn on the payment of costs.

Mr. Hopkins corroborated Superintendent Speke's statement, and added that the previous tenant had not yet left the house, and it was his intention for him to leave before the license was transferred.

The Bench allowed the case to be withdrawn, and afterwards granted the transfer of the license.”

### Shepton Mallet Journal 21/7/1893

“At the Birmingham county court, before his Honour Judge Chalmers and a jury, Frederick Woolrick [sic], of the HORSE AND JOCKEY INN, Dudley, publican, sued the London and Manchester Industrial Insurance Company, to recover £72 on a policy of insurance, effected on the life of his sister, Ellen Thomas, deceased. Mr. Vachell (instructed by Mr. Clarke, West Bromwich) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hugo Young (instructed by Mr. O'Connor) for the defendants.

Mr. Vachell said the plaintiff sued as administrator of the estate of his late sister, a widow, who lived at Garbett Street, Birmingham. The policy was issued by the defendants on her life on the 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1891, and the amount insured was £72 payable on her death. The premiums were 5s a week. Mrs. Thomas died on the 16<sup>th</sup> June, 1892, at the age of 66, and application was made by the plaintiff to the company for the insurance, but they refused to pay, and the defence was that the policy was a speculative one on the part of the plaintiff, in which the deceased had no interest. Mr. Vachell explained that the deceased earned a living by tailoring and taking in lodgers. She was on a visit to her brother in March 1891, at the BEEHIVE INN, Oldbury, his then place of business, when an agent named Carrol called and suggested to plaintiff, his wife, and deceased that they should insure with his company. Mrs. Thomas approved of the suggestion, and it was arranged that Carrol should call on her in Birmingham. Carrol afterwards did call on her, and she signed a proposal form upon which the company insured her. Carrol was agent in the West Bromwich district, and for his convenience in collecting, the premiums were paid through the plaintiff in Bromford Lane. Although Mrs. Thomas was 66 years of age she had not lost all thought of love. At the time the policy was effected she had a love affair with a man whose identity was hidden under the expressive name of Ben, and possibly it was a desire to leave something nice for Ben if anything happened to her that induced her to insure. Ben was a young man, a lodger with the deceased. Unfortunately, Ben was faithless and married another lady. Deceased after being jilted appeared to lose interest in the insurance, and in April 1892, gave the policy to her sister-in-law, plaintiff's wife, and executed an informal will in her favour. The deceased sent the premiums to Bromford Lane to be paid to Carrol, but the last premium was paid by plaintiff's wife. Mr. Vachell called evidence to show that deceased had the means of paying the premiums. She had two lodgers, one of whom

paid 10s 6d a week for his board and lodgings and the other 12s 6s.

The defence was that the policy was never sought for by the deceased at all, who was too poor to pay premiums of 5s a week. She was so poor that the week before she died she was in receipt of parish medical relief. Carrol, the agent who effected the insurance, left the company, and his accounts were in a confused condition. The agent who succeeded Carrol stated that all the premiums were paid by the plaintiff's wife, not in postal orders, but cash. Other witnesses proved that Ben was married long before the policy was entered into, and the deceased therefore had no object to pinch herself to insure her life. Documents purporting to be signed by the deceased were not in her handwriting. The company had offered to return the premiums paid. Mr. Young submitted that the policy was a pure speculation on the part of the plaintiff and his wife. The jury, without calling upon Mr. Vachell, gave a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount claimed."

*Edwin Cutler*, beer retailer, 143, Bromford Lane. [1896]

#### 1901 Census

143, Bromford Road – FOUNTAIN [sic] INN

[1] *Frank Richards* (28), publican (beerhouse keeper), born Birmingham;

[2] *Leah Richards* (27), wife, born Birmingham:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 27/9/1902

"*Joseph Buttery*, licensee of the BEEHIVE beerhouse, Bromford Lane, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. H. Jeffries defended.

Mr. Sharpe explained that on the night of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst PS Cox and PC Shilvock visited the defendant's premises, and they saw a man named James Hobley sitting in the tap-room drunk. Defendant was in the room, but was taking no steps to get the man from the house.

Mr. Jeffries contended that defendant had not supplied Hobley, and that he was taking steps to remove him when the man's wife came and interfered."

[Fined 20s and £2 13s 6d costs.]

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/2/1903

"The adjourned licensing sessions were held at Oldbury yesterday.....

The police objected to the renewal of the licenses of the nine houses on the 'black list,' against which there had been convictions.

The magistrates refused to renew the licenses of the BEEHIVE INN, Bromford Lane, and also of the BEEHIVE INN, Birmingham Street."

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.

It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

#### Birmingham Mail 24/6/1905

"The adjourned meeting of the Worcester County Licensing Committee was held today at the Shirehall, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, for the consideration of licenses of houses in Oldbury which had been reported by the local justices as not being necessary for the requirements of the district.....

No evidence was given for the BEEHIVE, Bromford Road, but frequent transfers and convictions were recorded.....

After deliberating half an hour, the justices decided that all the houses brought before them were unnecessary, but not being certain how far compensation money would suffice to meet the claims to be paid, drew up an order of precedence in which houses are to be dealt with, houses not paid for keeping open provisionally till they are dealt with."

#### Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

"The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Old-

bury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

9. BEEHIVE Bromford Road.”

Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years’ purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years’ purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

BEEHIVE, Bromford Road, £132.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division..... The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

BEEHIVE, Bromford Road, £410.

The committee made awards as follows.....

BEEHIVE, Bromford Road, £10 to *Samuel Foxhall*, licensee, and £400 to John Jordon and Co, registered owners.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

**BEEHIVE**

47, Henry Street, (New Street) / Edward Street, Langley Green, OLDBURY

**OWNERS**

Thomas Bowater, Thomas Street, Netherton

Mrs. Harriet Bowater, Bird in Hand, Netherton (later at Henry Street, Langley Green, and Struggling Man, Paradise, Dudley)

William Bowater, Struggling Man, Paradise, Dudley

LICENSEES

Thomas Bailey [1870]  
Richard Underhill [1871]  
Thomas Underhill [1881]  
Thomas Darby [1884] – **1885**;  
Henry Hinchley (**1885 – 1895**);  
Tom Lockey (**1895 – 1899**);  
Josiah Hill (**1899 – 1905**);  
Zachariah York (**1905 – 1906**);  
William Joseph Pratt (**1906 – 1909**);  
John Jagger (**1909 – 1913**); manager  
David Round (**1913 – 1914**);  
John Snade (**1914**);  
Eliza Ann Snade (**1914 – 1915**);  
William Henry Billington (**1915 – 1923**);  
Mrs. Elizabeth B Billington [1921]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

*Richard Underhill* was ordered to pay costs for serving during prohibited hours in August 1871.

1881 Census

Henry Street

- [1] *Thomas Underhill* (26), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Pamela Underhill (25), wife, dressmaker, born Oldbury;
- [3] Ada Underhill (1), daughter, born Langley;
- [4] Thomas Underhill (5 months), son, born Langley:

West Bromwich Weekly News 15/10/1881

“*Thomas Underhill*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Henry Street, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of intoxicants during prohibited hours.

PC Bayliss said at 12.20am, on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult, he saw a man in the house, and the landlord was filling a stone jar with beer. The case was adjourned.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 10/12/1881

“*Thomas Underhill*, BEEHIVE INN, Langley, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of intoxicants during prohibited hours, on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> September. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

PC Bayliss said he went into defendant’s house at 12.20am on the day in question, and saw a man in the kitchen. Defendant was filling a jar with beer, and asked witness to have a glass. Witness went into the road, but did not see anyone leave.

Cross-examined: The man in the house was a relative of defendant’s named Fantom. He knew there had been a tea-party at the house the previous evening.

For the defence, it was contended that on the previous night there had been a tea-party at the house. Not all the company had cleared away by eleven o’clock, except some relatives of defendant’s named West, who were assisting to clear away some barrels.

Two witnesses were called in support of this statement, and the case was dismissed.”

### 1891 Census

47, Henry Street

- [1] *Henry Hinchley* (40), beer retailer, born Birmingham;
- [2] Harriet L. Hinchley (42), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] Harriet L. Hinchley (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Edith A. Hinchley (14), daughter, monitress, school, born Oldbury;
- [5] Harry W. C. Hinchley (13), son, scholar, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Daily Post 13/8/1891

“Yesterday afternoon a meeting of the members of the Oldbury and District Licensed Victuallers’ and Beer Retailers’ Association was held at the BEEHIVE INN, Langley; Mr. H. Hinckley presiding.....”

### Birmingham Daily Post 17/11/1893 - Advert

“BEEHIVE INN, Henry Street, Langley Green, to Let, with immediate possession.  
Apply, BIRD IN HAND, Netherton.”

*Henry Hinchley* – see also OLD CRYSTAL PALACE, Smethwick.

*Tom Lockey*, beer retailer, 47, Henry Street, Langley. [1896]

### Sporting Life 28/11/1898

“Navigation Grounds, Smethwick. John Griffiths and Fred Lea, for £20.

These well-constructed grounds, which at one time played a prominent part in Midland pedestrianism, but of late have lain idle for various reasons, were on Saturday afternoon set apart for the long-impending foot race between Fred Lee and John Griffiths, both hailing from Langley, near Oldbury, Worcestershire, who had signed articles to run 120 yards, Lee receiving 2 yards start inside, for a stake of £10 a-side, the *Sporting Life* being appointed stakeholder, and appointing pistol-firer and referee. Wretched weather prevailed, rain and fog making things decidedly unpleasant, but far too much interest was centered in the match to deter the Langley and district sports from assembling in large numbers. The competitors can scarcely be termed flyers, nor are they widely known at the business. Lee, however, is very well known as an exponent of the manly art of self-defence, and has taken part in many contests with the mittens, while he has also been seen to advantage as a ped in the amateur ranks. He is a well-built young fellow of twenty-three years of age, stands 5ft 9in in height, and scales 11st 11lb. He was trained by that well-known Brummagen ped, Lou Goodman, and took the fore part of his training just outside Rubery, but finished at host Granger’s, the RED LION INN, Halesowen.

Griffiths is twenty-six years of age, stands 5ft 7in in height, and weighed about 11st. He had up to the present match accomplished very little on the cinder-path. He followed his employment till a week ago, when he was trained by F. Lowe from the BEEHIVE INN, Langley, and was in excellent fettle, all things considered. Four o’clock was the specified time on the articles, but it was twenty minutes later ere the competitors made their appearance. In the meantime Lee had been all the rage among the betting fraternity, and ‘a ton of money’ was behind him. Griffiths’ party were not so sanguine, consequently odds rapidly rose to 7 to 4, and in some instances 2 to 1 on Lee. Nevertheless, a good round sum was invested.

Griffiths won the toss, and chose the side nearest the spectators. It was a bit hazy when starter Lewis despatched the men to a splendid start, and then commenced a most exciting race. Amid cries of ‘Lee wins!’ Griffiths gradually crept up, but still thirty yards from the worsted it looked odds on the favourite, but Griffiths, finishing in a most game and determined manner, got on terms, and finally won one of the most exciting and splendidly contested races ever seen here by a foot.

Mr. W. Lewis, of Birmingham, fired the pistol, and Mr. Thos. Pike (both appointed by the *Sporting Life*) officiated as referee.

(We shall forward a cheque, less expenses, to the winner’s address given our representative.)”

### 1901 Census

47, Henry Street

[1] *Josiah Hill* (39), publican, born Beech Lane;

[2] Mary L. Hill (39), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] Annie Hill (17), daughter, barmaid, born Warley;

[4] Joseph Hill (14), son, born Warley;

[5] Arthur Hill (9), son, born Warley;

[6] May Hill (1), daughter, born Oldbury;

[7] Henry James (78), boarder, widower, retired gun maker, born Handsworth:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/5/1906 - Advert

“To Brewers and Others.

Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of a Valuable Freehold Beerhouse and Dwelling Houses, at Langley Green, near Oldbury.

Alfred W. Dando has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Thursday, May 31, 1906, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions of sale then to be produced.

A Very Valuable Freehold Beerhouse, situate at the Corner of Edward Street and Henry Street, Langley Green, known as the BEEHIVE INN, containing Entrance Passage, Bar and Smoke-rooms, Front Living-room, Club-room, two Bedrooms; with Cellars, outer Kitchen, and other Outbuildings in yard, having gateway approach; as let to Messrs. Showell's Brewery Limited, on lease of seven years from March 25, 1905, at the clear annual rental of £35.

Also the Two Adjoining Dwelling Houses, being No.41 Edward Street, and 45, Henry Street, let and producing the gross annual rental of £19 18s 8d.

The foregoing Licensed House is situate in a locality where extensive building operations have been and are now going on, it is particularly free from competition, and will constantly increase in value.

Further particulars may be obtained of Messrs. Jones, Barradale, and Thomas, Solicitors; or the Auctioneer, all of Wolverhampton Street, Dudley.”

*John Jagger* = John Jaggar

#### 1911-1912 Directory

“BEEHIVE INN – *John Jagger*, manager.

Showell's ales in grand condition.

Old and new friends welcome.”

#### 1911 Census

47, Henry Street – BEE HIVE

[1] *John Jaggar* (50), wet cooper, at present public house manager, born St. Thomas, Oxford;

[2] Margaret Hetty Jaggar (42), wife, married 21 years, born Birmingham;

[3] Elizabeth Kate Jaggar (20), daughter, born Burton on Trent;

[4] Arthur Henry Jaggar (17), son, brewer's carter's assistant, born Burton on Trent;

[5] Margaret May Jaggar (14), daughter, housework, born Burton on Trent;

[6] Charles Hermolon Jaggar (11), son, school, born Wolverhampton;

[7] Kathleen Annie Jaggar (8), daughter, school, born Oldbury;

[8] Leonard Bradway Jaggar (6), son, school, born Oldbury:

*John Jagger* – see also JUNCTION.

*David Round* – see also KINGS ARMS, and BRITISH QUEEN.

#### Birmingham Mail 16/11/1914

“Langley Men Wounded.....

Corporal *J. Snade*, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Worcestershire Regiment, was wounded during the fighting at Ypres, and is now

an inmate of the 1<sup>st</sup> Scottish Hospital, Aberdeen. *Snade* was the licensee of the BEEHIVE INN, Edward Street, Langley, prior to being called up.”

*William Henry Billington*, beer retailer, 47, Henry Street, Langley. [1916]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1920

“Application was made at Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday by Mr. F. Chapman for permission to make certain alteration to the BEEHIVE INN, Langley. The proposed alteration, it was stated, would entail the demolition of a cottage adjoining the property, but Mr. Chapman assured the Bench that the brewery company, Messrs. Showell, intended making more adequate provision in the matter of houses. The Bench sanctioned the alteration, subject to the company finding accommodation for the tenants of the cottage mentioned.”

Mrs. *Elizabeth B. Billington*, beer retailer, 47, Henry Street, Langley. [1921]

Smethwick Telephone 4/2/1922

“At Oldbury Superintendent Milsom reported that he had served notices of objection to the renewal of the following licenses on the ground of redundancy.....  
BEEHIVE INN, Langley.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1922.  
The renewal was refused on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1922.

Evesham Standard 14/10/1922

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee sat on Tuesday at the Shirehall to assess compensation for the nine licenses which in July they decided to extinguish. They were all North Worcestershire cases. The total claims by owners and occupiers of the nine houses amounted to about £26,821, representing an average of £2,980. The total amounts claimed were.....

BEE HIVE, Henry Street, Langley, £2,645 18s.....

The Committee took in respect of each house evidence of the capitalised loss of trade profits, the capitalised loss in reduction of rental value, and the loss on the sale of fixtures.....

BEEHIVE, Henry Street, Langley, beerhouse (ante 1869), licensee *Henry Billington*, owner Showell’s Brewery Co Ltd. Trade profits £2,275, rent £560, trade fixtures £82 5s, net claim £2,645 8s less £250 being estimated value of the premises unlicensed.

Mr. W. Hodgkiss, Newport, appeared for the claimants and he immediately informed the Chairman that he could not give the figures for the past five years as they were not available.....

After a private consultation the Chairman announced that the Justices had decided to award compensation as follows ..... BEEHIVE £1,616.

Notice was given that the awards given in the case of ..... BEEHIVE ..... could not be accepted by the interested parties who would appeal to the Inland Revenue.”

Evesham Standard 5/5/1923

“The Worcestershire County Licensing Committee had to consider eight awards made by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue determining the sums to be paid as compensation to the persons interested on the non-renewal of eight licensed premises in the County. The Committee had finally to settle the division of the compensation money between the interested parties in each case.....

The amount awarded by the Commissioners in respect of the BEE HIVE, Henry Street, Langley, was £2,000 compared with £1,616 awarded by the Committee. For the registered owners, Showells Brewery Company, it was stated by Mr. Jeffery (Birmingham) that it had been agreed with the licensee, *William Henry Billington*, who was a £3 10s a week manager, that he should have £25, and the Company £1,975.

The Chairman remarked that this seemed rather one-sided, and asked *Billington* whether he was satisfied. He replied that he was if the Company found him another house. They had offered him one in West Bromwich, but he had refused it.

The Chairman: This man had no independent advice before he signed this agreement?

Mr. *Billington*: No, sir. I had none whatever.

For the Company, Mr. Jeffery urged that the man was a free agent, and that the sum of £25 was adequate compensation, especially having regard to the fact that on his salary, he would only receive £14 on a month's notice.

The Committee gave the licensee £100, and the Company £1,900. The Chairman said that the Committee took very great objection to the sort of procedure which had taken place in this case."

Compensation was paid on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1923.

The license was extinguished on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1923.

#### Smethwick Telephone 15/9/1923

"Important Sale of Valuable and Attractive Freehold De-Licensed Properties, Building Land, Freehold Residences (with Vacant Possession), Dwelling Houses and Shop Property situate in Oldbury, Whiteheath and Langley.

By Messrs. Jones, Son & Vernon (FAI), at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1923, at 7pm sharp, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then produced and read.

Edward and Henry Streets, Langley Green.

Lot 1. All that Freehold De-Licensed Premises together with the Two Cottages adjoining, forming the corner of Edward and Henry Streets, Langley Green, aforesaid, and formerly known as the BEEHIVE.

The whole property has a frontage to Edward Street of about 21 yards 1ft and 9ins, and to Henry Street of about 11 yards and 1ft.

Vacant possession will be given to the whole of the Premises with the exception of the Cottage, No.45, Henry Street, which is in the occupation of Mr. Ferrer, rent free, for five years from the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 1920.

Park Lane, Oldbury.

Lot 2. The Freehold De-Licensed Premises, formerly known as the CHEMICAL INN, Park Lane, Oldbury.

The property has a frontage of about 13 yards 1ft and 4ins, and Vacant Possession will be given....."

#### Smethwick Telephone 29/9/1923

"At the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, the following properties were disposed of.....

Freehold de-licensed premises, together with two cottages adjoining, corner Edward Street and Langley Street, Langley Green, £380."

### **BEEHIVE**

2, (32), Portway Road, (Birchfield Lane), (Whimsey Bridge), (Halesowen Street), Churchbridge, OLD-BURY

### **OWNERS**

Sarah Lee

John Underhill, Woodbridge, Smethwick

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

### **LICENSEES**

Thomas Smith [1855]

Edward Thompson [ ] – 1857)

Mrs. Sarah Lee [1861] – 1892);



William Daly Winson (1892 – 1893);  
Samuel Franks (1893);  
William Bellamy (1893 – 1894);  
Ann Jones (1894 – 1895);  
Samuel Hadley (1895 – 1896);  
James Cheale (1896);  
Henry Witherstone (1896 – 1898);  
Walter Weaver (1898 – 1899);  
Joseph Beaman (1899 – 1901);  
Annie Weaver (1901 – 1902);  
William Boswell (1902 – 1903);  
Job Taylor (1903 – 1904);  
William Henry ‘Bill’ Such (1904 – 1906):

## NOTES

32, Portway Road [1881]

2, Portway Road [1891]

It had a 6-day beerhouse license.

### Birmingham Journal 13/12/1856 - Advert

“By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of, a first-rate Corner Retail Public House, the BEE HIVE INN, with most replete and entire Premises, and doing a first-rate business, situated in Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, in a most improving neighbourhood. Coming-in very low.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Land Surveyor and Appraiser, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 29/9/1860 - Notice

“In the County Court, of Stafford, holden at Oldbury. 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1860.

Whereas a Petition of *Edward Thompson*, residing, in October, 1853, at the HAWTHORNE COTTAGE, at Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, and carrying on business as a Publican until October, 1856, and afterwards residing at the BEEHIVE INN, near the Whimsey Bridge, in Oldbury aforesaid, carrying on business as a Publican until January, 1857, and afterwards residing at the BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury aforesaid, carrying on business as a Publican and Carter, until October, 1858, and afterwards and until March, 1859, residing at the NEW INNS Public House, in the Birmingham Road, Oldbury aforesaid, in lodgings, and out of work, but assisting my Uncle in his business as a Publican, and afterwards and now residing at Simpsons Buildings, Smethwick aforesaid, working as a Glass Blower, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Oldbury, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said *Edward Thompson*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Edward Thompson* is hereby required to appear in the said Court, to be holden at Oldbury aforesaid, before the Judge of the said Court, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1860, 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 *Edward Thompson*, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Messrs. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, the Registrars of the said Court, who are the Official Assignees of the Estate and Effects of the said Insolvent, at their Office at the Court House, in Oldbury aforesaid.

A. Wright, Attorney, Oldbury.”

### 1861 Census

Portway Road – BEEHIVE

- [1] *Sarah Lee* (52), widow, beer seller, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Ann Lee (27), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [3] Frances Matilda Lee (20), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Abraham Lee (18), son, labourer, born Oldbury;
- [5] Elizabeth Lee (26), daughter, dressmaker, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/10/1861

“Worcester Quarter Sessions.....

George Hucker, 30, engineer, was charged with having on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September last, stolen about 2cwt of lead, the property of *Sarah Lee*, of the Whimsey Bridge, Oldbury. Mr. Richards prosecuted. Prisoner was engaged to repair the pump, which was a leaden one, and he availed himself of the opportunity thus offered to carry the greater portion of it off. He afterwards said he had sold it to a man named Blewitt, in Furnace Row, for 10s, and he treated a man to some drink with money which he acknowledged to be a portion of the proceeds. He was found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment for four months with hard labour.”

*Sarah Lee*, retailer of beer, Church Bridge. [1862]

*Sarah Lee*, beer retailer, Portway Road. [1864]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/10/1868

“Birmingham Public Office.....

Samuel Smith (17), lamp maker, 195, Lancaster Street, was charged with stealing a purse containing about 6s 4d, from the person of Mrs. [sic] Frances Matilda Lee, of the BEEHIVE INN, Whimsey Bridge, Oldbury. Between four and five o'clock on Thursday afternoon last the prosecutrix was passing along New Street, when the prisoner knocked up against her, and as he did so she noticed that her reticule was open and that her purse had been stolen. She as once suspected the prisoner of stealing it, and, as he ran away, she followed him, and before she overtook him he was seen to throw a purse away. Having been previously convicted, the prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.”

1871 Census

Port Way Road

- [1] *Sarah Lee* (62), widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah A. Lee (37), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [3] Frances Lee (30), daughter, born Oldbury:

1881 Census

32, Portway Road – BEE HIVE INN

- [1] *Sarah Lee* (72), widow, publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Ann Lee (47), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [3] Frances Matilda Lee (40), daughter, born Oldbury:

Mrs. *Sarah Lee*, beer retailer, Church Bridge. [1884], [1888]

1891 Census

2, Portway Road – BEHIVE [sic] INN

- [1] *Sarah Lee* (82), widow, beer seller, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Ann Lee (57), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [3] Frances Matilda Lee (50), daughter, born Oldbury:

Smethwick Telephone 31/8/1895

“The annual Licensing Session for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held on Tuesday. Superintendent Chare in his report said there were 147 persons licensed for the sale of intoxicants. One house had been closed since the last annual licensing meeting. During the year three license-holders had been proceeded against for offences under the Licensing Acts. The number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness

was 210, a decrease of 38 males and 10 females compared with 1894. He had received notices of three new applications. ....

Mr. Waldron applied for the conversion of a six days' license attached to the STORES INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, into a seven days' license. Mr. J. S. Sharpe opposed. Mr. J. Clark made a similar application on behalf of *Samuel Hadley*, of the BEEHIVE INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury. These applications were refused."

*Joseph Beaman* was ordered to pay costs of £2 7s 0d, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1899, for permitting drunkenness.

#### Smethwick Telephone 1/12/1900

"A bankruptcy petition was presented in the West Bromwich County Court on Tuesday, on behalf of *Walter Weaver*, now residing in lodgings at 127, High Park Road, Smethwick, coal dealer, and formerly residing and carrying on business at Furnace-yard, Dudley Road, Oldbury, and also at the CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, Oldbury, and the BEEHIVE INN, Whimsey Bridge, Oldbury, as a beer retailer. The usual receiving order and adjudication in bankruptcy were granted."

#### 1901 Census

Whimsey Bridge – BEE HIVE INN

- [1] *Walter Weaver* (51), boatman (canal), born Worcester;
- [2] *Annie Weaver* (43), wife, public house keeper, born Worcester;
- [3] *Walter Weaver* (4), grand-son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Hannah Massey* (15), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

*Walter Weaver* – see also CROSS GUNS.

*Job Taylor* was fined 20s and £2 15s 6d costs, on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1903, for keeping open during prohibited hours.

#### Birmingham Mail 31/5/1904

"Today, at Oldbury Police Court, *William Henry Such*, of the BEEHIVE INN, Whimsey Bridge, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, was summoned for selling beer upon the premises named, without a license, on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. Police-sergeant Price stated that although the defendant was in possession of the BEEHIVE INN on May 25<sup>th</sup>, a man named *Job Taylor* was the licensee. *Taylor* left the business on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, and then defendant came into possession, but he had neglected to obtain a temporary transfer.

Defendant pleaded that there was a misunderstanding. He explained that *Taylor*, the former licensee, had slept on the premises, and he had only managed the business for *Taylor*.

Mr. Shakespeare said a proper notice had not even yet been given for the transfer of the license from *Taylor* to *Such*, inasmuch as the notice which had been handed in was not signed.

Defendant said his agent had had charge of the matter.

*Job Taylor*, the licensee of the house, said he kept it up till May 13<sup>th</sup>.

In cross-examination by Superintendent Sheriff, *Taylor* admitted that the defendant went into the house on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. Witness removed his wife and furniture from the house on May 13<sup>th</sup>, but he had slept upon the premises each night since.

Mr. Shakespeare: That was to evade the law.

Superintendent Sheriff contended that the BEEHIVE INN was turned over to *Such* about six weeks ago.

The police had taken the proceedings in this case because of the irregularities, and for the purpose of showing public house agents that they could not do transfer business without consulting the magistrates. Agents were in the habit of disposing of businesses and placing persons in public houses before applications were made to the Bench for the transfer of licenses.

Defendant was fined £1 0s 6d, including costs.

On the advice of the Clerk, the Justices allowed the irregularity on the notice to be rectified, and a temporary transfer of the license was granted from *Job Taylor* to *William Henry Such*."

*William Henry Such* married Sophia Baker, daughter of David Baker of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Churchbridge, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1903.

*William Henry Such* – see also ENGINEERS ARMS and NEW INN, Halesowen Street.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905. It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

Birmingham Mail 24/6/1905

“The adjourned meeting of the Worcester County Licensing Committee was held today at the Shirehall, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, for the consideration of licenses of houses in Oldbury which had been reported by the local justices as not being necessary for the requirements of the district.....

In the cases of the SPADEMAKERS ARMS and the BEEHIVE the counsel concerned were Messrs. Morton and Brown for the justices and Matthews and Lawrence for the parties concerned. The evidence related to the value of the property, the sales, requirements of the district, etc.....

After deliberating half an hour, the justices decided that all the houses brought before them were unnecessary, but not being certain how far compensation money would suffice to meet the claims to be paid, drew up an order of precedence in which houses are to be dealt with, houses not paid for keeping open provisionally till they are dealt with.”

Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

5. BEEHIVE, Birchfield Lane.”

Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years’ purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years’ purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

BEEHIVE, Birchfield Lane, £150.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as com-

compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division.....  
The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

BEEHIVE, Birchfield Lane, £365.

The committee made awards as follows.....

BEEHIVE, Birchfield Lane, £315 to the registered owners, Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, £50 to the lessee, Charles F. Woodbridge.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

[The registered licensee, Mr. *W. H. Such*, made no claim.]

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

‘Lost Landscape. Portway Road, Oldbury. A Black Country Street.’ by Alan Dodson

“.....I bought, rationing permitting, occasional oranges from the general shop which had once been the BEEHIVE.”

## BEEHIVE

Stone Lane, Tat Bank, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

## NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/4/1868 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

Thomas Brookes, now and for the last nineteen months residing at the BEE HIVE INN, Stone Lane, Tat Bank, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Machinist and Retail Brewer, and previously thereto of Popes Lane, Tat Bank, Oldbury aforesaid, and there carrying on the business of a Machinist, and a Grocer and Provision Merchant, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1868, is hereby required to Surrender himself to George Steward Watson, Esq, a Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, at the First Meeting of Creditors to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1868, at Eleven o’clock in the Forenoon precisely, at the said Court. William Shakespeare, of Oldbury, is the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy. At the meeting the Registrar will receive the Proofs of the Debts of the Creditors, and the Creditors may choose an Assignee or Assignees of the Bankrupt’s Estate and Effects. All persons having in their possession any of the Effects of the said Bankrupt, must deliver them to the Registrar, and all Debts due to the Bankrupt must be paid to the Registrar.

Walter H. Steward, High Bailiff.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/8/1868 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury.

In the Matter of Thomas Brookes, now and for the last nineteen months residing at the BEE HIVE INN, Stone Lane, Tat Bank, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Machinist and Retail Brewer, and previously thereto of Popes Lane, Tat Bank, Oldbury aforesaid, and then carrying on the business of a Machinist and a Grocer and Provision Merchant, adjudged Bankrupt on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1868. 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1868.  
Walter H. Steward, High Bailiff.”

## **BELL**

127, Rood End Road / Bell Fold, Rood End, (Langley), OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Mark Barker, Moat Lane (later at Vicarage Road), Langley  
Walter John Wall  
John Jordan and Co. Ltd. (leased)  
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1889]  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired c.1920) [1951]

## **LICENSEES**

John Smith [1861] – **1870**);  
John Johnson (**1870** – [ ]  
William Albert Rogers [1871] – **1872**);  
William Proverbs (**1872** – [1873]  
Squire Sharpe [1873] – [1873]  
William Smith and Arthur Bradley [ ] – **1874**);  
Arthur Bradley (**1874** – [1875]  
James Birch Barker [1880]  
William J Nichols [1881] manager  
John Bellis [1883]  
W E Sankey [1883]  
Montague Taylor [1884]  
Charles Morton (**1884** – [ ]  
John Morton [1884] – **1888**);  
Clara Waite (**1888** – **1889**);  
Charles Mills (**1889** – [ ]  
Geoffrey Shakespeare [1891] – **1891**)  
James Shakespeare [1891]  
Walter John Wall [1891] – **1892**);  
Edward Buck (**1892** – **1893**);  
J. Jordan and Co. Ltd. (**1893** – **1910**);  
Mrs. Ellen Harris [1896]  
Henry Boulton [ ] – **1901**)  
Harry John Boulton [1901] manager  
Ernest Walter Cameron (**1910** – **1915**);  
Moses Mann (**1915** – **1930**);  
William Adams (**1930** – **1932**);  
Thomas John Joseph Price (**1932** – **1937**);  
Benjamin Harvey (**1937** – **1951**);  
William John Edwin Palmer (**1951** – **1960**);  
Eric Every (**1960** – **1962**);  
Michael David Ford (**1962** – [ ]

Bolter [1968]  
Wright [1972] – [1973]  
Rejham Singh [1986]

## NOTES

It had Victorian coaching stables at the rear.

[1842]

### Birmingham Journal 26/5/1860 - Advert

“To be Let, the NEW BELL INN, Rood End, near Oldbury.  
For particulars, apply to Mr. Barker, Bristnall Hall.”

### 1861 Census

Rood End – OLD BELL INN

- [1] *John Smith* (31), victualler, born Warley Wigorn;
- [2] *Esther Smith* (27), wife, born Smethwick;
- [3] *Patience Smith* (5), daughter, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [4] *Jane Smith* (1), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;
- [5] *Hannah Smith* (13), sister, born Smethwick:

*John Smith* issued tokens bearing ‘BELL HOTEL’

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/6/1862

“The Chemical Nuisance.

A meeting was held at the BELL INN, Rood End, on Monday evening last, of the landowners and occupiers of ground in the neighbourhood of Messrs. Chance’s works. There were present Messrs. J. Parks (chairman), J. Underhill, S. Underhill, W. Underhill, D. Downing, T. Darby, C. Thompson, J. Collins, &c, &c. The Chairman read the notice calling the meeting, and also letters from Mr. F. Badger, Dudley; and Rev. J. Evans, of Hereford, promising their assistance and support. He said the meeting, which was only a preliminary one, was convened by the landowners and tenants in the vicinity of Messrs. Chance’s chemical works, Oldbury, whose property and crops are yearly injured by the escaping of noxious gases from the said works; and to petition Parliament in support of Lord Derby’s intended measure for a compulsory law in respect of such nuisances.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. Collins, and other gentlemen, who all spoke to the great loss they had from years to year sustained from the nuisance complained of.

A subscription was entered into for the purpose of engaging the services to two practical chemists to examine and report upon the escape of the obnoxious vapour.

A committee was formed to carry out such measures as might be deemed necessary; and it was proposed by G. W. Pope, and seconded by Mr. Underhill, that the reports of the committee should be published in the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*. The meeting then adjourned.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/3/1864 - Advert

“A Small Farm, about eighteen acres – Arable and Grazing Land – near Harborne, to be Let.  
Apply to Mr. James Downing, Court Oak Lane, near Harborne, or to *John Smith*, BELL INN, Rood End.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1866 - Advert

“The Alexandra Building Estate, Rood End, Warley Wigorn.

A Highly valuable Freehold Estate, admirably situated for Building Purposes, near to the intended Railway Station on the Stourbridge Extension Railway, and close to the Oldbury Cemetery, has been set out in Lots for Sale.

Persons willing to become possessed of Freehold Property, may obtain Lots by Fortnightly Payments. Application for plans and particulars to be made to Mr. Mark Barker, of Bristnall Hall, near Oldbury; to Mr. George Street, of London House, Smethwick; or Mr. *John Smith*, BELL INN, Rood End.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/11/1968

“One Hundred Years Ago.

Wanted, about Six Musicians for the Pleasure Gardens, BELL INN, Rood End, Oldbury, for Monday Evenings during the Summer Season. Brass Band Preferred.

*The Birmingham Daily Post*, November, 1868.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/11/1868 - Advert

“Stolen or Strayed, on Thursday night, or early on Friday morning, from a Field at the back of the BELL INN, Rood End, near Oldbury. Two Ponies. One black, 12 hands high; the other one brown, 13 hands high. Any Person giving such information as shall lead to the recovery of the same, or bring them to the BELL INN, shall be Rewarded for their trouble. Any Person keeping them after this notice will be prosecuted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/5/1869 - Advert

“BELL INN, Rood End, Oldbury.

The splendid Grounds belonging to this House are now Open For The Season, with excellent Bowling Green, Dancing Platform, Pleasure Gardens, and Summer Houses. Parties wishing to avail themselves of a Day’s Pleasure, will do well to visit these Grounds, which occupy one of the most healthy and pleasant sites in the neighbourhood. First-class Refreshments combined with moderate charges.

NB. Good Stabling, and every other accommodation.

*John Smith*, Proprietor.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/7/1869

“At the Oldbury Magistrates’ Office on Tuesday, William Bennett, professional singer, of Oldbury, and John Rowley, carter, of West Bromwich, were charged with stealing a horse, the property of David Thomson, coal dealer, of the same place. Mr. Dicken appeared for the prisoner Bennett.

The evidence showed that the prisoner Rowley was sent by the prosecutor on the previous Tuesday with a load of coal to deliver at Oldbury, at the house of Mr. Gould, Bristnall Fields. Instead of taking the coals there he sold them to a Mrs. *Smith*, BELL INN, Rood End, for 7s 6d. He stayed there with the prisoner Bennett and spent some of the money. He afterwards went down to Oldbury and went to the WAGON AND HORSES, in company with the other prisoner, and there he sold the animal to a Mr. Peasland, horse dealer, of Oldbury, for 46s. The bargain was effected through the recommendation of Bennett, who said ‘it was all right,’ and the prisoner Rowley’s own horse.

The magistrates discharged the prisoner Bennett with a caution, and committed Rowley to take his trial at the Assizes for stealing the horse, and also on the second charge of stealing the coal.”

[At Worcestershire Summer Sessions John Rowley pleaded guilty to stealing a horse and a load of coals and was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.]

Birmingham Daily Post 20/7/1869 - Letter

“BELL INN, Rood End.

To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir, In connection with the above Inn are spacious, beautiful, and ornamental Pleasure Grounds, which I was induced by a party of professional travellers to let for the purpose of holding a gala, on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, who promised to strictly to carry out the conditions of a large programme, which they duly announced, comprising singing, dancing, and other attractive amusements, balloon ascents and various other fetes, to be performed, the whole to conclude with a grand display of fireworks. The very beautiful grounds and very flattering programme did not fail to attract from 1,200 to 1,500 persons, some of whom I have heard have since expressed great disapprobation and disappointment, as the programme was shorn of its principal and attractive features, for which cause some have attempted to blame me.

But for the information of those who very kindly patronised me on that occasion, I beg to say, after I had



very incautiously let the grounds to what turned out to be a very unprincipled party, the carrying out of the programme was, I am very sorry to say, a part over which I had no control. But I may here say that I used all my endeavours and influence by remonstrating with the party in question to do all they had pledged themselves to do. I beg to say I did not receive a penny of the admission money, and was at half of the expense of the printing. I feel sure those to whom I am known will exonerate me from all blame, and from participating in practicing any deception upon such a large circle of my Customers, Friends, and a generous Public.

I remain, yours most respectfully, *John Smith*, Proprietor.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 20/5/1870 - Advert

“The Lord Nelson, Loveday Street, St. Mary’s, Birmingham, by Roderick and Son.

To be Sold (by direction of Mr. *Johnson*, who has conducted the business with great success for five years, and has now taken the BELL INN, at Rood End, near Oldbury), the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above very Old-established Tavern, held at a low rent, and now doing an extensive business, chiefly outdoor, and over the Counter. Coming-in about £350.

Apply to the Auctioneers, 2, Temple Row West.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/6/1870 - Advert

“BELL INN, Rood End, West Smethwick. Preliminary Notice.

R. L. Courtney has received instructions from Mr. *John Smith*, the Proprietor (whose Lease expires on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst), to Sell by Auction – 35 capital Ale Casks, Mash Tub, Coolers, Five-pull Stopcock Ale Machine, Hot-water Apparatus, two Malt-Crushers, Liquor Bottles, Jugs, Cups, and Glasses; also a Sow In-pig, Store Pigs, six Couple of Fowls, and other Effects.

At the same Place of Sale will be Sold, belonging to various owners – Three nearly new Whitechapel Traps, excellent Gig, Spring Carts, Heavy Cart, Ginger Beer Cart, Phaetons, Basket Gigs; Harness, and Two useful Horses.

Further particulars in catalogues, from the Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/6/1870 - Advert

“BELL INN, Rood End, West Smethwick. Sale by Auction, Tomorrow (Tuesday), June 21.

By R. L. Courtney, at Eleven o’clock am (by order of the Proprietor, Mr. *John Smith*, who is leaving the premises in consequence of his lease having expired), comprising twenty capital Iron-bound Ale Casks, Mash Tub, Five-pull Stop-cock Ale Machine, two Malt Crushers, two Pockets of Prime Hops, Bean Crusher, 40 dozen Jugs, Cups, and Glasses, Sow in Pig, and ten Store Pigs, six couple of Fowls, three pairs Fancy Pigeons, fine-toned Cottage Piano-forte, Household Furniture.

Also, at the same place, at Three o’clock in the afternoon, belonging to various owners – an Invalid’s Chair, two Coal Carts, one Ginger Beer Cart, one Provision or Maltster’s Cart, two Spring Market Carts, three Whitechapel Traps, two excellent well-built Dog Carts, capital Albert Gig, two turn-over-seat Phaetons, Pony Basket Gig; two sets useful Trap Harness, Saddle, Bridle, and other Harness, &c.”

#### The Sportsman 27/8/1870

“Anthony Hale, of Rood End, will take three yards start to the pound and match his bitch Rose to run Scrivens’s Top, of Dudley Port, 200 yards; or he will match Rose, the same distance level, at 27lb weight, against Hadley’s Loo, of Smethwick. Either match, for £10 a side, can be made at Mr. *J. Johnson*’s, BELL INN, Rood End, Oldbury.”

#### 1871 Census

Rood End – BELL HOTEL

[1] *William A. Rogers* (31), licensed victualler, born Over Norton, Oxfordshire;

[2] *Sarah Rogers* (33), wife, born Newton Rogus, Warwickshire;

[3] *Ellen Rogers* (13), daughter, born Birmingham;

[4] *Edward Rogers* (11), son, born Birmingham;

[5] *Rose Rogers* (9), daughter, born Birmingham;

- [6] William A. Rogers (6), son, born Erdington;
- [7] Walter Rogers (2), son, born West Bromwich;
- [8] Mary Rogers (4), daughter, born Middlesex;
- [9] Charles Rogers (7), son, born Birmingham;
- [10] Florence Rogers (?), daughter, born Rood End;
- [11] Jemima Jago (16), general servant, birthplace not given:

London Gazette 16/2/1872 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Warwickshire, holden at Birmingham. In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *William Albert Rogers*, of Albion-villa, Short Heath-road, Erdington, in the county of Warwick, out of business, late of the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, near Oldbury, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Timber Dealer.

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. Alfred Baldwin East, Solicitor, No.9, Colmore-row, Birmingham, on the 23rd day of February, 1872, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 25th day of January, 1872.

Alfred Baldwin East, 9, Colmore-row, Birmingham, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/8/1873

“Alexandra Recreation Grounds, BELL HOTEL, Rood End, near Oldbury.

This day (Saturday) the above grounds will be opened with a 200 Yards Dog Handicap, for which the proprietor (Mr. *Sharp*) gives £25 in money prizes. The entries have closed with 104 dogs from North and South Staffordshire, &c. Weighing commences at 1 o'clock, and closes at 3.30, and the first heat run at 4 o'clock. Final heats on Monday.

The proprietor will give £25 to be contended for in an All England Handicap Foot Race of 135 yards distance, to take place on Saturday, Aug. 30, and Monday, Sep. 1; first prize £18; second, £5, third £2; entrance 2s each (no acceptances), to close on Thursday, Aug. 28. False entries disqualified. The above grounds are close to Rood End Station, and within a few minutes' walk of Spon Lane, Smethwick, Smethwick Junction, Oldbury, and Westbromwich Stations on the Great Western and North Western lines. The grounds are 240 yards straight on each side, and 540 yards, or three times and 140 yards round for the mile. The grounds will be found second to none in England, and the place affords every comfort. Refreshments &c. The proprietor also intends giving money prizes to be run for in September, in an All England Dog Handicap, 200 yards, for dogs of all weights. Full particulars in our next.

On Monday, at 3 o'clock, Brindley's Moscow of Portobello run 200 yards, on handicap law, for £10 a side. Whitehouse's Fly and Mallison's Lady run 200 yards, at catch weight, for £10 a side, on Sept 1. James's bitch Top and Sevetter's Quick run 200 yards on handicap terms, for £10 a side, on Sept. 15.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1873 - Advert

“BELL INN, Rood End. Pleasure Gardens. Proprietor, Mr. *Sharpe*.

1,000 Miles in 1,000 Hours.

Go and see the English Lady, the Champion Female Walker of the World, who astonishes all creation with her splendid walking. She started on Tuesday, September 9. Walking hours, a quarter to 8, 10, 12, 2, 4, 6. Gates open day and night for six weeks. Admission 3d each.

On Monday and Saturday, a splendid Brass Band will be in attendance for Dancing on the monstre Platform and Green, commencing 7 o'clock. Admission 3d each.

Refreshments of the best quality.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/2/1874

“An inquest was opened yesterday, by Mr. R. Docker, at the BELL INN, Rood End, near Oldbury, on the body of George Hodgetts (21), labourer, of that locality, whose death, on Saturday last, was alleged to have resulted from injuries received in a fight on the morning after Christmas Day.

On the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> December the deceased was returning home with a number of companions, with

whom he had been drinking on the previous evening. Among them was a fellow-labourer named Elijah Chance. Hodgetts and Chance were intoxicated and quarrelsome, and when near the house of a witness named Martin Smith, Chance challenged Hodgetts to fight. A ring was formed, and the two men fought for about half an hour, each round ending with one or the other being knocked down. Smith, who was in bed when the fight commenced, got up and watched it through the window. At length, witness said, Chance struck Hodgetts on the eye, and he fell with great force to the ground, where he lay with his arms extended, in a state of insensibility. He remained for ten minutes without signs of life, and Smith thought that he was dead. The bystanders eventually gave him some water, and he revived soon afterwards, and walked home with assistance. On the following Monday, Hodgetts was attended by Mr. Sainsbury, surgeon, who stated that he found him in an unconscious state. There was a superficial bruise over the left eye, as if from a recent blow. He was suffering from concussion of the brain. He gradually recovered consciousness, but never became quite coherent in his conversation. About a fortnight after the occurrence deceased had a succession of epileptic fits; paralysis supervened, and he gradually fell into a low typhoid state, in which he remained till he died. Mr. Sainsbury considered that death was undoubtedly due to typhoid fever, which might have been incited by the injury. The injury would have rendered him liable to imbibe the infection. Mr. Sainsbury added that typhoid fever was prevalent in the locality where the deceased had lived, and there was a great absence of sanitary regulations. The sewage refuse was actually running down the gutters. The Coroner remarked that it would be necessary to adjourn the enquiry for a post mortem examination to be made, to ascertain the exact cause of death. If it were proved that death had been caused by the blow, the Jury would have to record a verdict of manslaughter against Chance.

The inquest was then adjourned.

Chance was apprehended a few days after the fight, and remains in custody.”

[At the adjourned inquest the jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Elijah Chance but recommended him for mercy on the ground that no foul play had been resorted to. Bail was allowed. At the Worcestershire Lent Assizes Elijah Chance was found not guilty.]

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/2/1874

“Mr. R. Slim, a well-known Birmingham sportsman, has matched his black pony to trot the well-known Snowtail two miles, for £100 a-side, the latter to concede 100 yards, on the New Grounds, BELL INN, Rood End, near Oldbury, on Monday Feb 23, to be on the ground prepared to start at three pm.

Conditions: Either horse breaking to be pulled up into a trot. Mr. Harris, of the *Midland Sporting News*, to be stakeholder, and appoint a referee if the parties cannot agree to one. £25 is now down with Mr. Harris; the next deposit of £25 on Thursday, Feb 11, and the final deposit of £50 a side on Thursday, Feb 18.”

#### London Gazette 2/10/1874 - Notice

“Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting betwixt us the undersigned, *William Smith* and *Arthur Bradley*, carrying on business at the BELL INN, Rood-end, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, as Licensed Victuallers, under the style or firm of Smith and Bradley, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. All debts due to and owing from the said partnership firm will be received and paid by the said *Arthur Bradley*, by whom the said business will in future be carried on.

Dated this 22nd day of September, 1874.

*William Smith. Arthur Bradley.*”

#### Daily Telegraph 21/12/1874 - Advert

“Alexandra Park Recreation Grounds, with the BELL INN, Rood End, Oldbury, near Birmingham.

To be Let, the above Premises, where thousands of persons meet weekly to enjoy the popular sports of the day. The house and premises have every business and domestic arrangement, and the grounds are not only extensive but judiciously and tastefully laid out, and are second to none in England. An adjoining field of land may be added for the purpose of rabbit coursing. The sole reason the premises are to be let is a dissolution of partnership.

Apply on the premises; or to Messrs. Hawkins and Son, Hotel Valuers, Brierley Hill.”

#### County Express 6/3/1875

“Worcester Lent Sessions. ....

John Webb, alias Carter, aged 25, gun-screw, was charged with stealing a silver watch from the person of Joseph Henry Stamps, on the 15<sup>th</sup> ult, and Samuel Falconbridge was charged with having feloniously received the same knowing it to be stolen. Mr. Godson prosecuted; Mr. R. H. Amphlett appeared for Webb, and Mr. Motteram defended Falconbridge.

Prosecutor stated that he was at the BELL INN, Rood End, on the afternoon of the date mentioned. There were some races going on, and great number of persons were present. Prosecutor felt a tug at his watch, and immediately noticed the chain hanging loosely down, the watch being gone. He then saw the prisoner trying to get away. He caught hold of prisoner and charged him with stealing his watch, and prisoner, after a struggle, escaped from him. At eight o'clock the same evening he saw Falconbridge opposite his (prosecutor's) own house at Smethwick. He said, 'Joe, you have lost your watch; I think I can get it back.' Prosecutor went with him to the TALBOT, where prisoner lived. Prosecutor there saw his watch lying on the table in the smoke-room and he took possession of it.

John Wilkes, squeezer, employed at the Vulcan Ironworks, Smethwick, stated that he saw the prisoner Webb snatch the watch from Stamps and pass it to someone else.

His Lordship found there was no evidence against Falconbridge, and he was acquitted. Webb was found guilty, and having been previously convicted, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.”

#### London Gazette 14/9/1875 - Notice

“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 *Arthur Bradley*, of the BELL HOTEL and Alexandra Park Recreation Grounds, Rood End, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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. William Shakespeare, No.55, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 25th day of September, 1875, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 9th day of September, 1875.

William Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Attorney for the said *Arthur Bradley*.”

#### Sporting Life 11/5/1878

“S. Church, in reply to A. Jones, of West Bromwich, cannot think of giving him the start he asked for, but will concede him three-quarters of a mile in twenty miles, or sixty yards in one mile; to run at the BELL, Rood End, for £10 a-side. Articles and a deposit to the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, will lead to business.”

#### Sporting Life 21/8/1878

“A Gentleman will match A. Jones, of West Bromwich, to ride a bicycle ten miles against S. Church, of the same place, for £10 a-side, at the BELL, Rood End, in three weeks from signing articles; or any other man in the district can be accommodated.”

#### Sporting Life 16/11/1878

“John Prince in reply to Mr. Church's challenge of Wednesday last, is surprised at his wanting to run on handicap terms; but if Church's ankle has got well he can have a match from one mile to five miles, level. No other terms will suit. A reply through the *Sporting Life*, to appoint a time for Prince to meet Church at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, and stake and sign articles, for not less than £10 a-side, will be attended to.”

#### Sporting Life 1/3/1879

“J. Lawton, of Tat Bank, will walk R. Webster, of Wolverhampton, two miles, and will take 200 yards start, for not less than £10 a-side. To walk in one month from signing articles. To walk at the Alexandra Park, Rood End, Oldbury. Or Lawton will take £2 expenses and walk at Wednesbury or Aston Cross. If Webster will draw up articles and send them to Lawton, at the BELL INN, Rood End, Oldbury, he will sign them, and will at once send £2 10s as first deposit. The *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder.”

#### Sporting Life 5/6/1880

“E. Shelton, of Wolverhampton, has accepted the challenge of J. Prince, of Langley Green, viz, to run one mile on the Wolverhampton handicap terms, and forwarded articles to Prince. To run at the BELL Grounds, Rood End.”

#### Dudley Herald 26/6/1880

“On Monday night, a somewhat serious riot occurred at Rood End, near Oldbury. A great number of men assembled at the BELL Grounds in the afternoon to witness a bicycle match and other sports. Later in the day a crowd of roughs armed with stones and lead slings made their appearance, and commenced a violent attack with these weapons upon those present without distinction. Many men were rendered insensible by the blows they received, but three or four were most seriously injured – one, it is feared, fatally ..... The mob were eventually driven off by the whole of the Oldbury police force, under the direction of Police-sergeant Simmonds, who came to supplement the Rood End force.

It is stated that the mob came from Birmingham, and that the object of the attack was to get at a man with whom some of them had had a dispute.....”

#### Dudley and District News 28/8/1880

“On Monday, the Annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury division was held.....

There was a communication from the Oldbury Local Board of Health calling the attention of the magistrates to the rioting and the disorderly proceedings which took place at the running grounds in connection with the BELL INN, at Rood End, on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> June. The licenses of ..... the proprietor of the BELL HOTEL and Grounds would be withheld until the adjourned licensing sessions. In the meantime the police would make enquiries.”

#### Dudley and District News 2/10/1880

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Oldbury and district were held on Monday, before Alderman Avery, and Messrs. G. Heaton, H. Chance, and Wilson (magistrates).....

Mr. J. B. Barker, proprietor of the BELL HOTEL and Running Grounds, Rood End, applied for a renewal of his license. Addressing the applicant, Mr. Avery said: In this case some three months ago very disorderly and violent proceedings took place, not actually in your house, but outside, by a number of persons assembled there. According to the information the disturbance amounted almost to a local riot, and it was so serious that a representation was made by the Local Board of Health, who requested the justices to direct the police to exercise greater supervision on this house. Now, we are glad to be informed by the Superintendent of Police that there has been a remarkable improvement in the manner in which the house has been conducted; therefore, a renewal of the license will be granted. But we wish to observe that it becomes a very serious affair, and if there had been no substantial alteration in the conduct of the house, the magistrates might have taken a more serious view of the matter, and adopted a different course. On this occasion the license will be renewed, but we hope you will be exceedingly careful in future to conduct this house properly.

Mr. Forrest, on behalf of the applicant, said his client regretted that disturbances had occurred and desired to keep the house respectable. So far as he was concerned he would take care to conduct his house properly in future.”

#### County Advertiser 30/10/1880 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady, active Man, as Farm Wagoner, age 30. Must be a good ploughman. Apply, BELL INN, Rood End, Oldbury.”

#### 1881 Census

Rood End – BELL INN

[1] *William J. Nichols* (35), manager of BELL HOTEL, born Tipton;

[2] *Rebecca Nichols* (34), wife, born Rowley;

[3] *Mary A. Nichols* (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[4] *Hannah Nichols* (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/9/1881 - Advert

“Highly-eligible Freehold Building Land, Rood End, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Thos. S. Fallows, at the BELL INN, Rood End, on Monday Next, Sept. 19, at 6 o’clock precisely – a truly valuable Freehold Building Estate, at Rood End, known as the Bell Estate, having an extensive frontage to the main road leading from Langley Green to Smethwick.....”

Northwich Guardian 22/3/1882 - Advert

“Hotel and Extensive Grounds.

The celebrated BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, with Bicycle and Running Grounds, to be Let, either together or separately. A certain large income for an active business man. Also several first-class old-licensed Houses in the district.

Apply to W. Butler and Co, brewers, Wolverhampton.”

Birmingham Mail 26/6/1882

“A gas explosion occurred at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, near Oldbury, this morning, Mr. Johnson and a man servant being injured.”

Brecon County Times 1/7/1882

“An alarming explosion of gas has occurred at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, owing to a labourer in the employ of the landlord attempting to discover an escape of gas in the smoke room with the aid of a lighted match. The door was blown off its hinges, windows smashed, and the man was knocked down and was so seriously injured as to necessitate his removal to hospital. The landlord was also injured.”

Birmingham Mail 3/7/1882

“Early yesterday morning the body of a full-grown male child, wrapped in a black dress, and in a putrid state, was found in a urinal at the BELL INN, Rood End, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/10/1882 - Advert

“Servant Girl (strong) Wanted, not under 20, with good character, used to Public House.

Apply, BELL INN, Rood End, near Oldbury.”

Advert (March 1883)

“The celebrated grounds of the above hotel are now open. The large bowling green is in first rate order, and the beautiful gardens are open to the public free of charge.....”

Birmingham Mail 2/5/1883

“Mr. R. Docker, Coroner, held an inquest this afternoon at the BELL INN, Rood End, respecting the death of Charles Isaac Lunn (14), of Bustnall Terrace, Rood End, who died on Sunday last from the effects of injuries received on the previous Friday, caused by a stone striking him on the head, thrown by a boy named Octavius Cotterell (13), residing in the same locality.

William Smallwood, glass flattener, Cemetery Road, repeated the evidence given by him at the Police Court, which was reported in the *Mail* on Monday. It was to the effect that on Friday last, about four o’clock in the afternoon, he saw the deceased and Octavius Cotterell throwing stones at each other. After several stones had been thrown, which all missed their aim, Octavius Cotterell threw a stone which struck deceased on the left side of the head between the temple and ear. The deceased after he had received the blow staggered for a few seconds, but afterwards picked up other stones to throw at Cotterell, and ran after him, but finding that his opponent had gone into the house, he threw the stones at the entry door.

Mary Ann Lunn, mother of the deceased, said when the deceased became unconscious she sent a note to Dr. Pitt’s surgery, stating that her son was unconscious, and asking that either Dr. Pitt or his assistant would attend at once. It was about a quarter to five o’clock when she first sent to the surgery, and it was about a quarter past nine o’clock when Mr. Burgess came. In reply to a juror witness said she believed there had been a dispute between the two boys respecting a dog which deceased kept.

William Pitt, surgeon, said when he saw the deceased he appeared to be suffering from great compression of the brain.

The Coroner commented upon the dangerous practice of stone throwing, which he regretted was too common amongst boys, but at the same time he pointed out that if the jury considered that the stone thrown at the deceased was the cause of death, then it would be their duty to find a verdict of manslaughter against the boy who threw the stone.

The jury, after a brief consultation, returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Octavius Cotterell, who was then committed on the coroner's warrant, to take his trial at the Worcestershire Assizes. Bail was accepted."

Worcester Journal 14/7/1883

"Worcestershire Midsummer Assizes.....

Octavius Cotterill, a little lad, surrendered to his bail and pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Charles Isaac Lunn, on the 29<sup>th</sup> April last, at Oldbury, by having struck him on the head with a stone which caused his death. Mr. Godson, on the part of the prosecution, stated that no doubt technically a manslaughter was committed. The prisoner seemed to have thrown two or three stones at the deceased before the one which struck him and caused his death. The fatal blow was between the ear and the temple. There did not seem to have been any malice.

James Cotterill, foreman in a glass works, of Cemetery Road, Oldbury, was then called, and expressed his willingness to be bound for his son's good behaviour.

His Lordship said this was a result of the wicked and foolish habit of boys throwing stones. He trusted this would be a warning to the prisoner and all other boys like him. He would not be sent to goal, but his father must enter into a surety in the sum of £50 for his appearance to come up for judgement at any time if called upon."

Birmingham Mail 11/5/1883 - Advert

"Servant (strong General) Wanted; one used to public business preferred.  
Apply, BELL HOTEL, Rood End, near Oldbury."

Birmingham Mail 13/6/1883 - Advert

"Pony Phaeton for Sale. In good repair, with lamps and cushions, complete; no reasonable offer refused.  
Apply, BELL, Rood End, near Oldbury."

Birmingham Mail 27/7/1883 - Advert

"Youth (sharp) Wanted for public house, indoors, to make himself generally useful.  
Apply, BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury."

Sporting Life 10/11/1883 - Advert

"Alexandra Running and Shooting Grounds, Rood End, Oldbury.

Mr. *W. E. Sankey's* All England £6 10s 200 Yards Dog Handicap, on Mondays, November 19 and 26, at the above grounds.

Final heats of the 440 yards handicap this day (Saturday, November 10).

Mr. *W. E. Sankey* intends reviving the above grounds with all its old sports, and will commence by giving £6 10s, all-England 200 yards dog handicap, to be run on Mondays, November 19 and 26, 1883 – first prize £5; second £1; third 7s; fourth 3s. Entrance 6d each (closes on Wednesday next, November 14), to be made to *W. Sankey*, BELL INN, Rood End; *W. Perkins*, 8, Court, Lombard Street; *W. Rickerby*, Old Plough, Suffolk Street; *H. Ellis*, New Inn, Essex Street; *E. Lambeth*, Castle Inn, Moseley Street; *W. Bates*, BLACK BOY, Birmingham Street, Oldbury; *J. Beasley*, WHITE HORSE, Church Street, Oldbury."

Sporting Life 22/12/1883

"A billiard match took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, between Mr. *W. Sankey* (the proprietor) and a gentleman from Spon Lane, 200 up level, and after a well-contested and exciting game, Mr. *Sankey* proved the winner by only 3 points."

Birmingham Mail 27/2/1884

"Cricket Secretaries' Addresses.....

Langley Green. Alfred Taylor, BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/6/1884

“William Onions (28), labourer, of Oldbury Road, Smethwick, was charged with assaulting *Montague Taylor*, landlord of the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult, but the charge was dismissed.”

Smethwick Telephone 27/9/1884

“The adjourned licensing session for the division of Oldbury was held at the Police Court on Tuesday..... Mr. Shakespeare appeared to support an application for a transfer of the license of the BELL INN, Rood End, to *Charles Morton*. *Morton*, it was explained, was a well-known balloonist and possessed of a very good character. His real name was Worley, but for reasons of his own – which were good ones – he had gone by the name of *Morton*, and he believed an objection had been taken to the application on this ground. He put in a letter from Mr. Superintendent Burton, of Dudley, to the effect that the applicant was well known by the name of *Morton*, which it was understood he had assumed. The application was eventually granted, Mr. Hardman (superintendent) withdrawing his objection.”

*John Morton* = John Moreton

*John Morton* was a Captain in the British Army.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1885

“On Monday evening Captain *Morton*, accompanied by his assistant, Mr. Westley, made an ascent from the Rood End Grounds, Oldbury, in his balloon the ‘Countess of Dudley.’ Owing to an insufficiency of gas, whilst travelling over Birmingham, the balloon commenced to descend very rapidly, and fell into some trees in the grounds of Edgbaston Hall. Both the occupants of the car were terribly shaken, and Captain *Morton* received a very severe blow upon the head, which rendered him unconscious. Mr. Heathfield, his family, and servants rendered the unfortunate balloonists prompt assistance, and Captain *Morton* was removed to the hall and put to bed. Westley was also severely bruised, and the balloon was badly damaged.”

Sporting Life 25/8/1885

“Vauxhall Gardens, BELL HOTEL, Oldbury.

This old-established pedestrian rendezvous, better known to the old stagers of foot racing as the Alexandra Grounds, and which has been the scene of many a close struggle with the spike-carrying fraternity, was again brought into requisition yesterday (Monday), with pedestrianism, the occasion being a 120 yards foot handicap, the projectors being the members of the Loyal Caledonian Corks, who offered the sum of £3 10s to be competed for. The programme embraced the names of twenty, these being arranged into four heats. Independent of the handicap, air balloon ascents by Captain Holden, singing, dancing, &c, took place, a fair company assembling to witness the affair.....”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/12/1885

“Captain *John Morton*, the well-known aeronaut, who is also the landlord of the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, was charged with selling after hours on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Police-sergeant Stanton said that at 11.45 on the night in question he stood near the window of the defendant’s house, and heard talking within. He heard some one say, ‘Let’s see about settling up for these glasses,’ but another voice, which he recognised as that of the landlady, replied, ‘Never mind paying tonight; you can pay tomorrow; I know that will be right.’ He heard the chinking of glasses and the pouring of something, and on going round the corner in a few minutes he saw four men named Edward Watts, Thomas Savage, Thomas Barrett, and Thomas Ashley come out of the front door.

Corroborative evidence was given by Police-constables Bull and Bayliss.

Mr. Shakespeare having addressed the Bench, *Morton* was put into the box, and swore that the men paid for nothing, and that the statement Stanton alleged to have been made as to payment was a pure invention.

A fine of £2 and costs was imposed, but Mr. Shakespeare gave notice of appeal.

The four men seen issuing from the premises were all dismissed.”



### Smethwick Telephone 28/8/1886

“The annual Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday.....

The following persons had been summoned for offences against the licensing laws, and dealt with as follows  
..... Licensed Victuallers.....

*John Morton*, selling during closing hours, December 22<sup>nd</sup> last, fined 40s and costs.....

In the case of those persons who had been summoned and convicted, their houses having been well conducted since, and no further complaints being made against them, the licenses were all renewed except in the cases of David Bates and Edward Waterhouse, which were refused.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 15/1/1887

“The employees in Messrs. Chance’s Lighthouse Fitting Department held their annual supper on Saturday last, at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End. A good stock of eatables was provided by Captain *Morton*, to which some sixty persons sat down at five o’clock.....”

### Birmingham Mail 19/3/1887

“Crosswells Brewery v Wednesbury Old Athletic.

A friendly match took place between these teams on the BELL HOTEL Grounds, Rood End, before a moderate number of spectators, and ended in a win for Showells by 1 goal to nil.”

### The People 27/3/1887

“The Divorce Court..... Worley v Worley.

This was a petition presented by the wife for a judicial separation on the ground of the husband’s cruelty and adultery. Mr. Jones appeared for the petitioner.

The parties were married at All Saints Church, Haggerston, London, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 1869, and there were seven children of the marriage, the eldest one being 17. While living together, according to the statement of the petitioner, she suffered in consequence of her husband’s misconduct, and they separated in March, 1884. Respondent promised to make her an allowance, but never kept up the payments. Subsequently Mrs. Worley ascertained her husband was keeping the BELL HOTEL, at Oldbury, Birmingham, under the name of Captain *Morton*. On going there she found a barmaid named Maggie Pluck, with whom she charged the respondent with having committed adultery in June, July, and August, 1885. Petitioner stayed at the hotel several days, and was then told by her husband that she would have to go. She then left and took lodging close by, and lodged a petition for judicial separation.

Evidence having been given by Augustus Henry Worley, a lad of 14, who lived with his father at the BELL HOTEL, as to the adultery of the respondent with Maggie Pluck, his lordship granted a decree of judicial separation, giving to the wife the custody of the children.”

### Graphic 22/10/1887

“Another balloon voyage across the Channel was made successfully at the end of last week. Mr. *Morton* crossed from Dover to Dunkirk in five hours, travelling in a small balloon made of quite a new material – fine cambric, coated thinly with india-rubber. This material proved far superior to the ordinary silk covering in retaining the gas, which generally permeates through. Thus, when the aeronaut came down to earth he found that very little gas had escaped, and that he might have gone much further without exhausting the carrying-power of his balloon. Moreover, he took up little ballast, and only threw out one small bag.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 10/12/1887

“William Underhill, Rood End, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of Captain *Morton*, at the BELL INN, on the 12<sup>th</sup> November.

This case was allowed to be withdrawn on payment of the costs.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1889

“Birmingham Summer Assizes..... Alleged Fraudulent Sale of a Public House.

*Mills v Waite*. This was an action brought by *Charles Mills*, publican, Rood End, near Oldbury, against

*Clara Waite*, publican, to recover damages for fraudulent misrepresentation. Mr. Alfred Young and Mr. Stubbins (instructed by Messrs. Buller, Bickley and Cross) appeared for plaintiff; and Mr., Hugo Young (instructed by Mr. M. A Fitter) for the defendant.

The defendant counterclaimed for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. Alfred Young, in opening the case, said that the plaintiff claimed damages for fraudulent misrepresentation on the sale of a public house, and also for the value of certain articles which were agreed by the defendant to be delivered to the plaintiff as 'part and parcel' of his purchase. After hearing the case he thought the jury would not be surprised that the defendant pleaded many alternatives in the counter claim. The plaintiff had been accustomed to the management of public houses for thirty years, and the defendant was what he called a public house monger – dealing in public houses in various places – and was owner at the present time of several public houses. In December last an advertisement appeared in the local papers that the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, near Oldbury, with the goodwill, license, fixtures, fittings, and furniture, was for sale. On the 15<sup>th</sup> December the plaintiff waited on Mr. Mordant, an auctioneer, in Birmingham, who was acting for *Clara Waite*, the owner of the house. The reason given why Mr. Mordant's name appeared in the advertisement was that *Clara Waite* was mixed up with some illicit whisky case – she had been buying or receiving from the Stephensons – and was apprehensive of an excise prosecution against her for penalties in reference to that prosecution. After the interview the plaintiff and his wife went to Rood End and viewed the house. Plaintiff and his wife, the defendant, Mr. Mordant, and his clerk, met for the purpose of negotiating, and upon that occasion *Clara Waite* repeated the statement that she was desirous of leaving in consequence of the Stephenson business. She said that the takings were £23, or thereabouts per week in the winter, and they ought to be £35 in the summer time. She said she was going to retire to a small house with a little furniture, so that if the Excise authorities proceeded against her they would get nothing. The defendant herself bought the house in the previous October, and they had discovered since that she bought the whole 'lock, stock, and barrel' from Messrs. Butler and Co, brewers, Wolverhampton, for the sum of £80. She agreed to sell the goodwill, possession, fixtures, and furniture to plaintiff for £740. When defendant bought the house an inventory was prepared by Mr. Barnett, of Wolverhampton, and accepted by Messrs. Gray, Son, and Walker, who were acting as agents for Miss. *Waite*. It was agreed that the sale to plaintiff should be made on the inventory of Mr. Barnett. The inventory prepared by Mr. Barnett was contained in a book. The book was handed to plaintiff but the only part of it which was ever part of Mr. Barnett's inventory was the cover, the first leaf and the last leaf. The whole of the intervening leaves had been substituted for Mr. Barnett's, and an attempt had been made to carry out a fraud in a clever manner. The plaintiff after he got into the house found that the takings did not reach £20 a week and that the inventory he accepted was not Barnett's at all.

Thomas Jackson Barnett, auctioneer, Wolverhampton, said the cover, the first leaf, and the last leaf of the inventory were the same as prepared by him. The intervening leaves were of an entirely different kind of paper.

Mr. Hugo Young: We admit that this is not Mr. Barnett's inventory, and therefore my friend need not labour that part.

Mr. Alfred Young: We are not going to put up with the admission that it is not the inventory. We are going to prove this fraud.

The witness, continuing, detailed the differences in the inventory produced and the one prepared by himself.

Cross-examined: The lease of the hotel had expired when it was sold to the defendant. A house with a lease would be worth more than one without, providing the rent was reasonably in proportion. He did not know whether the defendant sold a lease to the plaintiff or not.

The case at this point was adjourned."

[*Clara Waite*, COCK AND MAGPIE, Warley, was charged with selling illicit whisky in 1888.]

Birmingham Daily Post 15/8/1889

"At Birmingham Assizes yesterday.....

In the court presided over by Mr. Commissioner Philerick, QC, an action for fraudulent representation in reference to the sale of a public house was brought by *Charles Mills*, of Rood End, against *Clara Waite*, former proprietress of the house, the BELL HOTEL, Rood End. A verdict was found for the defendant."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/3/1891 - Advert

“BELL HOTEL, Rood End.

To Let, with immediate possession, this noted house. Excellent trade. Improving neighbourhood. Respectable man with £200 wanted.

Apply, personally, Bill and Son, Auctioneers, Cherry Street, Birmingham.”

1891 Census

Rood End – BELL HOTEL

[1] *James Shakespeare* (50), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] *Selina Shakespeare* (50), wife, born Hanley, Staffordshire;

[3] *Geoffrey Shakespeare* (30), son, china gilder, born Hanley, Staffordshire;

[4] *Florence M. Finnemore* (22), barmaid, born Birmingham;

[5] *Florence A. Chadwick* (14), visitor, born Hanley, Staffordshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 13/4/1891 - Advert

“Pianist – Young Lady Wanted, and assist in the work.

Apply, personally, the BELL, Rood End, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 16/5/1891

“At Oldbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *Geoffrey Shakespeare*, landlord of the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, was summoned for allowing liquor to be consumed during prohibited hours on 30<sup>th</sup> April, and *Thomas Griffiths*, St. Paul’s Road, West Smethwick, was charged with being on the premises at the same time. *Shakespeare* was fined 20s and costs, in all £1 12s 6d, and *Griffiths* 17s 6d, including costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/5/1891

“At Oldbury Petty Sessions, yesterday – before Messrs. W. E. Chance and S. Bennett – *Geoffrey Shakespeare*, of the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, applied for the transfer of the license of the above-named hotel from *Charles Mills* to himself.

An objection was raised to the transfer on the ground that a fortnight ago the applicant was fined 20s and costs for permitting drink to be consumed on the premises during illegal hours. Mr. Chance said that under the circumstances the Bench felt they could not consistently grant the transfer, as it was a serious matter for the applicant to be fined whilst holding a temporary authority.

Mr. W. Shakespeare, solicitor, urged that it was not the applicant who permitted the drinking, but a relative who was left in charge of the premises. If the defendant had allowed it the magistrates might then have taken a serious view of the case, but it was unfortunate for the applicant that the breach of the Licensing Act was permitted by another person.

Mr. Chance replied that Mr. Shakespeare was the responsible person.

Mr. Shakespeare (solicitor) urged that the applicant’s money had been invested in the hotel, and it would ruin him if the Bench declined to grant the transfer.

Mr. Chance: We must deal with the question on its merits, apart from such considerations.

Mr. Shakespeare again urged the Bench to alter their decision, but they declined to do so, and the transfer was accordingly refused.”

Smethwick Telephone 11/7/1891 - Advert

“Preliminary Announcement.

Important Sale of Property and Building Land at Rood End and Tat Bank, Oldbury, and Vicarage Road, Langley.

Mr. W. H. Pass is favoured with instructions to submit to Public Competition, at the BELL INN, Rood End, Oldbury, on Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1891, at 6 o’clock in the Evening.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/9/1891

“Yesterday, at the Oldbury Police Court, *William Adams* (60), labourer, Parsonage Street, Tat Bank, was charged with stealing a bottle of whisky, the property of *Walter John Wall*, landlord of the BELL HOTEL,

Rood End. The bottle was taken from a shelf in the bar during the absence of the attendant. Defendant, who pleaded that he was drunk and that he had done it for a lark, was fined £1 11s, including costs, or in default fourteen days' hard labour."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 28/3/1892

"Mr. *Walter John Wall*, landlord of the HILL [sic] HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, has disappeared from his home under mysterious circumstances. Mr. *Wall*, who is about twenty-six years of age, left home on Tuesday morning, and his wife has since ascertained that he took with him a considerable sum of money, a revolver, and other articles. Up to yesterday no tidings of him had been obtained."

#### Nottingham Evening Post 26/8/1892

"Inhuman Treatment of a Dying Child.

Yesterday Mr. E. Docker, Coroner, held an inquest at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, respecting the death of Annie Lissamore, six, whose parents, Enoch and Hannah Lissamore, reside at Rood End, who died suddenly on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst.

Hannah Lissamore, mother of the deceased, having identified the body, the Coroner said he did not intend to ask the witness any more questions, as it might result in a very serious charge against the mother.

Patience Fenton, a neighbour, stated that about seven o'clock on Monday night she saw the mother nursing the child, and thinking the girl was suffering from croup, she advised the mother to put a linseed meal poultice on it, which she refused to do. Shortly afterwards the mother went out. Later witness tried to give deceased some brandy, but it was too far gone to drink any. Deceased was clothed badly, and had no shoes or stockings on, and was in a very neglected condition. The mother returned about 10.15 the same night in a drunken state, and when she saw the dying child lying on the sofa she snatched it up, and the poultices fell off. She considered the child was neglected through the mother drinking so excessively.

Another witness said the mother struck her husband three times whilst the child was dying without any provocation.

Police-constable Bayliss stated that about 10pm he found the child nearly dead lying on a dirty screen, and the mother sitting by it drunk. The dirt was completely caked on the child's body, and the house was also dirty. There was a crowd of people outside the house trying to get at the mother to lynch her.

Dr. Lyddon, who made a post mortem examination of the body, said death resulted from inflammation of the lungs. He believed if a medical man had been called in, and the child had received proper treatment, it would have been alive now.

The Coroner said there was no doubt that the child had been subjected to great neglect by the mother, and at a time when it most needed a mother's care.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, but added a rider to the effect that death was accelerated by want of proper treatment on the part of the mother, and expressed opinion that she was deserving of a severe censure. The Coroner reprimanded the mother, and disallowed her expenses."

#### Smethwick Telephone 19/9/1896

"A smoking concert in connection with the West Smethwick Cricket Club was held at the headquarters, BELL HOTEL, Rood End, on Friday evening....."

#### Smethwick Telephone 24/10/1896

"The first annual meeting of the West Smethwick Cricket Club was held at the club house, the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, on Friday evening (the 16<sup>th</sup> inst). Mr. S. Field occupied the chair....."

#### Smethwick Telephone 8/1/1898

"The annual meeting of delegates from the 35 lodges comprising the West Bromwich and Smethwick District of the National United Order of Free Gardeners' Friendly Society was held on Saturday evening, at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End. Mr. Joseph Gray (District Master) presided over a large attendance. The District Secretary (Mr. C. Egnell) submitted the various reports and financial statements....."

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 7/4/1900

“West Smethwick Cricket Club. On Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, a meeting was held at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Mr. R. Deeley presiding, at which it was decided to continue the West Smethwick Cricket Club and run two teams next season.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 7/4/1900 - Deaths

“On the 29<sup>th</sup> ult, at BELL HOTEL, Rood End, *Henry Boulton*, aged 65 years. Deeply lamented.”

AND

Cheltenham Chronicle 14/4/1900 - Deaths

“March 29, at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, Birmingham, *Henry Boulton*, for many years head park keeper to Earl Bathurst aged 66 years.”

1901 Census

127, Rood End Road

[1] Ellen Boulton (54), widow, born Turnham Green, London;

[2] *Harry John Boulton* (32), son, hotel manager, born Cirencester;

[3] Edith Wilson (23), niece, barmaid, born Dudley:

Smethwick Weekly News 6/4/1901

“West Smethwick Cricket Club. The adjourned annual meeting of the members of this club was held on Friday se’nnight, at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Mr. R. Morris presiding.

It was stated that the last season was a most successful one, both as regarded the membership and the financial aspect, and that very satisfactory fixtures had been arranged for both first and second teams for next season.....”

Smethwick Weekly News 11/5/1901

“We beg to announce the opening of the Bowling Green at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End. The turf is in excellent condition and a good number of members are gathering together. The first match will be played this afternoon, and prior to that a meeting of members will be held to formulate rules &c.”

Smethwick Weekly News 2/11/1901

“BELL Bowling Club. At the closing meeting of the season, held at the BELL HOTEL, on Thursday last, the silver cup, given by the president of the club (F. Carver Esq.) on the commencement of the season, was presented to the winner, Mr. Samuel Hodgkiss, who carried 203 points. The interest in the competition, which lasted all through the season, was very keen, and the results of the games in each week were eagerly looked for by the membership and their friends.”

Smethwick Weekly News 12/7/1902

“On Saturday afternoon last the Halesowen Bowling Club paid a visit to Rood End to open the season with the BELL HOTEL Bowling Club. The visiting team did not all muster, but a very good game was indulged in, the Rood End team winning by 18 points. A luncheon afterwards was served on the lawn, excellently got up by Mr. *H. Boulton*, which all the members thoroughly enjoyed. At night a smoking concert took place took place in the large club room.....”

A team from here took part in the Langley and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

Birmingham Mail 9/8/1905 - Advert

“General (reliable) Wanted, at once; able to cook and wait.

Address, BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Mail 6/4/1906 - Advert

“General, 18 to 22, at once; one from country preferred; good references.

Apply, BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/11/1906 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted at once, age 18 to 24; reference required.  
Apply, BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 14/7/1906

“Bowling. On Saturday last the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, played their return match against Belbroughton at their grounds (Talbot Hotel), when a 15 side was arranged. The possible score on account of the time was 11. The result was that the home team won by 40, the scores being Belbroughton 144, Rood End 104.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/9/1908

“Midland Bowling.....

The bowling match between the Three Horse Shoes, Sheldon, and the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, resulted as follows.....

Three Horse Shoes 195, BELL HOTEL, Rood End 83.”

1911 Census

127, Rood End Road – BELL HOTEL

[1] *Ernest Walter Cameron* (34), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] *Esther Cameron* (33), wife, married 8 years, born Langley;

[3] *Ernest Walter Cameron* (7), son, born Birmingham;

[4] *Maria Riley* (23), domestic servant, born Bajillt, Wales:

Derbyshire Advertiser 11/8/1911 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted for Public-house.  
Apply, BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 19/4/1913 - Advert

“The Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Company Ltd.

Smethwick, Langley & Oldbury Motor Omnibus Service.

On and after Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1913, these Omnibuses will run as follows.

Week Days.

Leave Smethwick (Rolfe Street) for Langley and Oldbury at 8-15am and 15 minutes past every hour till 12-15 noon, and then every 15 and 45 minutes past every hour till 10-45pm.

Leave Oldbury (TALBOT HOTEL) for Langley and Smethwick at 8-45am and 45 minutes past every hour till 12-45pm, and then 15 and 45 minutes past every hour till 11-15pm.

Sundays.

Leave Smethwick (Rolfe Street) for Langley and Oldbury at 2-45pm and then 15 and 45 minutes past every hour till 10-15pm.

Leave Oldbury (TALBOT HOTEL) for Langley and Smethwick at 3-15pm and then 15 and 45 minutes past every hour till 10-45pm.

Fares.

Smethwick (Rolfe Street) and BELL HOTEL, Rood End, 1d.

BELL HOTEL, Rood End, and Five Ways, Langley, 1d.

Five Ways, Langley, and TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, 1d.

Smethwick and corner of Crosswells Road and Vicarage Road, 1½d.

Oldbury and corner of Crosswells Road and Vicarage Road, 1½d.

O. C. Power, Traffic Manager, Omnibus Offices, 65, Tennant Street, off Broad Street.

Tel. 2371 and 2 Mid.”

Evening Despatch 11/5/1914

“The Bowling Green.....

Hill Top v BELL HOTEL, Rood End. Played at Hill Top and won by Hill Top by 245 points to 156.”

A team from here played in the West Bromwich Bowls League. [1914], [1916]

Jack, Will and Ted Judge performed a second benefit concert here in aid of Will Round (who had been crippled in WW1) on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1916. See also GATE.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/7/1916

“The Game of Bowls ..... West Bromwich League.....

BELL HOTEL, Rood End v Dartmouth Park. Played at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End.”

[The BELL won 217 to 199.]

London Gazette 12/6/1917 - Notice

“Friendly Societies Act, 1896. Advertisement of Dissolution by Instrument.

Notice is hereby given, that the Pride Of The Bell, Lodge No.1048, of the West Bromwich and Smethwick District of the National United Order Of Free Gardeners Friendly Society, held at the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, is dissolved by Instrument, registered at this office, the 5th. day of June, 1917, 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 Branch, to set aside such dissolution, and the same be set aside accordingly.

G. Stuart Robertson, Chief Registrar, Dean Stanley-street, Westminster, the 5th day of June, 1917.”

Dudley Chronicle 14/5/1921

“Bowling ..... Langley & District League.....

BELL HOTEL, Rood End v VICTORIA, Blackheath.”

[The BELL won 157 to 152.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/6/1926

“Feeding the Children.....

One of the stark facts about the Midland coalfields at the moment is that thousands of children come down to bare tables in the morning and have to wait for their first meal of the day until the group feeding stations open at noon or thereabouts. The relieving organisations are doing everything they can with the funds at their disposal. The wonderful shifts they are making with inadequate means to cope with all the demands made upon them constitute one of the most gallant stories of the coal stoppage. They are doing truly admirable work. But they do not possess funds enough to do all that should be done. They need more money, and they are looking to readers of the *Birmingham Gazette* for aid.

Subscriptions.....

RAOB, Rood End Lodge, BELL HOTEL, Rod End, Oldbury, 5s.”

Sheffield Independent 19/3/1935 - Advert

“Bar General or Domestic willing to learn, live in; good references.

BELL INN, Rood End, Oldbury, near Birmingham.”

Rood End Lodge (No.3909) of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes met here. [1935]

Oldbury Amateurs FC had their headquarters here, in the loft above the coaching stables. [1936]

It had a bowling green. [1936]

Sheffield Independent 1/9/1936 - Advert

“Bar-General, at once; live in; good references.

BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, near Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/9/1937 - Deaths

“*Price*. On the 7<sup>th</sup> inst, at Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich, *Thomas John Joseph*, beloved husband of

Rose, of the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, passed away after a short illness, aged 42. Requiem Mass at St. Francis Xavier's, Oldbury, 9.30am, Friday, September 10; internment Oldbury Cemetery, 10.15. RIP."

*Thomas John Joseph Price* – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tat Bank.

#### Birmingham Mail 4/1/1939 - Advert

"Bar-General Wanted, experienced M. and B.; live in.  
*Harvey*, BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury."

#### 1939 Register

127, Rood End Road

[1] *Benjamin Harvey*, date of birth 9/4/1890, manager BELL HOTEL Rood End, married;

[2] Mary Ann Harvey, dob 2/6/1891, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Benjamin Harvey, dob 6/2/1916, carpenter, building trade, single;

[4] Ethel Jane Harper, dob 13/8/1917, barmaid BELL HOTEL, single:

#### Evening Despatch 5/4/1939

"When *Benjamin Harvey*, aged 24, of the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury, was stopped while driving a motor-car in Dudley Road, Tividale, at 9pm on 18 February, and told he was exceeding the speed limit, he told the policeman, 'I am in a hurry to meet my girl at 9.15.'

When *Harvey* was summoned at Oldbury today for exceeding 30mph his solicitor, Mr. Vincent Matthews, said the offence was admitted, but reminded the Bench that it was spring-time, a period of the year when a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love. Perhaps when his client got a bit older and the romance came to fruition, he might not be in such a hurry to keep such an appointment.

It was alleged that *Harvey's* speed was between 40mph and 50mph. He was fined £2."

#### Birmingham Mail 22/5/1939

"Five occupants of the BELL HOTEL, Rood End, Langley, the licensee of which is Mr. *Benjamin Harvey*, had lucky escapes during a fire on the premises early yesterday. At about 5am Mr. *Harvey*, who with his wife was in a bedroom over the bar, awoke and found the room full of smoke. He aroused the other inmates of the house – his son and two barmaids. Their exit by the stairs was made impossible by dense smoke rising from the bar. Windows were flung open, and cries for help were heard by Mr. E. A. Savage, who lives in adjoining premises. He roused other neighbours, ladders were brought from the premises of Mr. S. Smith, slater, and all the occupants descended the ladders. Mrs. *Harvey*, who is in ill-health, had to be assisted from the premises.

Oldbury Fire Brigade was engaged for two hours. Damage estimated at about £300 was done to the premises and furniture and many spirits were destroyed. The cause of the fire is believed to be the overheating of a slow combustion stove in the bar."

#### Evening Despatch 24/8/1945

"Alleged to have called at the public house and behaved in a truculent manner, and created a disturbance, Thomas Poole, of the Pioneer Corps, 3, Bell Fold, Rood End, Oldbury, home on leave from Holland, was at Oldbury today fined 20s on each of three summonses for assaulting *Benjamin Harvey* licensee of the BELL INN, Rood End, and his wife, and also for damaging two windows at the inn to the extent of £7, which he was also ordered to pay."

*Benjamin Harvey* died in 1951.

*William J. E. Palmer* – see also VINE, West Bromwich.

*Eric Every* – see also STEAM PACKET, West Bromwich.

*Michael David Ford* – see also ROYAL OAK, Rounds Green.



A team from here took part in the Spon Lane Dominoes League. [1966], [1967]

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1968

“In an intensive and very informal visit to Birmingham yesterday, the Duke of Edinburgh met hundreds of people, ranging from industrial designers to pastry cooks.....

But for most of the day, the tone of the tour was lighthearted and never more so than during his one-hour visit to the College of Food. He was greeted by hundreds of students and staff and shown the many aspects of the college’s life. Two of the first students he spoke to were Mrs. Ida Jenking, of the Hydraulic Inn, Lodge Road, Hockley, and Mrs. Kay *Bolter*, of the BELL, Rood End, Oldbury. Both licensee’s wives, they were asked by the Duke if they ‘specialised in those sandwiches which turn up at the end.’ Mrs. Jenking replied that she did not and that the Duke would have to pay a visit to their public houses, adding, ‘We have some nice sausage rolls as well.’ The Duke replied, ‘That’s good. No one seems to know how to make good sausage rolls any more’.”

Daily Mirror 25/1/1972 - Letter

“When you have to wait to turn on TV.

Miss Jean *Wright*, of the BELL INN, Rood End Road, Warley, Worcs, writes.

Yes, I can well appreciate the point of view of the reader who objected to the late screening of some good programmes on ITV and BBC. May I therefore respectfully suggest that he try to see my side of the story, which applies to hundreds of other people in my position?

I have lived in a public house all my life and besides working behind the bar every night, I do a full-time office job as well. So it is a real pleasure on a Saturday night to finish cleaning up and then go into the living room for a bite of supper with the family and watch the Midnight Movie. The same applies on Sunday night when we can watch ‘Danger Man’ after ‘time.’

We used to enjoy watching the Saturday afternoon film on BBC2 but, since it now starts at 2pm, it is almost over by the time we manage to sit down. However, we do appreciate the fact that the programmes are periodically shown at different times to enable all viewers to see them at the time most suitable to themselves. So you see, we are just one of the many families who enjoy watching the Late Shows, especially after serving the public their nightly sustenance.

As long as the programmes are eventually changed back to our times we are quite prepared to wait our turn. When the problem is looked at logically it is quite easy to see that both ITV and BBC do a pretty good job of trying to please everyone.”

Daily Mirror 28/4/1973

“Another twenty candidates in the *Daily Mirror* Barmaid of the Year competition will be interviewed by a panel of judges today. Five barmaids will be chosen by the judges to go forward to the Grand Final to be held at London’s Café Royal on May 15. The winner will receive £1,000, £250 for a party for her regular customers, and another £250 to spend on clothes. The candidates are.....

Miss Carol A. *Wright*, BELL INN, Rood End Road, Oldbury, Warley, Worcs.”

Express & Star 11/8/2022

“A landmark Oldbury pub ‘at the heart of the local community’ is up for sale for £90k. The BELL INN business is for sale on a leasehold basis, with the rent £2,500 a month. The current owner, who has run the pub for 19 years, is retiring and there is a chance for a new owner to take the reins. Sales notes state, ‘This is a superb opportunity to take on a popular and well used local business in an area teeming with customers. There has been a public house at this site for many years and the current owner has run it for the last 19 years during which time it has accrued an impressive number of regular customers along with a fantastic reputation. The business can truly be said to be at the heart of the local community and has been a real labour of love for the owner. The business is now being sold, albeit reluctantly and with heavy heart, only due to the vendor’s wish to take a well-earned retirement; he is keen to see his beloved public house pass to an ambitious and entrepreneurial new owner who can take this already thriving business to the next level.’ It states that the pub is popular with locals but also has customers that travel from some way away, such is its

popularity and it enjoys some lovely reviews....”

[2022]

## **BELL**

10, (7), Rounds Green, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Thomas Knight  
Thomas Hadley, Talbot Street, Oldbury  
Mary Ann Hadley, Rounds Green  
William Hadley  
Hannah Hadley  
William Henry Hadley  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1938) [1950s]

## **LICENSEES**

Samuel Johnson [1823]  
Alfred Taylor [1841] – [1863]  
Samuel Newey Johnson [1861] – **1863**;  
George Minchin (**1863** – [1873]  
Thomas Knight [1876] – [1886]  
William Hadley [1886] – **1900**);  
Mrs. Hannah Hadley (**1900** – **1937**);  
William Henry Hadley (**1937** – **1938**);  
Arthur Withers (**1938** – **1939**);  
William Thomas Taylor (**1939** – **1940**);  
Isaiah Lacey (**1940** – **1941**);  
John Henry ‘Jack’ Merchant (**1941** – **1944**);  
Walter Higgins (**1944** – **1951**);  
Charles Archibald Ackroyd (**1951** – **1956**):

## **NOTES**

7, Rounds Green [1873], [1871]  
10, Rounds Green [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939]

### **1841 Census**

Rounds Green

[1] *Alfred Taylor* (40), victualler;  
[2] Nancy Taylor (40);  
[3] Harriett Taylor (12);  
[4] Samuel Taylor (9);  
[5] Ann Taylor (7);  
[6] Amplias Taylor (4);

[7] Montague Taylor (9 months);

[8] Mary Lacey (19), f.s.:

#### Worcester Journal 8/10/1846

“Another of those accidents, which are of almost of weekly occurrence in the mining districts, and in many instances of a nature that is impossible can be foreseen, occurred on Friday, in the coal pit of Messrs. Hunt, near Oldbury. On the day in question, a man named John Powell was employed at work as usual in the workings of the pit, when an immense quantity of coal gave way, burying him under it, and crushing him to death on the spot. An inquest was held on the body before George Hinchliffe, Esq, at the BELL, Rounds Green, Oldbury, on Monday, when the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### 1851 Census

Rounds Green

[1] *Alfred Taylor* (50), edge tool maker, victualler, and grocer, born Rowley;

[2] Nancy Taylor (51), wife, born Langley;

[3] Ann Taylor (16), daughter, born Rounds Green;

[4] John Grigg Taylor (8), son, scholar, born Rounds Green:

*Alfred Taylor* was also a grocer and provision dealer. [1854]

#### Birmingham Journal 1/11/1856

“On Monday, R. Docker, Esq, held an adjourned inquest at the house of Mr. *Alfred Taylor*, the BELL INN, Rounds Green, on the body of Daniel Harris, a young man, who was injured by a fall of coals in the Tiger Pit, belonging to Messrs. Bennitt and Taylor, on Saturday week. Another man was injured at the same time, but not fatally. Four or five hundred weight of coals fell upon them. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Anne Taylor married *Samuel Newey Johnson* on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1856.

*Samuel Newey Johnson* was also a brickmaker. [1861]

#### 1861 Census

Round Green – BELL INN

[1] *Samuel Newey Johnson* (27), victualler and brickmaker, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Ann Johnson (27), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Alfred Newey Johnson (2), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Mary Millaship (18), general servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/6/1867 - Deaths

“On the 24<sup>th</sup> ult, aged 33 years, Ann, wife of *Samuel Newey Johnson*, and second daughter of *A. Taylor*, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 21/3/1863 - Advert

“Rounds Green, Oldbury. To Publicans, Butchers, Grocers, and Others.

A Good Old-Established Old-Licensed Inn, and Shop, and Premises, the BELL INN, situated as above, fronting the main road, and near the important Works of the Brades Company, and surrounded by Boiler Works, Brick Yards, and Collieries, and has been in the occupation of the present Proprietor, Mr. *Taylor*, for upwards of forty years, who is retiring from business.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, the above well-accustomed Old-licensed Inn, Shop, and Premises.

The Premises are most centrally situated and complete; they consist of Front Tap Room, Bar, Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, Large Club Room, 3 Bed Rooms, Servants' Kitchen, Brewery, 2 good Cellars, Stabling for 6 Horses, lock-up Coach House, and Yard, with a Front Shop adjoining, with a good Supply of Water. Rent

£25 per annum.

Coming in will be reduced to suit a Purchaser.

For further Particulars and to Treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

*George Minchin* = George Minchen = George Minshen

Birmingham Daily Post 3/8/1863

“*George Minchen*, BELL INN, Rounds Green, was charged with having kept his house open on Sunday, July 5, before half-past twelve at middle day. Fined 5s and costs, or one month’s imprisonment with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1864

“The annual meeting for the granting and renewal of licenses for the Oldbury and Hales Owen district was held yesterday.....

All the applications for renewals of licenses were granted, the following being cautioned in consequence of complaints having been made by the police ..... *George Minchin*, BELL INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1864 - Letter

“To the Editor of the Birmingham Daily Post.

Sir, it is made to appear, in your impression of Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, that at the annual meeting for granting and renewing of licenses for Oldbury and Hales Owen districts, the following persons were cautioned, in consequence of complaints having been made by the police. Thomas Welch, BLACK HORSE INN; Benjamin Garner, HARMONIC INN; *George Minchin*, BELL INN, Rounds Green; also John Ballard, RED COW INN, all of Oldbury. Now, in fairness and justice to the police, we wish it to be understood that not in regard to any of the above persons charged was a single complaint made by the police, neither was any intimation given in any way, until actually confronted by the Magistrates themselves, which quite astounded all the accused. The matter of fact is, that the Magistrates had been furnished with a private note by some person, who, knowing the truth was absent, had not the manliness to make the charge in person; excepting in the case of Thomas Welch, who was informed against by a neighbour. Thus the accused were not afforded an opportunity to be legally represented, to have those accusations rebuffed. By inserting the above, you will oblige, your obedient servants.

Thomas Welch, Benjamin Garner, *George Minchin*, John Ballard.  
Oldbury, September 21, 1864.”

County Advertiser 15/9/1866

“The annual licensing meeting of the magistrates was held on Tuesday.....

The following licenses were suspended till the adjourned meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst, to enable further enquiries to be made ..... *George Minchin*, BELL, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1866

“At the Public office, on Tuesday, at the close of the usual business, the Magistrates proceeded to determine on the licenses which were suspended at the first meeting, and decided as follows. The licenses of ..... BELL, Rounds Green, kept by *G. Minchin* ..... would be granted, promises being given for future good management.”

1871 Census

7, Rounds Green

[1] *George Minchin* (43), labourer, born Rounds Green;

[2] Mary Ann Minchin (45), wife, born Rounds Green;

[3] George Minchin (20), son, labourer, born Rounds Green;

[4] Betsy Minchin (17), daughter, born Rounds Green;

[5] Thomas Minchin (20), son, labourer;

[6] William Minchin (17), son, labourer:

#### 1881 Census

7, Rounds Green – BELL

[1] *Thomas Knight* (61), converter of steel, born Gunthorpe, Nottinghamshire;

[2] Mary J. Knight (47), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Phoebe Knight (21), daughter, domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[4] William Knight (19), son, steel roller, born Oldbury;

[5] John Knight (17), son, hardener of steel, born Oldbury;

[6] Ruth Elizabeth Knight (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] Mary J. Knight (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[8] Joseph Kirkham (71), father-in-law, Brades iron stock taker, born Oldbury;

[9] Mary James (8), visitor, scholar, born Oldbury;

[10] Ann Sela Careless (6), visitor, scholar, born Oldbury;

[11] Harry Woodhouse (3), son's wife's son, illegitimate?, born Oldbury:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 1/10/1881

“Mr. Shakespeare appeared on behalf of *Thomas Knight*, of the BELL INN, Rounds Green, and asked for a renewal of the license, which was adjourned from the annual meeting in consequence of the license being endorsed for permitting drunkenness. Mr. Shakespeare said his client regretted very much the circumstances which caused the Justices to come to that decision, and through him promised to conduct his house as well as possible in the future. He had kept the house upwards of nine years, and during that time no complaint had been made against the house. He put in a memorial from the inhabitants of the place, stating that he was a respectable man, and always conducted his house in an exemplary manner.

Mr. Avery said he remembered the case against *Knight*. Mr. Chance, Mr. Wilson, and himself heard the case, and the reason they did not impose a greater fine was the good character *Knight* had previously borne. They recollected *Knight's* good character then and they recollected it now, and, therefore would grant a renewal of the license; but it should be understood that while they supported all respectable publicans it was their duty, in the interests of order, that these lapses of duty should be corrected.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/4/1886 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold Properties, near Oldbury.

Mr. Thomas Howell is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday, April 28, at 6 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society, the undermentioned Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. All that exceedingly well-situated full-licensed Corner Public House and Premises, known as the BELL INN, Rounds Green, near Oldbury, in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Knight*, and worth a rental of £30 per annum; together with the adjoining Dwelling House, tenanted by Mr. William Macefield, and producing £7 16s per annum.

This Property, upon which a considerable sum of money has been recently expended, occupies an important position with extensive frontages, and an entire area of 522 square yards.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1886

“From Last Night's London Gazette.....

First Meetings and Dates of Public Examination.....

*Thomas Knight*, BELL INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, licensed victualler and journeyman steel converter.

Public examination, June 28, at the Oldbury Court.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 14/8/1886

“*William Hadley*, landlord of the BELL INN, Rounds Green, was summoned for supplying beer to a person who was drunk upon his licensed premises. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Police-constable Smith stated that he saw the man at the defendant's house drunk. He called the landlord's attention to him, who had the man ejected. In reply to Mr. Shakespeare, witness said he had not seen the

man supplied with any beer in the house.

Mr. Shakespeare contended there was no evidence that the defendant had supplied any beer, and the case was dismissed.”

AND

“Charles Westwood (43), of Rounds Green, Oldbury, labourer, was fined 5s and costs for being drunk at the BELL INN, on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Police-constable Smith proved the charge.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 28/8/1886

“The annual Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday.....

The following persons had been summoned for offences against the licensing laws, and dealt with as follows  
..... Licensed Victuallers.....

*William Hadley*, selling to drunken persons, on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, dismissed.”

*William Hadley*, brewer and beer retailer, 40, Chapel Street, Rounds Green. [1888]

*William Hadley*, brewer, Bath Row Brewery, Oldbury [1892]

#### 1891 Census

10, Rounds Green – BELL INN

[1] *William Hadley* (46), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Hannah Hadley* (45), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *William Hadley* (16), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] *Mary Jane Hadley* (14), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] *Thomas Hadley* (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *Florrie Hadley* (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] *Alfred Hadley* (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury:

*William Hadley* died in 1893.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/8/1893 - Advert

“Oldbury. Important Sale of Freehold Properties, including Two Exceedingly-valuable Full-Licensed Public Houses.

Mr. Thomas Howell is instructed by the Trustees under the Will of the late Mr. Thomas Hadley, to Sell by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday, August 16, 1893, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society, the under-mentioned Excellent Freehold Properties.....

Lot 3. All that old-established, well-accustomed, and desirably-situated Freehold Full-Licensed Free Public House, with the Brewhouse and Out-buildings attached thereto, known as the BELL INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, together with the adjoining Dwelling House, occupied by Mr. Heath.

The BELL INN occupies a good corner position, and is a well-known house, doing an excellent business.

The sale will include the goodwill, and possession may be had on completion.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 15/8/1893 - Advert

“By Mr. Thomas Howell, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, Tomorrow (Wednesday), August 16, at Six o'clock pm (by order of the Trustees under the Will of the late Thomas Hadley).

Lot 1. The Freehold Full-Licensed Free Public House, known as the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, Oldbury, with the Goodwill and Possession on completion.

Lot 2. Three Dwelling Houses, adjoining Lot 1. Rental £25 per annum.

Lot 3. The Freehold Full-Licensed Free Public House, known as the BELL INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, with the Goodwill and Possession on completion.....”

#### 1901 Census

10, Rounds Green

- [1] *Hannah Hadley* (54), widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *William H. Hadley* (26), son, brewer, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Mary J. Hadley* (24), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Thomas Hadley* (22), son, assistant brewer, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Florrie Hadley* (19), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Alfred Hadley* (17), son, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Mail 28/9/1904

“Today, Mr. E. Docker (Coroner) held an inquest at the BELL INN, Rounds Green, respecting the death of Herbert Henry Brookes (23), fitter, formerly residing in Brades Road, who died on Monday last, from the effects of bruises [sic] sustained on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst whilst employed at an iron foundry belonging to Messrs. J. W. Brookes and Co. Limited. Mr. T. Dawes represented the widow of the deceased, Mr. V. G. Milward (instructed by Messrs. Thomas, Guest and Pearson) appeared for the firm, and Mr. H. Jackson (Inspector of Factories) also attended.

James William Brookes, father of the deceased, and managing director of the company, stated that the deceased was employed as a foreman fitter at the works. In reply to Mr. Milward, witness said there was no defect in the machinery used for moving the molten metal, so far as he knew, and no complaints had been received from the workmen of any defects. Deceased was a practical man, and had served his apprenticeship to the trade, being well acquainted with the methods in use in a foundry. At the time of the accident the men were engaged in an ordinary operation for casting. In reply to Mr. Dawes, witness stated that he had examined the blocks and crane used since the accident, but had failed to discover any defects in any portion of them. He could not account for the accident unless the men engaged in pouring the molten metal lost their presence of mind temporarily. Such an accident ought not to have occurred.

Samuel Chapman, also a director of the company and manager of the foundry department, and who was present at the time of the accident, said the deceased and a number of other men were about to cast a large bed plate. One ladle containing about four tons of molten metal was at one end of the mould, whilst at the other end was another ladle containing about 27cwt of the metal. The deceased and two other men were near the smaller ladle, which in order to make it safe was being hooked to a small crane when from some unexplained cause the ladle tipped over on a stand upon which it had been placed, and the molten metal began to flow over the floor of the foundry on the side where deceased was standing. The deceased jumped to get out of the way, and in doing so fell down in the metal. He, however, managed to escape through the door, and in his agony leaped into a pool of water in the yard. He was pulled out of the water and conveyed to his father's house on the premises, where he remained until his death. In reply to the Coroner, witness said he did not see the accident happen, and his idea was that it was caused through the three men in charge of the ladle failing to see that it was safely hooked to the smaller crane. Both cranes and hooks were in perfect order. He did not consider that blame attached to anyone.

The father of the deceased, in reply to further question by the Coroner, said he could not understand how the accident happened, and he did not know how the large crane came to be disconnected before the smaller one was connected.

In answer to Mr. Milward, Mr. Chapman said the ladle which slipped over would have been safe on the stand without the crane, which is connected to it as a double safeguard.

Dr. Harper, who attended the deceased, described the terrible injuries which he had sustained to the hands, arms, face right side, and legs, and Mr. Jackson said he had no complaint to make of any infringement of the Factory Acts.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, no blame being attached to any one. They also expressed sympathy with the parents and widow of the deceased man.

Today, upon enquiry at West Bromwich Hospital, our representative was informed that the other two injured men are making satisfactory progress towards recovery.”

#### 1911 Census

10, Rounds Green – BELL INN

- [1] *Hannah Hadley* (65), widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *William Henry Hadley* (36), son, brewer, born Oldbury;

[3] Thomas Hadley (32), son, blacksmith's striker, born Oldbury;  
[4] Alfred Hadley (27), son, warehouseman, born Oldbury:

*Hannah Hadley* was also a brewer. [1916], [1921]

*Hannah Hadley* died in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1937.

#### 1939 Register

10, Rounds Green (2 of 3)

[1] *William T. Taylor*, date of birth 23/9/1900, manager public house, married;

[2] Sarah (Taylor) Beeson, dob 31/12/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;

It had a small brick structure at the front left – this was the gents toilet. [c.1940]

*William Thomas Taylor* – see also NORTH WESTERN, and SOHO FOUNDRY TAVERN, both in Smethwick.

*John Merchant* died in 1972.

A team from here took part in the Tividale and District Darts League. [1952]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/2/1955 - Notice

“County of Worcester. Petty Sessional Division of Oldbury. Licensing Act 1953.

Notice of Application for Removal of Publican's Licence.

To: The Clerk to the Rating Authority of the Borough of Oldbury, the Clerk to the Licensing Justices for the said Petty Sessional Division of Oldbury, in the County of Worcester, the Chief Officer of Police of the Area in which the land hereinafter mentioned is situate And to all others whom it may concern.

We, Mitchells & Butlers Limited of Cape Hill Brewery, Smethwick, in the County of Stafford, Brewers, do Hereby Give Notice that it is our intention to Apply at the Second Session of the General Annual Licensing Meeting for the said Division to be held at the Court House, Oldbury, at 10.30 in the forenoon on Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 1955, for a Provisional Grant of an Ordinary Removal of the Licence to hold any of the Excise Licences that may be held by a Publican to sell by retail under the said Act Intoxicating Liquors to be consumed either on or off the premises from the BELL INN, Rounds Green, in the Borough of Oldbury, in the County of Worcester, to a messuage and premises to be erected on land in Perry Hill Road, being part of Coopers Farm, approximately 210 yards from the corner of Brennand Road, in the Borough of Oldbury in the said County of Worcester of which Land we, Mitchell & Butlers Limited of Cape Hill Brewery, Smethwick, aforesaid, are the owners.

Signed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February 1955.

For and On Behalf of Mitchells & Butlers Limited.

C. Stanley Best, Executive Director.

Witness: Edward Jones, Clerk to Messrs. Johnson & Co, 85 and 87, Cornwall Street, Birmingham.

There is a Provisional Grant in force in respect of the above mentioned land. The object of the present application is merely to submit revised plans for approval of the Licensing Justices.”

It closed on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1956 on the making final the order in respect of the removal of the license to premises known as the PERRY HILL TAVERN.

#### **BIRD IN HAND**

Park Street, OLDBURY



## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

### **BIRD IN HAND**

2, (3), Rounds Green, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Thomas Hadley

Mary Ann Hadley

Sarah Ann Nickless

Thomas Plant and Co. Ltd. (Plant's Brewery Ltd.), Netherton [1909]

Ansell Ltd. (acquired in 1937)

## LICENSEES

Isaac Hadley [1760] – [1766]

William Hadley [1769] – [1770]

Ann Crowley [1822]

Thomas Hadley [1828] – **1847**)

Mrs. Martha Hadley [1850]

Mrs. Esther Hadley [1850] – **1868**);

Thomas Hadley (**1868** – [1884]

Mrs. Esther Hadley [1870]

Mary Ann Hadley [1884] – **1886**);

Isaac Hadley (**1886** – **1894**);

William Nickless (**1894** – [1896];

Sarah Ann Nickless [1900] – **1901**);

Joseph Plant (**1901** – **1902**);

Harry Plant (**1902**);

Plant's Brewery Ltd. (**1902** – **1905**);

Lewis Skelding [1904]

John Carter (**1905** – **1906**);

Joseph Goode (**1906** – **1908**);

John Smith (**1908** – **1921**);

Sarah Ann Smith (**1921**);

Thomas Henry Ward (**1921** – **1956**):

## NOTES

3, Rounds Green [1871], [1873], [1881]

2, Rounds Green [1891], [1892], [1901], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/11/1839 - Advert

“Most Desirable Properties in Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Thomas Pitt Stokes, at the TALBOT INN, in the town of Oldbury, this present Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, at five o’clock in the afternoon, in such lots as will be specified in printed particulars as may be then determined – the following important and valuable Properties, in the centre of the flourishing and increasing town of Oldbury, commanding obvious advantages, and occupying a range of frontages in the best situation, thus rendering them admirably well calculated for the various branches of business which are now so extensively and lucratively pursued in that thriving place.

The Butcher’s Shop and Premises in the occupation of Benjamin Elwell.

The Saddler’s Shop lately occupied by Thomas Lancaster.

That well-known, long-established, and first-rate Inn, called the TALBOT, in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Parish, with its Brewery, Stabling, Coach-house, large Yard, Garden, and other suitable conveniences for carrying on the business of an Innkeeper to a large and profitable extent.

The Draper’s Shop and Premises in the occupation of Mr. George Purser.

The Dwelling House and Premises in the occupation of John Green, Fruiterer.

The Dwelling House, Outbuildings, and Premises in the occupation of Thomas Nock.

The Dwelling House, Shop, Stabling, and other Premises in the occupation of William Hinds, Baker.

A capital old licensed Public House, called the RED COW, with a large Club-room, &c and Stabling, Slaughter-house, and other Premises in the occupation of Joseph Bate.

A Dwelling House and Premises in the occupation of Sarah Jewkes.

A Butcher’s Shop and Premises in the occupation of Henry Bate.

All the above properties adjoin together and are Freehold.

An excellent Dwelling House, Stable, Piggery, Garden, Land, and Premises, in the centre of the town of Oldbury, in the occupation of Benjamin Elwell.

Three Dwelling Houses, Gardens and Premises at the back, in the occupation Joseph Booton, Thomas Gibbs, and William Hall.

The last-described Properties are Copyhold.

A well-accustomed Freehold Public House, called the BIRD IN HAND, at Rounds Green, within a short distance of the town of Oldbury, and surrounded by Collieries and Ironworks, with the new Club-room, Stabling, Garden, and Premises in the occupation of *Thomas Hadley*.

Another Freehold Dwelling House and Premises, at Rounds Green, in the occupation of Joseph Drewry.

An adjoining Dwelling House, Stable, and Premises in the occupation of Samuel Turvey.

Printed particulars and all further information may be obtained from Mr. W. Fellowes, Solicitor, Dudley.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 6/4/1840 - Advert

“Very Valuable Freehold Property. To be Sold by private Contract, in the town of Oldbury.

Lot I. That well-known, long-established, and first-rate Inn called the TALBOT, in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Parish, to which are attached Brewhouse, Stabling, Coach-house, large Yard, Garden, Piggeries, &c, with a Butcher’s Shop and Sadler’s Shop.

Lot II. A Dwelling House, with a well-accustomed Draper’s Shop and Premises, with large Bakehouse at the back, in the occupation of Mr. George Purser.

Lot III. A capital old-licensed and well-accustomed Public House, called the RED COW, with a Dwelling House, a Butcher’s Shop, and a considerable Plot of Land at the back, large Club-room, Slaughter-house, Piggeries, an excellent Pump of water, &c, in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Bate.

The above property fronts the principal street in the centre of Oldbury.

Lot IV. A long-established and well-accustomed Public House, called the BIRD IN HAND, at Rounds Green, within a short distance of the town of Oldbury, and surrounded by Collieries and Iron Works, with large Garden fronting the road, new Club-room, Stabling, and other Premises, in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Hadley*.

Lot V. Two Dwelling Houses adjoining the last lot, with new Stable, fit to be converted into a Dwelling House, in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Druary and Mr. William Turvey.

For further particulars and to treat for the same apply to Mr. J. P. Smart Oldbury.”

1841 Census

## Rounds Green

- [1] *Thomas Hadley* (45), steel caster;
- [2] *Ester Hadley* (40);
- [3] *Harriett Hadley* (15);
- [4] *Sarah Hadley* (10);
- [5] *Mary Hadley* (5);
- [6] *Joseph Hadley* (3):

## Birmingham Journal 4/7/1846

“The anniversary of the Friendly Britons Lodge, MU, was celebrated on Monday week by a sumptuous dinner at Mrs. Pendlebury’s, CART AND HORSES.....

We are informed that on the above day there was also a feast at the house of Hostess Cartwright, SPRING COTTAGE; also a Friendly Club Meeting celebrated their anniversary at Host Fowler’s, of the WHITE HORSE INN; and at Host *Hadley*’s, of the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green. We have not received particulars of these celebrations, which passed off to the satisfaction of all who took part in them.”

## Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1847 - Deaths

“On the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult, Mr. *Thomas Hadley*, aged 56, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, Oldbury. He had been employed at the Brades Works forty-six years, and was respected by all who knew him.”

Mrs. *Martha Hadley*, BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green. [1850]

*Esther Hadley* = *Easther Hadley* = *Ester Hadley* = *Hester Hadley*

## 1851 Census

### Rounds Green

- [1] *Ester Hadley* (51), widow, innkeeper, born Brettell Lane;
- [2] *Mary Ann Hadley* (15), daughter, assists innkeeper, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Joseph Hadley* (13), son, blacksmith, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Ann Barnsley* (22), general servant, born Oldbury:

## 1861 Census

### Rounds Green – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *Esther Hadley* (61), widow, licensed victualler, born Brettell Lane;
- [2] *Mary Ann Hadley* (25), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Thomas Hadley* (4), grand-son, scholar, born Oldbury:

## Birmingham Journal 18/5/1861 - Advert

“If the Cart left at Mrs. *Hadley*’s, the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, Oldbury, about two months ago, is not fetched away within three days after this Notice, it will be Sold to defray expenses.”

## Sporting Life 13/9/1865

“Moore informs Hughes, of Oldbury, that if he is not satisfied with his recent defeat he can have a new match, at catchweight, for £25 a-side, or as much more as he likes. Money ready at *Hadley*’s, BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green.”

## Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/5/1866

“Tim Thomas of Tividale and J. Onions of Rounds Green. £5 10s a side is now down, and a further deposit of £1 a side has to be made at *Hadley*’s, BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green this (Saturday) evening. Match to come off on June 4.”

## Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/2/1867

“W. Price and W. Bouchard have signed articles to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, at the Britannia Grounds,

Tipton, on March 25. They have to make a further deposit at the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, next Saturday.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/10/1867 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Building Properties and Land, with the Minerals Thereunder, at Rounds Green, Oldbury, Overend and Cradley Fields, near Cradley, and Copyhold Land with Farm House and Cottages Thereon, and Minerals Thereunder, at Mincing Lane, Rowley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. James and Lister Lea, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October inst, at Seven o'clock to the minute, subject to conditions to be then produced, and in the following lots.

Rounds Green, Oldbury.

Lot 1. All that Freehold Tavern, known as the BIRD IN HAND, situated as above, comprising Parlour, Tap Room, Bar, Club Room, Kitchen, Brewhouse, Lodge Room, and two Bed Rooms; Stabling, Garden, Bowling Alley, Piggeries, &c, in the occupation of Mrs. *Esther Hadley*; together with the Three Houses adjoining. This lot contains an area of 912 square yards or thereabouts, and there is a considerable frontage of the Land unoccupied, which may be used for Building.....”

The Sportsman 24/4/1869

“W. Boucher, of West Bromwich, will run H. Booth, of Wednesbury, 100 or 110 yards level; or he will take one yard start in 110 yards, or two yards in 120 yards, of T. Evans, of Darlaston, for £10 or £15 a-side. Money ready at the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green.”

*Thomas Hadley (Jnr)* married Mary Ann Turner, the daughter of Stephen Turner, landlord of the PERROTT ARMS, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1840.

1871 Census

3, Rounds Green

- [1] *Thomas Hadley* (51), steel melter, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Hadley* (50), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Henry Hadley* (21), son, smith, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Hannah Hadley* (16), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Thomas Hadley* (14), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Mary Ann Hadley* (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 17/4/1871

“Oldbury. Board of Health.

The first meeting after the election of the members of this Board was held on Friday morning last, at the Clerk's office, Church Street. Mr. William Underhill was unanimously appointed chairman. Attention was called by Mr. Showell to the recent election, and to several cases of tampering with the voting papers. Mr. James Sadler made a statement to the effect that a number of voting papers were filled up by a person named Stamps, at the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, in a very irregular and improper manner, names being forged and crosses affixed without the authority of the voters. It was much to be regretted that the Board could not take the matter up and punish the offenders, instead of the prosecution being left to the person aggrieved.”

Dudley Herald 13/1/1872

“Sold by auction by Mr. Bateman ..... on 22<sup>nd</sup> January ..... all the old licensed public house ..... BIRD IN HAND ..... with the brewhouse, stabling, spacious yard ..... now in occupation of Mr. *Thomas Hadley* at the yearly rent of £19 10s”

1881 Census

3, Rounds Green – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *Thomas Hadley* (61), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Ann Hadley* (60), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Thomas Hadley* (24), son, schoolmaster, born Oldbury;

[4] *Harry Hadley* (13), grand-son, scholar, born Oldbury:

Dudley and District News 24/9/1881

“An inquest was held at the BIRD IN HAND public house, Rounds Green, Oldbury, on Monday afternoon, on the bodies of *Zachariah Mason* (7), and *Albert Mason* (5), the sons of *Benjamin Mason*, a collier, residing in *Newbury Lane*, *Rounds Green*, and who met with a shocking death on the tramway used for the purpose of conveying coal from the *Blue Fly Colliery* to the wharf at the side of the *Birmingham Canal* at *Rounds Green*, on Saturday afternoon. *Mr. Docker* was the coroner.

The children were playing on the tramway and being scared, they took to their heels, running up the tramway in the direction of the colliery. They were met by a ‘journey’ of wagons, and the space being only of sufficient width to admit the passage of the wagons the bodies of the two children were crushed.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1884

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday.....

*Mary Ann Hadley*, of the BIRD IN HAND, *Rounds Green*, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises, on the 17 inst. Police-constable *Smith* said he visited defendant’s house twice on the day named, and on each occasion found four men there drunk. The Bench imposed a fine of 20s, and the costs 11s.

*Joseph Price*, *Joseph Stone*, *Richard Crump*, and *Joseph Harrold* were charged with being drunk on the premises, and were each fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/6/1884

“*Mary Ann Hadley*, of the BIRD IN HAND INN, *Rounds Green*, was summoned for selling intoxicating drinks in an unauthorised place, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst.

Police-constable *Smith* deposed that on the day named he saw a number of people congregated on a piece of ground adjoining defendant’s back premises. A walking match was going on, and he saw drink being sold there.

*Mr. Shakespeare*, who appeared for the defence, admitted the facts, but contended that the piece of land in question was formerly used as a peg alley, and formed part of the licensed premises. The Bench adjourned the case for the production of further evidence upon this point.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/8/1884

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday.....

*Mary Ann Hadley*, of the BIRD IN HAND, *Rounds Green*, appeared in answer to an adjourned summons charging her with selling on unlicensed premises. *Mr. Shakespeare*, who appeared to defend, said the case was adjourned two months ago in order that it might be ascertained whether the piece of land on which the sale took place and the public house were under one assessment.

*Mr. E. Wright*, assistant overseer and poor rate collector, stated that the land in question and the public house were assessed together, and had always been one property. The case was dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1884

“The annual licensing session for Oldbury Petty Sessional division was held yesterday.....

The whole of the licenses were renewed with the exception of those held by.....

*Mary Ann Hadley*, BIRD IN HAND, *Rounds Green* ..... all of which were deferred until the adjourned licensing day.”

Smethwick Telephone 27/9/1884

“The adjourned licensing session for the division of Oldbury was held at the Police Court on Tuesday.....

*Mary Ann Hadley* ..... whose licenses had been adjourned at the annual meeting, were called before the Bench, and after being cautioned as to their future conduct the applicants’ licenses were all renewed.”

Smethwick Telephone 29/8/1885

“*Mary Ann Hadley*, of the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, was charged with permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises, on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Police-constable Smith deposed to visiting the house on the night named at 8.30, and to finding a man named Charles Westwood in a drunken sleep. A jug containing ale stood before him on the table.

Mr. Shakespeare for the defence denied that the man had anything supplied to him on these premises, and said so careful was the landlady that she refused to supply another man who was with Westwood, and who was perfectly sober, lest Westwood should thereby get some. Several witnesses were called to confirm this, and the case was dismissed.

Westwood was fined 5s and costs for being drunk on the premises.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/9/1885

“At Oldbury Court, today, John Lowe and George Perry, both of Churchbridge, were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the MANCHESTER STORES, in the same locality, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. The two men went into the house the worse for beer, and on being requested to leave they refused. Perry became violent and picked up a poker, which was taken from him by Police-constable Clarke. Perry was ordered to pay £1 and Lowe 15s, including costs.

David Sadler, Rounds Green, for a similar offence at the BIRD IN HAND, was fined 10s 6d, including costs.”

Smethwick Telephone 28/8/1886

“The annual Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday.....

The following persons had been summoned for offences against the licensing laws, and dealt with as follows  
..... Licensed Victuallers.....

*Mary Ann Hadley*, permitting drunkenness, August 25th 1885, dismissed.”

1891 Census

2, Rounds Green – BIRD IN HAND

[1] *Isaac Hadley* (46), licensed victualler and digging fork smith, born Oldbury;

[2] Agagail Hadley (46), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Lizzie Hadley (14), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Fred Hadley (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Lily Hadley (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] Felix Hadley (8), son, born Oldbury;

[7] Mary Ann Whitehouse (50), sister-in-law, widow, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 5/8/1893 - Advert

“Oldbury. Important Sale of Freehold Properties, including Two Exceedingly-valuable Full-Licensed Public Houses.

Mr. Thomas Howell is instructed by the Trustees under the Will of the late Mr. *Thomas Hadley*, to Sell by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday, August 16, 1893, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society, the under-mentioned Excellent Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. All that Exceedingly-valuable and most Advantageously-situated Freehold Full-Licensed Free Public House, with the modern Brewery, Stabling, Out-buildings, and Premises, known as the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, Oldbury, with the Goodwill and Possession on completion.

This House is now doing a large and remunerative Trade, and is undoubtedly one of the best in the district.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/8/1893 - Advert

“By Mr. Thomas Howell, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, Tomorrow (Wednesday), August 16, at Six o'clock pm (by order of the Trustees under the Will of the late *Thomas Hadley*).

Lot 1. The Freehold Full-Licensed Free Public House, known as the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, Oldbury, with the Goodwill and Possession on completion.

Lot 2. Three Dwelling Houses, adjoining Lot 1. Rental £25 per annum.

Lot 3. The Freehold Full-Licensed Free Public House, known as the BELL INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, with the Goodwill and Possession on completion.....”

*William Nickless* was also a brewer. [1896]

#### Birmingham Mail 28/1/1901

“This morning the body of Phoebe Nickless (25), who had been missing from her home at the BIRD IN HAND INN, Rounds Green, since December 17<sup>th</sup>, was found in the Birmingham Canal near Titford Pool. It was in an advanced state of decomposition, and it had apparently been hidden behind some stationary boats in the locality, and the storm which raged last night brought it to the surface. The body was conveyed to the Oldbury Mortuary, where it was identified by deceased’s brother. It is supposed that deceased committed suicide on the date named in consequence of disappointment in a love affair.”

#### 1901 Census

2, Rounds Green

[1] *Sarah A. Nickless* (59), widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Annie Nickless* (23), daughter, born Oldbury;

[3] *Kate Nickless* (19), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 31/8/1901

“Superintendent Sheriff explained that he had served notice of objection upon the owners of the BIRD IN HAND INN, Rounds Green, to the renewal of the license in consequence of alterations being made to the premises without plans having been first submitted to the Licensing Justices for approval. The inside of the house had been remodelled entirely. There were three other licensed houses within a radius of 150 yards of this house.

In reply to Mr. F. W. Green, of Dudley, who appeared for the owners of the house, Superintendent Sheriff said he did not think the drinking facilities of the house had been increased very materially.

Mr. Green explained that his clients only took over the house about two months ago, and they had simply renovated the interior of the premises.”

[The license was renewed.]

#### Smethwick Weekly News 26/10/1901

“Enoch Mason, of Chapel Street, Rounds Green, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of the BIRD IN HAND INN, Rounds Green, on 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

PC Haden proved the offence, and a fine of 2s 6d, and costs was imposed.”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 22/2/1902

“Joseph Jenkins (33), Tabernacle Street, Oldbury, was charged with doing wilful damage to a plate-glass window belonging to *Joseph Plant*, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe who prosecuted, said the damage amounted to £4. It appeared that defendant was sitting in the bar, and began to quarrel with a man named Skidmore, and in his temper he picked up his jug, and ‘threw it through the window.’ When at the station, he said he had done it, and supposed he would have to pay for it.

Defendant now said they picked up their jugs to throw at each other, and he threw his first.

Mr. Chance said it was rather an expensive way of losing his temper, and he would have to pay 1s and costs, 11s in all, and the damage to the window, £4, or in default, one month’s hard labour.

Defendant was only a collier, but managed to get enough money to pay on the spot.”

#### Birmingham Mail 8/4/1904

“At West Bromwich County Court, today, before Judge Howland Roberts, an action was brought by *Lewis*

*Skelding*, of BIRD IN HAND INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, to recover £10 from Elijah Debney, puddler, of Eel Street, Oldbury.

Mr. Darby explained that the plaintiff placed £10 in the hands of the defendant as a stake in connection with a race which, it was argued, should be flown between pigeons belonging to the parties. The race, which was to be on a course a mile in length, was arranged to take place about last Christmas. The pigeons were not to fly over the same course. Each pigeon flew from a certain point to its home, and the distance was measured in each case. Before the race took place some dispute arose with regard to a discrepancy as to the length of one of the courses, the plaintiff alleging that it was thirty or forty yards short. It did not seem a great matter, but it made all the difference between winning and losing. The measurements were ultimately disallowed, and the plaintiff thereupon requested the defendant to return his stake. It transpired that the match was cried off on December 22nd.

For the defence it was contended that the defendant was not the proper person to sue.

The Judge gave a verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount claimed.”

Plant's Brewery Ltd were fined 20s and £2 12s 6d costs, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1904, for permitting drunkenness.

A team from here took part in the Oldbury and District Air-Gun League. [1905]

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/4/1907

“A Nimble Landlady.

Mary Ann Birch was summoned at Oldbury yesterday for refusing to quit the BIRD IN HAND INN at Rounds Green. Mrs. Birch abused the landlady and struck at her, and afterwards threw two jugs at her. The landlady dodged the missiles, which smashed some glasses and gas burners. Mrs. Birch pleaded that she was first attacked, and the magistrates merely imposed a fine of 5s, including costs.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

BIRD IN HAND.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1909.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation.....

BIRD IN HAND, alehouse, Rounds Green, owner Messrs. Plant and Co.....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee's investigations.....”

The license was renewed on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1909.



Evesham Standard 10/7/1909

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee sat on Saturday to continue consideration of the 25 licenses which had been referred to them as the compensation authority by the local justices.....

Mr. Coventry (instructed by Messrs. Thompson and Warmington) appeared for all parties concerned in the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, Oldbury, the renewal of which was opposed by Mr. Shakespeare, for the Oldbury justices. Evidence was given in support of the license to the effect that it was a good-paying house, and that since 1906 the brewers' bill had increased from £500 to £700.

The Committee renewed the licenses of the ..... BIRD IN HAND.”

1911 Census

Rounds Green – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *John Smith* (60), licensed victualler, born Bewley, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Sarah Ann Smith* (65), wife, married 37 years, at home, born Langley;
- [3] *John Palmer Smith* (32), son, clay miner, brickworks, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Isaac Smith* (20), son, labourer in iron works, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Sarah Ann Holloway* (26), daughter, at home, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Thomas Holloway* (32), son-in-law, married 4 years, axle turner at iron works, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Thomas Holloway* (3), grand-son, born Blakedown, Worcestershire;
- [8] *George Samuel Holloway* (1), grand-son, born Blakedown, Worcestershire:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/2/1920

“At the Oldbury Licensing sessions yesterday, the Superintendent's report showed there were 114 licences (69 fully licensed), representing one to every 283 persons. During the year on licensed holder was proceeded against for an infringement, and 17 persons were convicted for drunkenness.

Objection was taken by the Superintendent to the renewal of 16 licenses on the ground of redundancy, and, after private consideration, the Bench reduced these to four, to be referred for compensation. These are: BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green; FOUNTAIN INN, Stone Street; OLD BOAT, Canal-side: and MANCHESTER STORES, Church Bridge.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1920

“Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

The licenses of the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green; the MANCHESTER STORES, Park Street; and the FOUNTAIN INN, Stone Street, were renewed.

The license of the OLD BOAT INN, Canalside, was referred for compensation.

The Chairman explained that the Bench were influenced by the limited amount of money at the disposal of the Compensation Authority.”

*Thomas Henry Ward* was fined 20s and £6 9s 6d costs, on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1926, for selling at 10.55pm intoxicating liquor (whisky) to *John Samuel Morris*.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/4/1938

“Alleged to have defrauded an Oldbury licensee by means of a cheque which was dishonoured, and to have obtained £50 by the sale of a motor-van which was never his property, *Frank Thompson Martin*, aged 33, a motor engineer, of 44, Forest Road, Warley, was, at Oldbury yesterday, committed to the Quarter Sessions, bail being allowed.

*Martin* was alleged to have obtained £10 by false pretences from *Thomas Henry Ward*, licensee of the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, on 26 February, and to have obtained a valuable security, namely, a cheque for £51 18s 6d, by false pretences, from *Midland Motor Development Ltd*, Redditch, on 18, January.

In the first case it was alleged that along with a friend, who was known to the licensee, *Martin* called upon *Ward*, who agreed to cash *Martin* a cheque for £12. He gave him £10 and told him to call for the other £2 later. *Martin* explained that he had been to the bank, but had arrived there too late.

Subsequently *Ward* handed the cheque from *Martin* to a tradesman, but it was returned, marked ‘Refer to

drawer.’

In the second case it was alleged that Martin went to Birmingham Garages Ltd, Navigation Street, and made arrangements for the purchase of a motor-van for £30. He paid £5 deposit, but the balance was still owing, and the van had therefore never been his own property. Subsequently he went to Neath Bros, removal contractors, Bromsgrove, and persuaded them to buy the van from him. The price was agreed at £72 10s and a deposit was paid. The firm wanted to carry out the transaction by hire purchase, and Martin went to Midland Motor Development Ltd, a firm of hire purchase financiers, and arranged with them to complete the transaction on behalf of Neath Bros. He signed a declaration that the vehicle was his sole property, and received from them a cheque for £51 18s 6d. Martin cashed the cheque, but the van was never delivered.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/7/1938

“Worcestershire Quarter Sessions.....

Martin Frank Thompson, aged 30, a motor mechanic, committed from Oldbury, charged with having obtained £51 18s 6d by false pretences from the Midland Motor Development Co, Redditch, and £10 by false pretences from *Thomas Henry Ward*, of Oldbury, did not surrender to his bail and a warrant for his arrest was issued.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/4/1938

“A. Bayliss, of the Trade Union Hall and Institute, Oldbury, is the individual champion of the Oldbury and District Darts League which comprises between 300 and 400 players. He won the honour – which carries with it the Councillor Vickers Cup – by defeating G. Price, the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, thrower, in the final at the WAGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, last night.

The final was decided over one straight ‘leg’ of 501, and Bayliss, after streaking ahead confidently, eventually had a hard task to win. At one time he was throwing for his final double when Price was 200 behind. At length Bayliss needed double one and Price double five. Then Bayliss planted an arrow in the objective.”

1939 Register

2, Rounds Green

[1] *Henry T. (Thomas H.) Ward*, date of birth 24/7/1883, brass moulder, married;

[2] Sarah A. Ward, dob 19/5/1886, domestic duties, married;

[3] Matilda (Ward) Boardman, dob 27/12/1920, surgical winder, single;

[5] Mary (Ward) Drew, dob 22/4/1930, at school, single:

[Matilda married Boardman in 1944, and Mary married Drew in 1951.]

The license was surrendered on the making Final Provisional Grant of Removal in respect of the WINDSOR CASTLE, Rounds Green, on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1956.

**BIRD IN HAND**

23, (12), Simpson Street / Pinfold Street, OLDBURY

OWNERS

John Hinds Jones

Mary Ann Jones

Alfred Cox, New Street, Oldbury

Henry Swain and Co., Albion Brewery, Oldbury

Showell’s Brewery Co. Ltd. (acquired c.1915)

Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired in 1936)

## LICENSEES

Joseph Granger [1854]  
Charles Partridge [1857]  
Elizabeth Sturges [1860] – [1861]  
O William Grayer [1861]  
Emma Shirwood [1862] – **1863**);  
Thomas Maund (**1863** – [1865]  
Humphrey Parkes [ ] – **1868**);  
Mrs. Mary Ann Parkes (**1868** – [1873]  
Mark Gibbs [1879] – [1881]  
John Hinds Jones [ ] – **1884**);  
John Jones (**1884** – **1885**);  
Mrs. Mary Ann Jones (**1885** – **1888**);  
Samuel Venables (**1888** – **1889**);  
Mary Carpenter (**1889** – **1890**);  
James Thornton (**1890** – **1891**);  
Charles Christmas Smith (**1891**);  
Alfred Cox (**1891** – **1892**);  
Joseph Baker (**1892**);  
John William Stamps (**1892** – **1893**);  
Samuel Tate (**1893** – **1894**);  
Alfred Cox (**1894**);  
Mrs. Phoebe Thornton (**1894** – **1896**);  
Alfred Collins (**1896** – [ ]  
Mary Guest [1900] – **1909**);  
Emanuel Love (**1909** – **1936**);  
Rowland Percy Ellis (**1936** – **1937**);  
Joseph Grigg (**1937** – **1942**);  
Harold Troman (**1942** – **1943**);  
Lottie Best (**1943** – **1945**);  
Joseph Vale (**1945** – **1949**);  
Victor William Jenkins (**1949** – **1950**);  
Thomas Ratcliffe Hindle (**1950** – **1952**);  
Frank George Preece (**1952** – **1953**);  
Joseph Henry Woodward (**1953**);  
Norman John Dearn (**1953** – **1954**):

## NOTES

12, Simpson Street [1871], [1881]  
23, Simpson Street [1891], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1939]

### Brierley Hill Advertiser 6/6/1857

“*Charles Partridge*, licensed victualler, of the BIRD IN HAND, Oldbury, was charged with selling ale during the hours of divine worship, on Sunday morning, the 17<sup>th</sup> ult. A policeman stated that he saw a man go into the house with a large jug in his hand, and presently return; he enquired what he had in the jug, and the man replied it was milk; he then examined it, and found it to be ale; the policeman told *Partridge* he would be summoned, to which he answered he hoped not. Defendant alleged that he had given the ale to some men who were at work close by.”

Birmingham Journal 6/3/1858 - Advert

“BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Old Licensed Public House, having several good Clubs attached; numbering upwards of 400 members.

For particulars apply on the Premises.”

Birmingham Journal 29/12/1860 - Advert

“To Publicans. BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the above commodious Old-Licensed Inn and Premises, situated in a large manufacturing district, and fitted-up to carry on an extensive trade, no expense having been spared in making everything convenient, particularly in the Brewhouse. There are three Clubs attached to the House. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to by valuation.

For further particulars, apply to Mrs. *E. Sturges*, the Proprietor, on the Premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/1/1861 - Advert

“Oldbury. To Ironmasters, Coalmasters, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Tuesday next, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at Mrs. *Sturges*'s, BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson Street, Oldbury Green, Oldbury – Two capital Iron Open Boats, nearly new, being Two Shares in the No.1 Park Lane Boat Society, held at the above Inn.

They are being Sold solely in consequence of the two Shareholders being great defaulters in their Shares of the above Society.

To view the same, apply to Mr. John Woodall, Patent Iron Boat Builder, Boiler Maker, Birchfield Lane, Oldbury.

Sale to commence at Six o'clock in the evening.

Auctioneer's Offices – Freeth Street and Westley Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 16/1/1861 - Advert

“Oldbury. That Capital and Well-Known Old-Licensed Inn, the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury. By Mr. J. S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, in consequence of the present Proprietor declining the public business.

The House is well-situated and doing a good business. The Premises are very desirable and convenient. Rent low. Immediate possession may be had.

For further particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. J. S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Appraiser and Land Surveyor. Offices – Westley Street and Freeth Street, Oldbury.”

1861 Census

Simpson Street – BIRD IN HAND

[1] *Elizabeth Sturges* (37), widow, victualler, born Netherton;

[2] *Mary A. Sturges* (10), daughter, scholar, born Leabrook, Staffordshire;

[3] *Matilda Burton* (17), house servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Journal 7/9/1861 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Dwelling House and Building Land, situated in Simpson Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Monday Next, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, at the house of Mr. *O. William Grayer*, the BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson Street, Oldbury.....”

*William Grayer* issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Journal 11/1/1862 - Advert

“Oldbury. The BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson Street, Oldbury Green, Oldbury.

By Mr. Joseph Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, that capital Old-Licensed and well-situated Inn, now doing a good Business, and near to the most important Mills and Works in the district, and within five minutes' walk of the Oldbury and Bromford Lane Railway Station. There are six Life and Money Societies

held at the house, with upwards of 300 members.

The House and Premises consists of a large Club Room, Bed Rooms, Bar, and Bar Parlour, front Smoke and Tap Rooms, Servant's and Cooking Kitchens, four capital Cellars, excellent and convenient Brewery, Malt and Hop Room, entire Yard, with hard and soft water Cisterns, with a never-failing supply of excellent Water, Stable, Piggeries, and other Appurtenances thereto belonging. Rent £23 10s per annum. Coming-in can be reduced to £100.

Immediate possession may be had, in consequence of the present Proprietor having made other positive engagements.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer and Surveyor, Westley Street, Oldbury."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/1/1866 - Advert

"Oldbury. Valuable Freehold Property, consisting of an Old-Licensed Inn, a Freehold Dwelling, and Premises, situated in Simpson Street, Oldbury, in the County of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Wednesday Next, January 10, at the TALBOT HOTEL, at Oldbury, at half-past Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read.

A substantially-erected Freehold Property, situated in Simpson Street, Oldbury; consisting of the Old-Licensed Inn, known by the sign of the BIRD IN HAND, and a Dwelling House adjoining, in the occupation of Beard.

The Inn consists of two large Chambers, very large and extensive Clubroom, Bar, Bar Parlour, capital Smoke Room, good Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, Larder, with Hall Entrance, three good Cellars, a model Brewery, Malt Room, Stabling, Piggery, large Soft-water Cistern, a Pump of beautiful Hard Water, and a lock-up Yard.

The Property is well situated, and now doing a good business, and at the junction of Simpson Street and Pinfold Street, and surrounded by Mills, and near the Bromford Ironworks, of Messrs. Dawes and Sons, Messrs. Wright and Sons, the Railway Carriage Company, and the Oldbury and Bromford Lane Railway Station.

Immediate possession may be had, at a fair valuation.

Further particulars may be had from Messrs. Hayes and Wright, Solicitors, Oldbury and Hales Owen; and the Auctioneer and Surveyor's Offices, Wesley Street, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 20/9/1866

"An inquest was held before Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, on Monday last, at the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury, on the body of Sarah Lamster, aged sixty-three, the wife of Daniel Lamster, employed at the carriage works. It transpired in evidence that, on Thursday last, the deceased, who resided in Simpson Street, was in her usual state of health, and nothing peculiar was observed about her manner. At about six o'clock a neighbour, named Ann Cook, went into the house of the unfortunate woman, and found her in front of the fire-grate, in a kneeling posture, and quite dead. Mr. Hayward, surgeon, was of opinion that death was occasioned by disease of the heart. After hearing the evidence, the Jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/6/1868

"The following transfers of licenses were granted.....

BIRD IN HAND INN, from the Executors of *Humphrey Parkes* to *Mary Parkes*."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/1/1869

"Yesterday, an inquest was held at the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury, before Mr. R. Docker (Coroner), respecting the death of a young woman, whose body was found in a branch of the Old Birmingham Canal, near the old Wesleyan Cemetery, on Tuesday morning last.

Joseph Rice proved discovering the body.

Ann Davies identified the body as that of Sarah Davies, eighteen years of age. Deceased was her husband's niece, and was a servant in the employ of Mrs. Wilson, of 117, Bloomsbury, Birmingham. On Sunday, the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, she obtained leave to pay a visit to witness's house. Witness last saw her alive on Monday, the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, when she went to the railway station at Oldbury with her cousin, who was going to the Potteries. She

(witness) gave her 6d to pay her fare to Birmingham, understanding that she was to return to service after seeing her cousin off. She appeared to be in very good spirits, and had expressed no dissatisfaction with her situation. She received a letter from deceased's mistress on Wednesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, asking why deceased had not returned according to promise. Witness replied that she understood she had returned. She heard nothing more of her until the day she was found in the canal.

Hannah Parkes said she was in service at the TALBOT INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. She had known the deceased for several years. On the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult she came to the TALBOT, and stayed gossiping with her until about nine o'clock. She then left, saying that she was going back to Birmingham. She seemed in very good spirits. She had nothing to drink during her stay. In the course of a conversation they had, deceased said she was not satisfied with her situation. In reply to the Jury, witness said deceased would have to cross a bridge over the canal in which she was drowned, and not far from the place where she was found.

Mr. Henry Sainsbury stated that he had examined the body, which was very much swollen, and partially decomposed. There were some recent bruises upon the face, which he thought, however, were made in getting her from the canal. There were no bones broken, and no other external marks of violence upon the body. The clothes were not at all disordered.

Phoebe Willetts said she resided in a house about forty yards distant from the place where the deceased's body was found. On Wednesday, the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, her attention was called to a bonnet lying in an empty stationary boat; she caused it to be taken out. She now produced it. It was nearly new, and was identified by Mrs. Davies as that deceased wore when she last saw her alive

This was all the evidence adduced, and the Jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned."

*Mary Ann Parkes* had to pay costs for permitting gaming in September 1870.

#### 1871 Census

12, Simpson Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *Mary Parkes* (43), widow, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] Edward Parkes (23), son, edged tool grinder, born Smethwick;
- [3] Adelaide L. Parkes (21), daughter, domestic servant, born Smethwick;
- [4] Pamela Parkes (17), daughter, dressmaker, born Oldbury;
- [5] Sarah Parkes (16), daughter, domestic servant, born Oldbury;
- [6] Mary Parkes (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Humphrey Parkes (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Emma J. Parkes (7), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [9] Isaac Parkes (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [10] John Kimble (41), boarder, coach body maker, born Birmingham;
- [11] Thomas Priest (29), boarder, whimsey driver, born Halesowen:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 16/9/1871 - Married

"On the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, at Smethwick Church, North Harborne, (by the Rev. Thomas Roper) Mr. George Northall to Adelaide Louisa, eldest daughter of the late Mr. *Humphrey Parkes*, of the BIRD IN HAND INN, Oldbury."

#### County Advertiser 16/8/1879 - Advert

"To Brewers, Maltsters, Investors, and Others.

Important and Valuable Freehold Properties, situate in Simpson Street, Pinfold Street, and Queen Street, Oldbury.

Mr. R. J. Cooper will Sell by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then produced and read.

Lot 1. All that truly Valuable and Improving Freehold Property, comprising that important and Old-established Old-licensed Business Premises, known as the BIRD IN HAND INN, situate at the corner of Simpson Street and Pinfold Street, Oldbury, now in the occupation of Mr. *Mark Gibbs*. The Inn consists of Two large Chambers, very large and extensive Club Room, Bar, Bar Parlour, capital Smoke Room, good Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, Larder, three good Cellars, a model Brewery, Malt Room, Stabling, Piggery, large Soft

Water Cistern, Pump of capital Hard Water, and a Lock-up Yard; together with that substantial and well-built Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House adjoining the above, with the Out-houses and Premises thereto belonging, situate in Pinfold Street, Oldbury, aforesaid.”

#### 1881 Census

12, Simpson Street – BIRD IN HAND

[1] *Mark Gibbs* (42), licensed victualler, born Ettington, Warwickshire;

[2] *Hannah Gibbs* (28), wife, born Campden, Gloucestershire;

[3] *Alfred Gibbs* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] *Florence Gibbs* (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] *Hubert Gibbs* (1), son, born Oldbury;

[6] *Esther Holland* (19), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Mark Gibbs* – see also BROWN LION, Birmingham Street, and DOG AND PHEASANT.

*John Hinds Jones* – see also WHITE HORSE, Newbury Lane.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1885

“*John Jones*, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson Street, was charged with refusing to admit the police into his licensed premises on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst.

Police-constable Rivers stated that on passing defendant’s house at 2 o’clock am he heard several persons talking in the smoke room; he listened for some time and distinctly heard the words ‘That’s four games; that is 1½d each.’ He knocked at the door, and in about five minutes afterwards the landlord came to the bed room window and asked who was there. Witness replied that it was the police, whereupon the landlord told him he should not admit the police or any one else, and closed the window.

Mr. Shakespeare, who defended, said that there was no doubt there had been a technical offence committed in not allowing the police admittance, but defendant, who had only been in business a short time, was under the impression that as there had been no gambling he had a right to refuse to admit the police at that hour in the night.

Defendant was ordered to pay a fine of 10s and costs.”

#### County Express 7/1/1888

“On Wednesday afternoon Mr. F. W. Topham (deputy coroner for the South Staffordshire district) resumed an enquiry at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on the body of *Sarah Debney* (22), a single woman, whose parents reside at Halesowen Street, Oldbury.

The Coroner said that when the enquiry was opened he took the evidence of the father of the deceased, which went beyond the mere identity of the body. It went into particulars as to where the deceased had been and what she had been doing some little time before her death, and he thought it would be well to read over that evidence.

*John Debney*, a general dealer, of Halesowen Street, Oldbury, said that in his opinion his daughter died from miscarriage, or from catching cold. His wife had told him that the deceased was pregnant. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November he was told that his daughter had gone to see Buffalo Bill. As she did not return that night he sent to the house of *Herbert Hadley*, with whom she had been keeping company, and he (*Hadley*) said that when they went to see Buffalo Bill the deceased was taken ill in the crowd, and was taken to his aunt’s house in a cab, but that she was all right. Deceased returned home on the Saturday night. On Tuesday she was very ill, but said, ‘There is not that the matter with me of which I am accused.’ On the Monday she went to the house of her sister at Blackheath and died there.

*John Debney*, re-called, said *Hadley* did not give witness any address when he said deceased was at his aunt’s house.

The Coroner: You rested contented with the assurance that she was in Birmingham and was all right?

Witness: Yes. I hope this case will be thoroughly understood, and the truth got at, and the guilty parties exposed and punished. That is all I wish.

The Coroner: I hope so.

Mr. James Griffin Beasley, surgeon, Rowley, said that last Monday week he received a precept from the coroner to make a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased. He accordingly made an examination on the following day. He found that she had been delivered of a foetus about three weeks before, of some considerable age. He considered that she must have been over six months advanced. He found no signs of internal violence. In his opinion blood poisoning was the cause of death, caused probably by recent confinement. This was probably caused by inflammation in the womb. There was nothing to indicate that she had been improperly treated in her confinement; but sufficient time had elapsed to remove in a great measure any traces of violence. She was suffering from pleurisy when she died; but this was not sufficient to account for death. The kidneys and lungs were more or less inflamed.

Hebert Hadley, corn dealer, Whimsey Bridge, Oldbury, said he was courting the deceased, and had been engaged to her nearly two years. He knew she was pregnant; but he did not know when she expected to be confined. She told that she was pregnant five or six months back, and he asked her to get married, but she refused. He did not know why she objected to marry; but she kept putting it off. About six weeks ago the deceased stayed out all night, and as her parents enquired at his house where she was he went to their house and told them that they had been to see Buffalo Bill on the previous night, that deceased had been taken ill in the crowd, that he had taken her to his aunt's house in a cab, and that she was all right. This was altogether false and untrue, but he said this at the request of the deceased. As a matter of fact the deceased was staying at *Mary Jones's*, the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury, where she went on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 23rd November. He took there on that day, and saw Mrs. *Jones* and the servant. Before taking her there she told him that she was in pain, and witness wanted to her to have a doctor; but she objected, and said she would not stay at home, but would rather die in the road. She told him that when she had left home at night her mother had said, 'You can go anywhere and drown yourself if you like.' Witness asked Mrs. *Jones* if she would object to the deceased staying there a bit, and she replied that she had no objection. He knew that deceased was going to Mrs. *Jones's* to be confined; he preferred that it should take place there, as she complained of the way she had been treated. Witness proposed that they should send for a doctor, but deceased objected to this, and witness asked Mrs. *Jones* if she knew any one whom they could send for, to which she replied that she knew an old woman and would send for her. Witness left the house, and when he returned about half an hour later the deceased was in bed. He was told that the old woman spoken of by Mrs. *Jones* had come. When the woman came downstairs witness gave her 10s for the support of the deceased; he was willing to do anything for the deceased. The woman told witness that the deceased was very bad. Witness returned to the house about nine o'clock on the same night, and was told that the deceased had had a miscarriage, but was better and would soon be all right. He told the servant to see that the deceased was properly supported, as he did not care what it cost so that she was taken care of. On the following morning he went again to the house, and saw the deceased, who was in bed. She then told him what to tell her parents about going to see Buffalo Bill. She also told him that she had had a miscarriage. She had not taken anything as far as he knew, but two or three months ago she told him she had had a drink of herb tea. That (Wednesday) morning an old woman named Jerry told witness that she gave deceased the herb tea. On the Saturday following the day deceased went to Mrs. *Jones's* witness took her home. He noticed a change in her appearance when she left Mrs. *Jones*. When she got home he fetched her some sherry, some brandy, and a couple of eggs. As she was waiting in the shop on the same night he told her to keep out of the shop; and that if her parents complained he would take her to his home. He saw her again on the following night when she told him that she had been cleaning the floor with cold water that morning and was not so well. He then fetched half-a-pint of brandy for her, and took her something every day until she went to Blackheath. She worked the machine in the shop each day. When he visited her there was scarcely any fire in the room.

The father of deceased said that if there was not sufficient fire it was deceased's own fault.

Witness, continuing, said that on Monday he took deceased to her sister's house at Blackheath in her father's covered cart. While at her sister's house deceased slept on a sofa downstairs, and witness sat up with her two nights. In reply to Mr. Debney, witness said the deceased always said he was a good father, but she had a bad mother.

By a Juryman: Mrs. *Jones* was no relation to witness or the deceased.

*Mary Ann Jones*, BIRD IN HAND INN, Oldbury, said that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November the deceased and Hadley came to her house, and deceased asked to be allowed to lie down, as she did not feel well. Witness asked



her what was the matter with her, and she replied that her mother had accused her of being pregnant, and she had taken a bottle of stuff, and she thought this had caused her illness. Witness asked if she should send for a doctor; but she said, 'No.' The servant said her grandmother, Mrs. Hale, was a midwife, and as deceased had said she was pregnant witness sent for her. Witness left home about half-past six, and when she returned five hours later she was surprised to find that the girl was still there, and in bed. Mrs. Hale complained that she had been fetched 'on a fool's errand,' and only remained in the house a few minutes. When witness returned home deceased was too ill to be sent home. Witness did not hear that there had been a miscarriage. When deceased first came to her house she only asked to be allowed to lie down; and out of kindness to the girl witness allowed her to lie down, believing that she would leave almost immediately. The servant never told witness that she was in the room when a child was born; deceased was never delivered of a child at her house. When asked if the servant told her the child had light hair, the witness laughed.

The Coroner: It is no laughing matter; and I am surprised at you treating it in such a trivial manner.

Witness: But she didn't have a child at my house.

The Coroner: I am not so sure about that.

By the Jury: She did not tell deceased's parents that the girl was at her house, because she understood that Hadley had told them. She did not know that there was a miscarriage. Deceased did not come to witness on the morning of the 23rd November and ask if she could remain in the house. Witness had never had a similar case in her house. She had never received any money for keeping the girl, nor had she made any agreement. Deceased would not tell her from whom she had the bottle of stuff. She told her that she had had words with her mother and would rather lie down in the gutter and die than go home.

The Coroner: I don't know what the jury think; but my opinion is that you know a great deal more than you choose to tell us.

Witness: No, I don't. I have told you all I know.

Mary Jane Fisher said he lived with the last witness as a domestic servant. She had known the deceased by sight about three weeks before her death. On the 23rd November deceased and Hadley came to the house and said she had been taking stuff and was very ill. Witness asked her why she had been taking stuff, to which she replied that she had caught cold. She lay on the sofa some time and afterwards went upstairs and lay on the bed. Soon after deceased came to the house witness fetched Mrs. Hale, who said there was nothing the matter with her, and complained that she had been fetched 'on a fool's errand.' At the deceased's request, witness lent her some clothes. She had never told anyone that there was a child, and that it had light hair. She never saw a child put into a basket, and that she said, 'Don't put it into the basket; you will break its legs.' When Police-sergeant Salt and an Oldbury sergeant called at Mr. Jones's house to make enquiries, witness went to her grandmother's in a cab to tell her that enquiries were being made.

The Coroner: I am going to ask you a very straight question, and you must remember that you are on your oath. Don't you know as a matter of fact that Sarah Debney had a miscarriage or was confined at Mrs. Jones's house?

Witness: No. In further evidence witness said deceased told her she would rather die in the street than go home.

The Coroner: You all seem to have got that very pat. Mrs. Jones said that.

Jane Hale, midwife, Greets Green, said she saw the deceased at Mrs. Jones's house. She did not see a baby. She never received 10s from Hadley, but she knew that he left that sum, and witness received 5s of that amount. She remembered the last witness coming to her house in a cab to pay her and to tell her that the police were making enquiries. When witness examined deceased she was not pregnant; but she appeared to have been confined or to have had a miscarriage in the previous night.

By a juryman: She had been a midwife forty-five years, and had had plenty of experience. The last witness had only come to her house once in a cab.

Herbert Hadley, re-called, said he paid the 10s to Mrs. Hale.

Police-sergeant Salt, in reply to the coroner, said he had not been able to recover the body of the child.

The Coroner, in summing up, said he was sorry the enquiry would have to end in such an unsatisfactory manner. He was sure Police-sergeant Salt had spared no pains to sift the matter. There was not the slightest doubt, from the evidence of Dr. Beasley, that the deceased was delivered of a foetus, and that she died from blood poisoning arising from inflammation of the womb. Therefore this seemed to be a verdict which they were compelled to return. With regard to the evidence of Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Hale, and Miss Fisher, he did

not believe a word they said. He believed that the whole of the mischief connected with this girl's death occurred in Mrs. *Jones*'s house; but unfortunately could not be proved. It was only a matter of conjecture. A verdict must be returned upon the evidence, and he advised the jury to return a verdict that this girl died from blood poisoning, caused by inflammation of the womb.

Mr. B. Hadley (foreman) thought a rider should be added to the verdict. The result of the enquiry was very unsatisfactory. It was evident the witnesses concocted a story to bring to the jury.

The Coroner said he believed the three women who had given evidence were telling lies, and that the mischief took place at Mrs. *Jones*'s house. But this was not proved, and the jury could not do impossibilities. They had examined the witnesses to the best of their ability; and the verdict would have its effect. Police-sergeant Salt and the other officers could take the women before the magistrates if they got sufficient evidence to warrant such a course; but that enquiry could be carried no further.

Mr. Hadley thought the jury should say they believed unlawful means had been used to procure abortion.

The Coroner: I quite agree with you.

Mr. Hadley suggested that the costs of the witnesses should not be allowed, to mark the disapproval of the jury of the manner in which they had given their evidence.

The Coroner at this stage had the three female witnesses called into the room and informed them that the jury were very dissatisfied with their evidence, and did not believe a word that they said. They believed that the deceased had met with some ill treatment in Mrs. *Jones*'s house, and in consequence died. The only way in which the jury could mark their disapproval of the conduct of the witnesses before then was to disallow their expenses.

Mrs. Hill: That's a very good thing to come here for.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence."

AND

"The death of the young woman, Sarah Debney, at Blackheath, under extraordinary circumstances, points its own moral. It is to be hoped the case is not a fair index to Black Country morals. The Court severely censured the female witnesses for the manner in which they gave their evidence. It is a recognised maxim of our law courts that a woman can tell a lie much better than a man. It is the same across the Atlantic. Many of the American Insurance offices decline to issue policies to women on the ground that a female 'insuree' either cannot, or will not, tell the truth about her age, her state of health, mode of life, and other particulars of actuarial importance."

#### 1891 Census

23, Simpson Street – BIRD IN HAND INN

[1] *James Thornton* (53), publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Phoebe Thornton* (51), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Amelia Thornton* (14), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1891

"Last night Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson Street, touching the death of *Selina Frewin* (30), wife of *Walter Frewin*, of Simpson Street, who died suddenly on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst.

It appeared that deceased was seized with a sudden illness, and Dr. *Buttery* was called in, but upon going into the bedroom he found she was dead.

Dr. *Buttery* deposed that he had made a post mortem examination of the body, and found that death was due to heart disease.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

#### London Gazette 5/4/1892

"Receiving Orders.

*Samuel Baker*. Formerly the CROSS GUNS INN, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, now residing at the house of *Joseph Baker*, the BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson-street, Oldbury aforesaid. Date of filing, 31/3/1892."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 6/4/1892

“The Bankruptcy Acts 1883 and 1890. Receiving Orders.

Samuel Baker, formerly CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, residing at the BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson Street, both Oldbury, late licensed victualler and miner, now miner.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/4/1892

“Yesterday afternoon a funeral which was about to take place at Oldbury was stopped by the police. Mrs. Matilda Baker (73), widow, had been residing for some time past at the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury, with her sons, Samuel and *Joseph Baker*. On the 9<sup>th</sup> inst, she visited the COTTAGE SPRING public house in West Bromwich Street, which is kept by another son. Upon returning home she retired to bed, apparently in her usual health. Early on the following morning she was seized with sudden illness, and vomited a great deal. A doctor was called in, but she gradually became worse, and died on Sunday last. Owing to information given to Superintendent Speke yesterday he made enquiries, with the result that he took possession of the death certificate, which had been obtained. Arrangements had been made for the interment to take place yesterday afternoon, and the mourners and relatives of the deceased assembled at the residence of the deceased for that purpose, but the ceremony had to be postponed. The facts of the case have been reported to the coroner, Mr. E. Docker.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/11/1893 - Advert

“Pianist – Young Lady; live in; good home; no children.

*Tate*, BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1893 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others. BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson Street, Oldbury.

Alford & Jones are instructed by Mr. *Samuel Tate* to Sell by Auction, on the premises as above, on Tuesday Next, December 19, at Six o'clock in the evening prompt (unless disposed of by Private Treaty in the meantime, of which due notice well be given).

The Goodwill, Valuable Lease, Fixtures, Fittings, and Utensils-In-Trade of the above Fully-licensed Inn.

The Lease has ten years to run from September 29<sup>th</sup> last, and contains a trading clause with Mr. Cox, Brewer, of Oldbury, for mild ales only, discount 25 per cent. The rent is only £28 yearly.

Full particulars from W. G. Coulton, jun, Esq, Solicitor; or from the Auctioneers, both of 19, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/12/1893 - Advert

“This Evening (Tuesday), at Six o'clock prompt, on the Premises.

Sale of the Valuable Lease, Fixtures, Fittings, and Utensils of the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury. By Alford & Jones. Auctioneers' Offices, 19, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/5/1894 - Advert

“Tomorrow (Tuesday) Evening, at Six for Seven o'clock prompt on the Premises.

Sale of the Valuable Lease, Fixtures, Fittings, and Utensils-In-Trade (in one Lot), of the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury (full-licensed inn).

By Alford & Aston. Auctioneers' Offices: 19, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1894 - Advert

“Oldbury. Tuesday Next, July 24.

Valuable Freehold Full-Licensed House, situate in Simpson Street, Oldbury.

To Brewers, Maltsters, Publicans and others.

Mr. William Hackett has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. Alfred Cox, the ODD-FELLOWS ARMS, New Street, Oldbury, on Tuesday Next, July 24, at Seven o'clock in the evening punctually, subject to conditions of sale incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society.

All that well and Substantially-built Corner Full-Licensed House and Premises, the BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson Street, Oldbury, together with the House adjoining, being No.1 Pinfold Street, the whole being

worth a rental of £41 19s per annum. The Licensed Premises contain large well-fitted Smoke Room, Bar, Private Sitting Room, large Living Kitchen, two Bed Rooms, large Club Room, two good dry Cellars, Brew-house, Stabling, and other necessary Outbuildings, with Enclosed Yard.

The above is well worth the attention of Brewers, Maltsters, Publicans, and others seeking a good Free House, it being well situated and near the centre of the town of Oldbury, close to large works, and in a thickly populated neighbourhood; also possession can be arranged at once.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. W. Shakespeare and Co, Solicitors, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneer, Midland Chambers, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, and Oldbury Road, West Smethwick.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 28/7/1894

“Mr. William Hackett, auctioneer of Oldbury, was successful last Tuesday evening in disposing of the fully licensed house and premises the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury, £700 being the price realised. This is deemed a very good figure.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 9/5/1896 - Advert

“Mr. William Hackett had received instructions to Sell By Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday Next, May 13<sup>th</sup> 1896 at Seven o’clock in the Evening.....

Lot 1. All that Well and Substantially-built, Free Home Brewing, Full-Licensed House, and Premises, the BIRD IN HAND INN, situated in Simpson Street, Oldbury, together with the House adjoining, being No.1 Pinfold Street, the whole being worth a rental of £41 19s per annum. The Licensed Premises contain large well-fitted Smoke Room, Bar, Private Sitting Room, Large Living Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Large Club Room, Two Good dry Cellars, Brewhouse, Stabling and other Outbuildings with enclosed Yard.

The above is well worth the attention of Brewers, Maltsters, Publicans, and others seeking a good free house, it being well-situated and near the centre of the town of Oldbury, close to large works, and in a thickly populated neighbourhood. Immediate possession can be given.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 16/5/1896

“Mr. William Hackett conducted a sale of freehold properties at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, last Wednesday evening. Lot 1 the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury (a freehold full-licensed house), and Lot 2 (a freehold property, Titford Road, Langley) were disposed of at very satisfactory prices.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 20/6/1896 - Advert

“Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1896. BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury.

Mr. W. Hackett has received instructions to Sell By Auction on the Premises, as above, on Wednesday Next, 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1896, the excellent Brewing Plant and Effects, comprising 160-gallon Steel Boiler, Door, Bars, and Settings, 80-gallon Cast Boiler, Door, Bars, and Settings, 12-bushel Mash Tub, New Cooler and Supports, Nearly-new Refrigerator, Two Copper Sieves, Mash Rule, Wort Bowl, Large Collecting Tub, Banjo Wort Spout, Working Tub, 120-gallon Barrel, Five 54-gallon Barrels, Lead Piping from Brewhouse to Cellar, Five Wood Spiggots, Excellent Maltrasher, by R. and F. Turner, of Ipswich, and numerous other Effects.

The whole on view the Morning of Sale.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.

Auctioneer’s Offices: Midland Chambers, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, and Oldbury Road, West Smethwick.”

*Alfred Collins* – see also JOLLY COLLIER.

#### 1901 Census

23, Simpson Street – BIRD IN HAND INN

[1] George Guest (38), labourer (chemical works), born Halesowen;

[2] *Mary Guest* (39), wife, licensed victualler, born Halesowen;

[3] Albert E. Guest (6), son, born Warley;

[4] Eliza Guest (19), domestic servant, born Warley:

*Emanuel Love* = Emmanuel Love

*Emanuel Love* was already in possession of the pub at the time of the Licensing Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1909.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/2/1910

“Joseph James (24), a collier, and son of the caretaker of the Abbey Road Schools, Warley, was committed for trial to the Worcester Assizes at a special court at Oldbury yesterday on charges of larceny and attempted larceny.

From the evidence it appeared that the prisoner entered the BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson Street, Oldbury, on January 31, and called for some ale. He was afterwards left alone for a minute or two, and then went to the KINGS ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, where he said that he had had some money from the other public house, and proceeded to treat all the customers, spending 4s 6d. Subsequently he went to the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Flash Road, and while there was seen by a servant from the scullery window to lean over the counter and interfere with the till. When the landlady spoke to him he said he was choking, and went away. It was ascertained later that 6s 5d had been taken from a glass at the back of the bar in the BIRD IN HAND public house.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/2/1910

“Worcestershire Assizes.....

Joseph James (24), miner, was charged with stealing some money belonging to *Emmanuel Love*, licensee of the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury.

Prosecutor said he put 7s 4d in a jug on a shelf at 9.30. Later he missed 6s 5d.

Other witnesses stated that prisoner was at the inn, and afterwards spent 4s 6d at another house.

Prisoner now said he had never drunk any beer in his life and he was not in Oldbury that night.

The jury found the prisoner guilty. Superintendent Hill said prisoner had respectable parents, who tried to keep him from a life of crime, which he commenced in 1903. Prisoner had been charged at Oldbury Police Court several times for offences similar to this, whilst he had also been convicted for burglary.

Prisoner said that if the Commissioner gave him three years it would be the making of him.

The Commissioner: Very well, I will. Three years' penal servitude.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1910

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury division were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding over the magistrates. The principal business was the consideration of six licences which the magistrates proposed to refer to the Quarter Sessions for compensation on the ground of redundancy. The houses in question were the CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street; BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street; ROYAL OAK, Park Lane; NAGS HEAD, Flash Road; HOPE AND ANCHOR, Halesowen Street; and BOAT INN, Tat Bank.....

Mr. Albright then announced that the magistrates had decided to refer only four licenses to the Quarter Sessions at Worcester this year instead of six as originally proposed. They would therefore renew the licenses of the BIRD IN HAND and ROYAL OAK.”

1911 Census

23, Simpson Street – BIRD IN HAND

- [1] *Emanuel Love* (43), drayman, born Oldbury;
- [2] Eliza Love (39), wife, married 16 years, born Oldbury;
- [3] Joseph Love (12), son, school, born Oldbury;
- [4] Florence Love (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Fred Love (10), son, school, born Oldbury;
- [6] William Love (9), son, school, born Oldbury;
- [7] Elsie Love (6), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] Mercy Willis (23), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1915

“Frank William Lloyd (28), whose address was given as Gilburn Cottages, Cheltenham Road, Gloucester, was brought up on remand, before the Oldbury magistrates yesterday charged with stealing 4s from the till at the BIRD IN HAND public house in Simpson Street, Oldbury.

Captain Eggerton, adjutant, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucester Regiment, was called, and said he recognised the prisoner as an absentee without leave from the 8<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters. He was also wanted by the military authorities on six serious charges, and witness applied to the justices for the prisoner to be handed over to the military authorities. The Bench acquiesced.”

*Emanuel Love* was born in 1868.

He married firstly Eliza (c.1895).

He was married secondly to Rebecca ‘Becky’ who died in 1956.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1955

“Mr. *Emanuel Love*, who at his retirement six years ago was Oldbury’s oldest and longest serving licensee, died yesterday aged 87. He started as a brewery office boy at the age of 11, and was manager of the BIRD IN HAND INN and later the WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury, for a total of nearly 50 years. He was a noted bagatelle player and his inns were among the last in the Black Country to have the once popular bagatelle tables. A service at Oldbury Parish Church on Tuesday will precede interment at Oldbury Cemetery.”

Smethwick Telephone 16/7/1970

“.....Joe [Shakespeare], 67 years old and silver haired lives in Salop Road, Brades Village, Oldbury, and first took up the secretarial pen on behalf of the Oldbury and District Flying Club in 1935. That was when the headquarters were at the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, which was demolished two years ago. The club, along with 25 others, is affiliated to the Dudley and District Federation, and for 17 years Joe ..... was the Federation secretary too.....

One of six brothers in a family of ten children, Joe Shakespeare was literally born and bred with pigeons in Albion Street, Brades Village, just a stone’s throw from his present home. His dad, Sam, and uncle Joe, both well-known fanciers, were always at hand with advice to the eager listener.....”

1939 Register

23, Simpson Street

[1] *Joseph Grigg*, date of birth 4/8/1882, licensee, married;

[2] Elizabeth (Sarah) Grigg, dob 24/12/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Alfred Grigg, dob 31/12/1906, fork setter, edge tool (heavy), single;

[4] Jessie Grigg, dob 8/8/1911, shop assistant, single;

[5] Joseph Grigg, dob 20/12/1921, mill roll turner, single;

[6] Elizabeth Grigg, dob 3/5/1924, progress clerk, single;

[7] Eric Grigg, dob 27/9/1925, apprentice plater, constructional engineering, single:

*Lottie Best* – see also ROYAL OAK, West Bromwich.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/10/1950

“The first meeting of the Oldbury and District Disabled Civilians Association is to be held at the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury, on Monday. There have only been four replies so far to the appeal by Mr. Frank Guest, of 132, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, but he is holding the meeting in the hope that more will attend. The aims will be to try and improve the lot of disabled civilians.”

*Frank Preece* was married to Freda.

It closed on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1954.

It became a WVS centre and a Darby and Joan club.

Birmingham Daily Post 30/11/1955

“Lady Reading, chairman of the Women’s Voluntary Service, opened a new district headquarters and club for old people in Simpson Street, Oldbury, yesterday.”

Smethwick Telephone 26/2/1965

“An Oldbury councilor made a ‘Spare That Pub’ plea at the meeting of the borough council on Tuesday. Councillor Wilfred Carter was referring to the BIRD IN HAND in the Simpson Street demolition area – a pub that is now delicensed and used as the headquarters of 11 of the town’s voluntary welfare organisations.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1965

“Eleven different social, welfare and charitable organisations at Oldbury have to share an old public house as their headquarters, it was disclosed at the town council meeting last night. The public house, the BIRD IN HAND in Simpson Street, is to be demolished soon, but no community centre is yet planned to replace it. Coun. R. Broaderwick, Housing Committee chairman, promised that the matter would be examined.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1965

“Oldbury General Purposes Committee was told last night that the Women’s Voluntary Service will inspect the BRICKMAKERS ARMS in Church Bridge on Monday and consider it for a new headquarters for the meals-on-wheels service. At present the WVS uses the old BIRD IN HAND public house, Simpson Street, which is due to be demolished.”

It was demolished in 1968.

**BLACK BOY**

5, (93), Birmingham Street (Road), (New Street), Oldbury Green, OLDBURY

OWNERS

William Powell, Birmingham Street, Oldbury  
Mrs. Susannah Moore, 24, Birmingham Road, Oldbury  
Holders Brewery Co. Ltd. (leased)

LICENSEES

Isaac Bassford [1851] – [1853]  
Stephen Bassford [1857] – [1861]  
Peter Saul [1870]  
Valentine Drury [1871]  
Mrs. Sarah Drury [1877]  
William Barrows [1881]  
William Bates (1883 – 1885);  
Robert Bates (1885);  
George Wilmore (1885 – 1892);  
Mrs. Frances Wilmore (1892);  
Leah Charles (1892);  
Thomas Thompson (1892 – 1893);

George William Lea (1893 – 1894);

John George Dexter (1894 – 1902);

Ann Maria Fox (1902 – 1906):

## NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

### Birmingham Journal 5/2/1853 - Advert

“Improving Freehold and Leasehold Properties, Oldbury Green, and Halesowen Street, Oldbury, Worcestershire; and Blue Gates, Smethwick, Staffordshire.

Messrs. Hammond and Oldfield have received instructions from the Executors of the late Edward Darby to Submit to Auction, on Wednesday, the 16th day of February inst, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at Six o’clock in the evening, in the following or such other lots as may be arranged at the sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced.....

Oldbury Green. New Street.

Lot 3. Two Freehold Public Houses, known as the DEVONSHIRE RING OF BELLS and the BLACK BOY; together with a Retail Shop, in the several occupations of James Hulse, Ann Jackson, and *Isaac Bassford*; together with the Bakehouse and Brewhouse at the back thereof, and the Right of Road down the Gateway.”

*Stephen Bassford* = Stephen Basford = Stephen Bashford

### Worcester Journal 5/7/1856

“Worcestershire Midsummer Sessions.....

Jane Parkes, 38, tailoress, Sarah Jane Parkes, 13, tailoress, Mary Ann Hodgetts, 39, dressmaker, and Eliza Hunt, 39, brickmaker, were indicted for uttering counterfeit coin at Oldbury on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Streeten prosecuted, and Mr. Richards defended the prisoner Hodgetts.

Mary Ann *Bassford*, wife of the keeper of the BLACK BOY beershop, Oldbury, stated that on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult, about eight o’clock in the evening, the four prisoners came to her house; Jane Parkes had a pint of ale; Hodgetts and Hunt left about ten minutes afterwards; one of them said they should not be long before they came back. Jane Parkes stayed till after eleven o’clock. Sarah Jane Parkes left the house several times during the evening; on two occasions of her return bringing with her some cakes and flowers; she gave some coppers to Jane Parkes, who put them into her basket. During the evening the latter asked witness to give her three half-crowns for some small change, which she did. Hodgetts and Hunt were strangers, but the Parkeses were known to witness. Hodgetts and Hunt were not in the house during any of the transactions stated.

Mary Deakin was at her daughter’s shop at Oldbury, on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult, when Sarah Jane Parkes came in and asked for a pennyworth of cakes, tendering a shilling in payment. Witness gave her the change, but before witness could pick up the shilling Parkes decamped, and the shilling was given to PC Simmonds on the following morning, as counterfeit.

On the evening in question the prisoners Hodgetts and Hunt went to another house, the BROWN LION, Oldbury; there was a third person with them, whom the landlady, Sophia Portman, could not identify. In payment for some port and sherry a shilling was tendered, change being given in coppers. The shilling was on the following morning found to be counterfeit, and given to PC Simmonds.

John Smith, landlord of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury, stated that on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>, the prisoners Hodgetts and Hunt went to his house, and in payment for some sherry, Hunt tendered a shilling, which witness returned to her as bad. She then went to Hodgetts, returned, and gave witness half-a-crown. Witness afterwards went to the PARROT ARMS, and there saw Hodgetts and Hunt, whom he asked if they knew him. They replied ‘Yes.’ On asking them if they recollected trying to pass a bad shilling at his house, Hunt said she did not know it was bad. Witness gave the change for the half-a-crown to Hunt, who he believed passed it to Hodgetts.



At the PARROT ARMS the prisoners had two glasses of sherry, a shilling being tendered in payment by Hunt. Fanny Proctor, waitress, gave the shilling to the landlord.

Sarah Jane Parkes went to the shop of Reuben Green, and in payment for some cakes produced a shilling. Green told her it was bad, when she said she had it from her mother's. It was returned to her. In consequence of what he had heard, Green went to the BLACK BOY, where he saw the prisoner Parkes.

Daniel Darby, a constable, was at the PARROT ARMS, about half-past ten at night, when the prisoners came in. A person also came in and said the prisoners had been passing a bad shilling at John Smith's. The landlord then produced the shilling he had taken from them, and it was found to be counterfeit. Witness then asked them how many more they had like that; they said none – they did not know it was bad. On asking them if they had been at Smith's, they said they had not, but on Smith being sent for they admitted being at his house. Darby received the shilling, and thereupon took the prisoners into custody.

PC Simmonds went to the BLACK BOY and found the prisoners Parkes there. He charged them with passing counterfeit coin. He said he should search them and told them to get up. When Sarah Jane Parkes got up and walked across the kitchen a handkerchief was dropped, which on being picked up was found to contain nine bad shillings and a crown-piece. Jane Parkes gave Tilsley a small bag containing 11d. Moved her on one side and found in her hand a purse, containing three bad shillings and five good sixpences. There was a basket on the screen, which prisoner said at first was not hers, but subsequently said it was her daughter's (Sarah Jane Parkes). Took them to the station house and there Sarah Jane Parkes said she picked the handkerchief up in a field at Rowley. Hodgetts said that Parkes lodged with her. While in the station Jane Parkes said she came from Dudley, and that Hodgetts gave her the purse to hold for a little while.

Mr. J. M. Skarratt proved the money passed and found in the possession of the prisoners to be counterfeit. Jane Parkes's statement taken before the Magistrates was read, which was to the effect that she received the purse and its contents from her daughter. The statement of the latter was that she picked the handkerchief up in a field, but did not let her mother know anything about it.

A victualler, named Harper, of Dudley, spoke to the excellent character of Hodgetts, whom he had known for 20 years, and she had worked for his family ten years. Hunt also produced two letters as to her character. The chairman minutely summed up the evidence, and the jury found all the prisoners guilty, but recommended Hodgetts and Hunt to mercy on account of their previous good character.

Hodgetts was sentenced to nine calendar months, Jane Parkes to twelve months, Sarah Jane Parkes to twelve months, and Hunt twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour, each."

#### Birmingham Journal 26/12/1857

"Charge of Rape. *Stephen Basford*, a publican, keeping the sign of the BLACK BOY, Oldbury Green, was charged, on Saturday, before R. W. Johnson and E. Chance, Esqrs, with a criminal assault upon a girl fifteen years old, named Elizabeth Perren, on the night of Tuesday week. Mr. Plunkett was for the defence. The girl was servant at *Basford's*, and it was alleged that he threw her upon the bed in her own room, on Tuesday afternoon, and committed the assault. On cross-examination she said she did not mention it to any one till eight in the evening, when she went home and told her mother. T. R. Cooper, Esq, surgeon, was called as a witness, and his evidence led the Magistrates to believe that nothing criminal had taken place, as alleged, between her and the defendant. They also thought the girl's evidence was not to be relied upon, and dismissed the case."

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/1/1859

"Mr. Cottis of Westbromwich will shoot a match with either Hadley or Parkes, for £5 or £10 a side, at 11 birds each, to find and trap against each other, 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>oz of shot. Money ready at *Bashford's*, BACK BOY INN, Oldbury."

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/4/1859

"Mr. Cottis of Westbromwich will shoot any man in Wednesbury or Oldbury a match, for £10 or £20 a side, and will give Mr. Adams of Oldbury 11 birds to 10, and shoot for £10 or £20 a side. Money ready any night next week at Mr. *Bashford's*, BLACK BOY, Oldbury."

#### 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.”

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/6/1859

“Mr. Cottis of Westbromwich will shoot a match at pigeons with Mr. Chamberlain of Derby, for £5 or £10 a side. The match to come off at Aston Cross Grounds. Money ready at Mr. *Bashford’s* BLACK BOY, Oldbury.”

#### 1861 Census

Birmingham Street on Oldbury Green – BLACK BOY

- [1] *Stephen Bassford* (33), retail brewer and glass blower, born Bilston;
- [2] *Mary Ann Bassford* (32), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Isaac Henry Bassford* (13), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Charles Bassford* (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Albert Frederick Bassford* (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Agnes Frances Bassford* (4), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/8/1863 - Deaths

“On the 29<sup>th</sup> ultimo, of congestion of the brain, aged 36 years, *Stephen Bassford*, of the BLACK BOY, Oldbury; deeply regretted.”

#### County Express 16/4/1870

“*Peter Saul*, of the BLACK BOY, Oldbury, was fined 2s 6d and costs, for having his house open at prohibited hours on Sunday week.”

*Valentine Drury* married Sarah Bassford on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1864 at Birmingham.

#### 1871 Census

Birmingham Street

- [1] *Valentine Drury* (39), beerhouse keeper, born Shrewsbury;
- [2] *Sarah Drury* (38), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Valentine Drury* (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Isaac T. Drury* (2), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Martha Bassford* (22), sister-in-law, dressmaker, born Oldbury:

*Valentine Drury* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1874.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/8/1877 - Advert

“Birmingham Street, and New Street, Oldbury, Worcestershire. Valuable Freehold Business Property. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. H. R. Harper, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Monday Next, the 27<sup>th</sup> August, at Six for Seven o’clock in the evening punctually, subject to conditions to be then produced, incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society. All those Three (three-storied) Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses and Shops, with the Yards, Out-buildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate in Birmingham Street, Oldbury, one of which is used as a Beerhouse under the sign of the BLACK BOY, and is in the occupation of Mrs. *Drury*, and the others in the occupations of Messrs. Parsons and Hawes.....”

#### 1881 Census

93, Birmingham Road

- [1] *William Barrows* (57), beerhouse keeper, born Wing, Rutland;

- [2] Mary Barrows (55), wife, born Uppingham, Rutland;
- [3] Albert Barrows (27), wagon builder, born Leicester;
- [4] Alfred Barrows (18), son, labourer, born Oldbury;
- [5] Ezakil Groves (24), son-in-law, glass blower, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Julia Groves (24), wife, born Wassel, Staffordshire;
- [7] Samuel Groves (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] William Groves (9 months), son, born Oldbury;
- [9] Henry Priest (28), lodger, wagon builder, born Bridgnorth:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1883 - Advert

“BLACK BOY, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Well-accustomed Beerhouse to Let, on the main road. Rent £18. In-coming low.

Apply to W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Public-house Valuer, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.”

*William Bates* = William Bate

Sporting Life 23/10/1883

“Mr. *W. Bate*, of the BLACK BOY INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, will match Tom Richards of Wolverhampton, to run C. Banks of Smethwick, 120 yards, level, for £10 or £15 a-side, in one month from signing articles. A match can be made any time by calling at the above inn. The *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder and appoint referee.”

Sporting Life 10/11/1883 - Advert

“Alexandra Running and Shooting Grounds, Rood End, Oldbury.

Mr. W. E. Sankey’s All England £6 10s 200 Yards Dog Handicap, on Mondays, November 19 and 26, at the above grounds.

Final heats of the 440 yards handicap this day (Saturday, November 10).

Mr. W. E. Sankey intends reviving the above grounds with all its old sports, and will commence by giving £6 10s, all-England 200 yards dog handicap, to be run on Mondays, November 19 and 26, 1883 – first prize £5; second £1; third 7s; fourth 3s. Entrance 6d each (closes on Wednesday next, November 14), to be made to W. Sankey, BELL INN, Rood End; W. Perkins, 8, Court, Lombard Street; W. Rickerby, Old Plough, Suffolk Street; H. Ellis, New Inn, Essex Street; E. Lambeth, Castle Inn, Moseley Street; *W. Bates*, BLACK BOY, Birmingham Street, Oldbury; J. Beasley, WHITE HORSE, Church Street, Oldbury.”

Sporting Life 4/12/1883

“Wolverhampton and District. Victoria Grounds, Rough Hills.

A pedestrian match, 100 yards level, for £10 a-side, was set down for decision at these grounds on Saturday evening last, the contestants being W. Stewart and J. Green, both hailing from Wolverhampton. As the weather was magnificently fine a tolerably large number assembled. Notwithstanding the small stake at issue both lads were placed in clever and experienced hands. Stewart (who is a nephew of Mark Stewart) took his walks from that well-known trainer’s, *Billy Bates*, of the BLACK BOY INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, who brought his charge to the mark in tip-top fettle, whilst Green took his breathings in the company of Sam Oxley, of the Black Horse Inn, Bolton, Lancashire, and, like Stewart, looked in good condition. Green had for his attendant Ben Shaw, of the QUEENS ARMS INN, Albert Place, Wolverhampton. The track, owing to the heavy rains of Friday, was rather holding. Betting commenced at evens (Green for choice), and at the close 10 to 8 on Green was ruling the price. Green won the toss, and selected the side next the rails. Stewart got well away with the report, but Green remained at his mark, Stewart running the ground over, and breaking the worsted. On the referee appealing to the starter, the latter declared the start a fair one. The referee, Mr. S. Ward, of the COTTAGE INN, Wolverhampton, who was also stakeholder, then gave his decision in favour of Stewart. The manager, B. Morris (alias Flesh), was starter.”

Sporting Life 5/12/1883

“Alexander Grounds, Rood End, Oldbury.

On Monday last the entertainment consisted of what should have been the first round of heats in Mr. W. E. Sankey's 200 Yards £6 10s Dog Handicap and a 440 yards match between Hood of Birmingham and Onions of Rood End, and a 100 yards spin between T. Richards of Wolverhampton, and C. Banks of Smethwick, for £10 a-side, the Wolverhampton representative allowing one yard start. Both men are well known in the Midlands, and have earned a good reputation at the pedestrian business. A vast crowd assembled, inside and outside also presented a lively appearance with cabs, brakes, &c. Both men had had a special preparation, Richards by his old mentor *Billy Bates*, from the BLACK BOY HOTEL, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, whilst Banks had been trained by that well-known Birmingham supporter of boxers Mat Bowers. Betting opened at 5 to 4 on Richards, which was readily accepted by the followers of Banks, who, prior to the men going to their marks, laid as much as 6 to 4 on Banks. The proprietor (Mr. W. E. Sankey) appointed Billy Lewis, of Birmingham, to fire the pistol. At the first attempt Richards was too anxious to start, and got over, and was penalised one yard. This caused odds of 2 to 1 to be laid on Banks. At the second attempt Banks got away before the report of the pistol, and Richards, with the intention of catching Banks napping, followed suit, and a magnificent race ensued, Banks winning by about three-quarters of a yard. All was now confusion, and the starter, on being appealed to, declared it no start, and the proprietor (Mr. W. E. Sankey), who officiated as referee, declared it no race, and all bets off. Darkness was fast coming on, and consequently the 440 yards race between Hood and Onions was postponed sine die, whilst the opening heats of the dog handicap were postponed until Monday next."

#### Sporting Life 22/12/1883

"*W. Bate*, of Oldbury. This well-known Midland trainer of peds and others is now host of the BLACK BOY INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, and wishes, through us, to inform peds that he has ample accommodation for both pros and amateurs."

#### Sporting Life 7/6/1884

"Lyndon Running Grounds, West Bromwich, near Birmingham.

Mr. H. Mason (proprietor) and Mr. George Wilmore will give the following prizes to be run for in a 125 yards handicap – first prize, £2 10s; second, 10s; third, 5s, on Saturdays, June 14 and 21. Entries, of 6d each, to be made at the grounds, or BREWERS ARMS, Spon Lane; or BLACK BOY, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, on or before Monday next; Tuesday morning's post in time. To save disappointment, entrance money must be sent with entry, as on no account will they be handicapped without. Larger handicaps to follow. For particulars see advertisements in Saturday's *Sporting Life*. Mr. George Wilmore, handicapper and manager."

#### Birmingham Mail 8/12/1884

"Failure of a Publican at Oldbury. Today a petition for a receiving order was filed in the Oldbury County Court by *William Bates*, lately carrying on the business of a beerhouse keeper at the BLACK BOY INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, but now residing at No.1, Eel Street, Oldbury, bricklayer. Mr. S. H. Forrest, Oldbury, is the debtor's solicitor."

*George Wilmore*, beer retailer, Birmingham Road. [1888]

#### 1891 Census

5, Birmingham Street

[1] *George Wilmore* (44), beer retailer, born Ripple, Worcestershire;

[2] *Frances Wilmore* (46), wife, born Worcester:

*George William Lea* = George William Lee

#### Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1893

"At West Bromwich County Court, yesterday afternoon – before his Honour Judge Griffiths – *George William Lee*, of the BLACK BOY INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, brought an action against William Hackett, auctioneer and valuer, Birmingham, to recover £52 8s 10d, which plaintiff alleged had been obtained from

him by the defendant by misrepresentation in connection with the sale of the business attached to the house named. Mr. Kettle appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

Mr. Kettle explained that plaintiff, prior to becoming the tenant of the BLACK BOY INN at Oldbury, assisted his father, who was a lodging-house keeper at Leicester. His father was desirous of placing plaintiff in a public house. About the end of June or the beginning of July the father saw an advertisement in the *Birmingham Daily Post* of a beerhouse, and application was to be made to William Hackett, auctioneer, of Oldbury. The elder Lee replied to the advertisement, and asked to be supplied with particulars of the public house. Negotiations followed between the parties, and plaintiff alleged that defendant represented that the BLACK BOY INN was a good little house, which he (Mr. Kettle) contended was meant to convey that a good business was being done, and that it was, in fact, doing from £6 to £7 per week. Eventually plaintiff agreed to purchase the house, and the amount claimed was the sum he paid for taking possession with expenses.

The plaintiff and his father were called to show that there was very little business attached to the house. The elder Lee said he sat in the house on the previous night for six hours and only sold one half-pint of fourpenny, for which he received 1d. (Laughter.)

Mr. W. Shakespeare cross-examined both these witnesses at length with the view to show that the defendant had not misrepresented the character of the business, and that its subsequent decline was attributable to the way in which the house was conducted by the plaintiff.

At this point the Judge rose, and the case had to be adjourned to a date to be fixed by the parties.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1894

“At West Bromwich County Court, yesterday afternoon, before Judge Griffith, the adjourned action, in which *George William Lea*, of Leicester, claimed £49 19s from Mr. William Hackett, auctioneer and valuer, of Oldbury, for damages alleged to have been sustained in consequence of misrepresentation respecting the sale of a public house at Oldbury, in August last, came on. Mr. Kettle (instructed by Mr. Waldron) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

At the previous hearing of the case, the plaintiff’s evidence only was given, and then it was alleged that the defendant sold the stock, goodwill, and licenses of the BLACK BOY INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, to the plaintiff for the sum claimed, and that he represented it as a good little house, and that the takings amounted to £6 or £7 per week, whereas, when the plaintiff entered into possession, he discovered that only a small amount of business was done at the house.

Several witnesses were called yesterday in support of this, and they were cross-examined by Mr. Shakespeare to show that the house was not conducted by the plaintiff properly and in a way likely to induce customers to visit it, and it was further elicited that some times as much as £10, and £11 was taken in one week, and that the average taking was from £6 to £7 per week. Mr. Shakespeare contended that plaintiff was put out of Court by his own witnesses, one of whom admitted that they took as much as £10 or £11 per week, whilst another said the average takings amounted to between £6 and £7 per week.

After hearing Mr. Kettle, the Judge nonsuited the plaintiff without hearing the evidence for the defence.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1894 - Advert

“To Let, with immediate possession, the BLACK BOY INN, Oldbury; free house. In-going £80. Apply, G. W. Lee, 13, Bedford Street, Leicester.”

*John George Dexter* was secretary of the Oldbury Licensed Victuallers Association. [1894/5]

*John George Dexter*, beer retailer, 5, Birmingham Road. [1896]

#### County Advertiser 17/10/1896

“At the Dudley County Court, on Tuesday, Thomas Charles, recently landlord of the OLD CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath, was publicly examined in bankruptcy before Mr. Registrar Kettle.

Debtor, who is charged with being an absconding bankrupt, attended in custody with two of the warders from Worcester gaol. Mr. Tinsley represented the bankrupt, and Mr. W. H. Thompson appeared on behalf of the petitioning creditors.

In reply to Mr. Jobson (Official Receiver) debtor stated that he had been a miner, and about six years ago he borrowed £200 and took the RED LION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, where he remained for about three years. He repaid part of the money, and whilst at the public house he ran up an account with a firm of brewers. He was paid a sum to leave the RED LION in December, 1893, but could not remember the amount.

Mr. Jobson: Have you from that date up to the present time been able to pay your creditors in full? – I think I have been; sometimes I have been level, and sometimes I have been behind.

He took the OLD CROSS GUNS in December, 1893, and remained there until last August. The in-going valuation was £140. Of this sum he only paid £80, some of which he borrowed, and the remainder being the money he had received in respect of the valuation of the other public house.

Mr. Jobson: Do you suggest that you were robbed whilst at the CROSS GUNS? – Debtor: I do. There was £65 10s in cash taken away at once. We tried to discover who took the money, but we could not find it.

You have suggested that it was members of your own family? – Well, I could never find it out.

How many sons have you? – Four or five.

Has there been a prosecution against you? – Yes.

When was that? – About two months ago.

What did it cost you? – About £30.

Where did you get the money from? – From my mother.

Did your creditors come down upon you when they saw that you had been convicted? – They did not interfere with me.

Do you want the Court to understand that at that time you could not pay 20s in the pound, but that if you had sold the lease of the house you would have had sufficient to have done so? – Yes.

What was the amount of the lease? – £170.

He believed this sum would have paid them all. He had the BLACK BOY, at Oldbury, which he carried on at the same time he was landlord of the RED LION. He took the BLACK BOY on behalf of his son Thomas, who went to India, taking with him some of the money. About nine months ago he took the OLD ENGINE HOUSE, Wagon Street, Old Hill, for his son John. He paid part of the money for the license and his son the remainder, the amount being £50. His son had repaid the money, with the exception of about £7.

Mr. Jobson: Where did you get the money from? – Debtor: From a club conducted by teachers and scholars.

Why did you leave the neighbourhood? – I went out for my health.

And whilst out for your health did you spend any of the takings from the house? – I did not see a penny.

Replying to Mr. Tinsley, debtor stated that he had about £19 or £20 when he went away.

Mr. Jobson said that certain proceedings were yet to be taken against the debtor.

The Registrar said that he did not think the bankrupt would have to appear in that court again, but he would adjourn the case sine die.”

### 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.....

*J. G. Dexter, BLACK BOY, Oldbury.*”

### 1901 Census

5, Birmingham Road – BLACK BOY

[1] *John G. Dexter* (45), beerhouse keeper, born Great Bowden, Leicestershire;

[2] *Annie Dexter* (37), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *George F. Dexter* (17), son, leaded light glazier, born Oldbury;

[4] *Charles W. Dexter* (15), son, assistant in chemical laboratory, born Langley;

[5] *Ethel M. Dexter* (13), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] *Frank Dexter* (10), son, born Oldbury;

[7] *Edward Dexter* (2), son, born Oldbury;

[8] *Walter R. Dexter* (1), son, born Oldbury:

*John George Dexter* – see also CRYSTAL PALACE, STORES and WHITE LION, all Birmingham Street.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.  
It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

Birmingham Mail 24/6/1905

“The adjourned meeting of the Worcester County Licensing Committee was held today at the Shirehall, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, for the consideration of licenses of houses in Oldbury which had been reported by the local justices as not being necessary for the requirements of the district.....

In the case of the BLACK BOY, Birmingham Street, Superintendent Hill said there was no complaint. The licensee, Mrs. Fox, said she put all her saving in the house, which gave her a comfortable living.....

After deliberating half an hour, the justices decided that all the houses brought before them were unnecessary, but not being certain how far compensation money would suffice to meet the claims to be paid, drew up an order of precedence in which houses are to be dealt with, houses not paid for keeping open provisionally till they are dealt with.”

Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

10. BLACK BOY, Birmingham Street.”

Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years’ purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years’ purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

BLACK BOY, £100.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division..... The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

BLACK BOY, Birmingham Street, £336.

The committee made awards as follows.....

BLACK BOY, Birmingham Street, £85 to the licensee, *Ann Maria Fox*, £150 to the registered owner, Susanna Moore, and £101 to the lessees, Holder's Brewery.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28."

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

## **BLACK HORSE**

47, Freeth Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Samuel Yeomans

### LICENSEES

James Vaughan [1859]

Ann Dudley [1861] – **1864**);

Thomas Welch (**1864 – 1875**)

Mrs. Welch [1875]

Samuel Yeomans [1881] – **1885**):

### NOTES

HORSE AND JOCKEY [1867], [1872], [1875]

Worcester Journal 22/1/1859

"*James Vaughan*, innkeeper, Oldbury, was fined 5s and costs for keeping open his house for the sale of ale before half-past twelve o'clock in the afternoon of Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> ult."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 20/2/1859

"James Vaughan of Oldbury will run Timothy or Joseph Thomas of Tividale, 100 yards level, or give two yards in 140, for £10 or £20 a side, or Sampson Vaughan will run Joseph or Timothy Thomas 120 yards, and take four yards start, or Septimus Vaughan will run Joseph or Timothy Thomas, and give five yards in 100, or 10 in 200, for £10 or £20 a side. Money ready any time at *James Vaughan's*, BLACK HORSE INN Oldbury."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/3/1859

"Septimus Vaughan of Birmingham and Whitehouse's Novice of Smethwick are matched to run 300 yards, for £5 a side, on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, at Aston Cross, Birmingham. The whole of the money is now down in the hands of Mr. *Vaughan*, BLACK HORSE, Oldbury. The men meet between twelve and two o'clock; the party refusing to run to forfeit the money down. Mr. Tailby referee."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 29/5/1859

"John Fellows of Dudley will run John Marshall of Oldbury 120 yards; or T. Thomas of Tividale; or Price of Dudley 440 yards; or Hodgkiss 200 yards, for £10 or £15 a side. Money ready any time at Mr. *J. Vaughan's*, BLACK HORSE INN, Oldbury."



Birmingham Journal 11/6/1859 - Advert

“The BLACK HORSE INN and Wine and Spirit Vaults, Freeth Street, Oldbury.  
By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty (by direction of the Proprietor, Mr. *James Vaughan*), the Licenses and Possession of the above excellent and well-established Old-licensed Inn, with the Wine and Spirit Vaults, now doing a first-rate business.  
Immediate possession may be had.  
For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Appraiser, Land Surveyor, and General Agent, Westley Street, Oldbury.”

London Gazette 19/10/1860

“In the Matter of the Petition of *James Vaughan*, formerly of Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Journeyman Blacksmith, Licensed Victualler, Beerseller, and Dealer in Tobacco, then of Freeth-street, Oldbury aforesaid, Journeyman Blacksmith, Licensed Victualler, Beer Seller, and Dealer in Tobacco, afterwards of Eel-street, Oldbury aforesaid, Journeyman Blacksmith, Licensed Victualler, Beerseller, and Dealer in Tobacco, and now of Eel-street, Oldbury aforesaid, out of business.  
Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, at Oldbury, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 5th day of November next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/11/1860

“Insolvents. In the County Court on Monday.....  
*James Vaughan*, licensed victualler, of Oldbury, came up for his final order; but being opposed on the ground that within three months of filing his petition he parted with certain goods to a preference creditor, his petition was dismissed.”

1861 Census

Freeth Street – BLACK HORSE INN

[1] *Ann Dudley* (35), widow, spirit dealer, born Halesowen;

[2] *Mary Warse* (27), house servant, born Oldbury:

*Ann Dudley* – see also WHITE SWAN, Church Street.

Stourbridge Observer 17/9/1864

“The Superintendent stated that there had been complaints made of the noisy conduct carried on at the BLACK HORSE, Oldbury, kept by *Thomas Walsh* [sic].  
Doctor Browne sustained the complaint, stating that his family are being constantly disturbed on account of the noise at the public house. The landlord was let off with a caution.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1864

“The annual meeting for the granting and renewal of licenses for the Oldbury and Hales Owen district was held yesterday.....

All the applications for renewals of licenses were granted, the following being cautioned in consequence of complaints having been made by the police ..... *Thomas Welch*, BLACK HORSE, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1864 - Letter

“To the Editor of the Birmingham Daily Post.

Sir, it is made to appear, in your impression of Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, that at the annual meeting for granting and renewing of licenses for Oldbury and Hales Owen districts, the following persons were cautioned, in consequence of complaints having been made by the police. *Thomas Welch*, BLACK HORSE INN; Benjamin Garner, HARMONIC INN; George Minchin, BELL INN, Rounds Green; also John Ballard, RED COW INN, all of Oldbury. Now, in fairness and justice to the police, we wish it to be understood that not in regard to any of the above persons charged was a single complaint made by the police, neither

was any intimation given in any way, until actually confronted by the Magistrates themselves, which quite astounded all the accused. The matter of fact is, that the Magistrates had been furnished with a private note by some person, who, knowing the truth was absent, had not the manliness to make the charge in person; excepting in the case of *Thomas Welch*, who was informed against by a neighbour. Thus the accused were not afforded an opportunity to be legally represented, to have those accusations rebuffed. By inserting the above, you will oblige, your obedient servants.

*Thomas Welch*, Benjamin Garner, George Minchin, John Ballard.  
Oldbury, September 21, 1864.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/10/1864

“W. Constable of Oldbury and J. Onions of Rounds Green are matched to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, to come off at Wall Heath Grounds, Dudley, on October 31; Mr. Drury, of Wends Green, final stakeholder and referee, who has £2 a side in hand. A further deposit of £2 a side to be made this evening at *T. Welch*’s, BLACK HORSE, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/9/1865

“J. Kirkham of Westbromwich and W. Foster of Oldbury. These well-known men were to have run their 300 yards match, for £10 a side, and from appearances a good deal of interest was taken therein, but the assemblage of spectators was doomed to disappointment, for at the time appointed Kirkham made his appearance on the ground stripped and waited for Foster, who refused to run. Mr. *Welch*, of the BLACK HORSE, Oldbury, the stakeholder and referee, gave him 20 minutes to get on the ground, and as he did not appear at the time he gave in for Kirkham (who ran the ground over), but declared all bets off. Foster stated to our correspondent that he found he was not in condition, and stood no chance of winning, and he did not wish his friends who had bet on him to lose their money.”

[When Kirkham and Foster ran in October 1865, Kirkham won by half a yard.]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 20/1/1866

“Price and Lowe. These Oldbury men came next on the ground to run their six score yards match, for £5 a side. Both men have previously figured in former matches with varied success. For the present event Price had trained under Howells, and Lowe under Onions. Mr. *T. Welch* of the BLACK HORSE, Oldbury, the stakeholder, acted as referee. The betting was even. After several attempts the men got away. Price, who was quickest on his legs, at half distance had a slight lead, and a good race ensued, Price winning by half a yard.”

County Advertiser 10/11/1866

“Henry Edwards was charged with stealing a muffler, the property of John Collins, pig dealer, Oldbury. On the previous Tuesday night prosecutor and prisoner were drinking at the HORSE AND JOCKEY, Oldbury. The former next day missed a muffler from the pocket of his coat. Information having been given to the police, it was ascertained that the prisoner had sold the muffler for 1s 6d. Prisoner denied that he had any felonious intent; and ultimately the prosecutor withdrew the charge.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/3/1867

“J. Blewitt of Oldbury will fight J. Hart of the same place at catch weight, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *T. Welch*’s, HORSE AND JOCKEY, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/9/1867

“Howells of Oldbury, hearing that Kirkham of Westbromwich is anxious for a match, will run him at Aston Cross Grounds from 100 to 200 yards, for from £15 to £25 a side. Money ready at *Welch*’s, BLACK HORSE, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/4/1868

“W. Howells of Oldbury will run W. Lee (the Boatman) of Great Bridge 120 yards with two yards start, or will take a yard of Shaver End, or York of Netherton, or two yards in 100 of Horner (alias Dumpling), but

for not less than £10 a side. Money ready at *T. Welch's*, BLACK HORSE INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1870 - Advert

“Wanted, a Young Man, for the Shoeing and Jobbing Smithing.  
Apply, *Thomas Welch*, BLACK HORSE, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1870

“On Saturday, at the West Bromwich Police Court, before Messrs. R. Bagnall and H. Wiggin, the following persons were summoned, at the instance of the police, for selling beer in a booth at Harborne without a license.....

*Thomas Welch*, BLACK HORSE, Freeth Street, Oldbury.....

Mr. Motteram, instructed by Mr. Cutler, appeared for the defendants.

Inspector Ordish deposed that on Monday, the 22nd of last month, he was on duty at the Cape Wake, he went into a booth where he saw the name of *Thomas Welch* set up, and a number of people were there drinking. He heard one man call for a pint of ale, and saw him served and the money paid to the waiter. The defendant was also present on Tuesday, the day following. He was again on duty at the same place, and asked the defendant (*Welch*) to show him his special license, but received a reply to the effect that he hadn't one, and did not need one.....

[There then follows long legal arguments.]

After a brief consultation amongst the Magistrates, Mr. Wiggin said the Bench had decided to convict, but as the defendants appeared to have been acting in ignorance, the penalty would be 5s and costs in each case (19s 6d each).”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/2/1871

“A gentleman will be at Mr. *T. Welch's*, the BLACK HORSE INN, Oldbury, this (Saturday) evening to match a lad to run any other lad within four miles of Oldbury 120 yards, for £5 or £10 a side.”

1871 Census

47, Freeth Street

- [1] *Thomas Welch* (42), blacksmith, born Shropshire;
- [2] Sarah Welch (44), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Mary Welch (18), daughter, born Staffordshire;
- [4] Ester Welch (58), aunt, widow, born Oldbury;
- [5] John Davis (48), boarder, horse dealer, born Wombourne;
- [6] William Baker (22), boarder, blacksmith, born Whiteheath;
- [7] William Nickolis (21), boarder, miner, born Blackheath;
- [8] Thomas Monger (38), boarder, servant, born Epsom:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/8/1871

“T. Hadley of Oldbury is surprised at T. Stanley of Langley challenging him level. If Stanley means business Hadley will take four yards start of him in 120 yards, for £5 or £10 a side, or he will run Williams of Greatbridge 120 yards level, for his own sum, or will run Barnes of Smethwick level 100 or 120 yards, for £10 a side, or will take one yard in six score of Shelton of Great Bridge, or Woolrych of Westbromich, for their own sums, not less than £5 a side. Either can have a match by applying at Mr. *Tom Welch's*, BLACK HORSE INN, Oldbury, this (Saturday), evening.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/9/1871 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady Shoeing Smith. Must be a good workman.  
Apply, *Thomas Welch*, BLACK HORSE, Freeth Street, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 30/9/1871

“*Thomas Welch*, landlord of the BLACK HORSE, Oldbury, was charged with selling ale in a booth on the wake ground, at Blackheath, on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, without a license. Mr. Hemmant, of Birmingham, appeared for

the defendant. Police-sergeant Powner stated that he visited the wake on that day, and saw the defendant selling ale in a booth. He asked for the necessary certificate, but the defendant had not one. Mr. Hemmant stated that the defendant had done all in his power to obtain a Magistrate's signature to his certificate, but four of them were out and one would not subscribe his name to the paper, as he was unacquainted with the defendant. A witness was called, who spoke to his calling upon Mr. Chance, of Spon Lane, and several other Magistrates, but without being able to obtain a signature. The Bench were of opinion that there was no excuse for the defendant selling beer without a certificate, and fined him 5s and costs."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/1/1872

"G. Hadley of Oldbury will run S. Hyde of Smethwick 100 or 120 yards level, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready, and a match can be made, at *Welch's*, BLACK HORSE, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 17/4/1872 - Advert

"Found, on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst, a Black Retriever Bitch. If not Owned in Three Days will be Sold to defray expenses.

*Welch's*, BLACK HORSE, Oldbury."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/10/1872

"E. Wilkinson of Oldbury will match his bitch Monkey against Mr. Bradley's white bitch Lady of Swinford, to run the best of 21 courses, 60 yards law, for £15 or £25 a side, in a month or five weeks from Monday next, at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury. Money ready at Mr. *Welch's*, BLACK HORSE, Oldbury."

Worcester Journal 16/10/1875 - Deaths

"October 10, after a long illness, aged 46, *Thomas Welch*, of the BLACK HORSE INN, Oldbury."

*Thomas Welch* – see also THREE HORSESHOES, Freeth Street.

Worcester Journal 25/12/1875

"Worcestershire Winter Assizes..... Abduction at Dudley.

Thomas Ponter, 42, vice maker, on bail, Joseph Foley, 19, collier, and Selina Bates, 21, dressmaker, were indicted for having, on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, at Dudley, taken an unmarried girl, named Elizabeth Smith, out of the possession and against the will of Henry Smith, her father, she being under the age of sixteen. Ponter failed to appear, and his recognisances were estreated. Mr. Streeton prosecuted; the prisoners were not defended. From the evidence it appeared that the girl, who was fifteen years of age in November last, lives with her parents at Newtown, West Bromwich, and on the occasion of the wake at that place, in June, she was accosted by the prisoner Bates, who took her into a dancing booth, where the other prisoners were, and, in their hearing, tried to prevail upon her to leave home and live with her at Dudley. Ponter, who was a fiddler, also asked her to go with Bates. This she refused to do, and eventually went home. On the 19<sup>th</sup> July the girl went to Tipton wake, and was again in the company of the prisoners, who renewed their entreaties, promising that if she went with Bates she should have some clothes. She answered that she dared not leave home, and after being some time in prisoners' company, she left them and proceeded home. The next day she was with them again, and all the prisoners joined in persuading her to go with them, Foley promising, if she would go to Yorkshire or Walsall with him, he would find her clothes. Eventually she went to Dudley with the prisoners, and slept at Bates's house, with all the prisoners, that night. Before going to bed Bates locked the door, and also did so next morning when she left the room, saying that if her mother came after her she would get beaten.

Inspector Mapp, of Dudley, went to the house on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, and Bates, before opening the door, told Smith to say that she only came there that morning. When questioned by the inspector the girl admitted this was true. She also demurred to going home, as she said her mother would beat her.

Mrs. *Welch*, of the BLACK HORSE, Oldham [sic], keeper of the booth at Tipton wake, called on behalf of Bates, said that she saw the girl Smith in the booth partaking of food with the prisoners.....

The jury found prisoners guilty, and they were each sentenced to twelve months' hard labour."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/8/1870 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale, Park Lane, Oldbury. To Grocers, Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. John Green and Son, on Monday Next, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The whole of the Stock-In-Trade, Shop Fixtures, &c, &c; comprising Deal Counters, large Flour Bin, Tobacco, Flour, and Potato Scales and Weights; Weighing Machine, to weigh 4cwt; Nest of Drawers and Shelving, pair of Agate Scales and Weights, by Avery; Tea Canisters, about 1cwt Saltpetre, quantity of Washing Soda; Tea, Butter, and other Paper; Two Chests of Tea, Leamington Cooking Range, 300-gallon wrought iron Boiler, 100-gallon wrought iron Boiler; hot-water Warming Apparatus and a large quantity of Piping; double-barrelled Gun, quantity of Blacksmiths' Tools, Bellows, &c; silver-mounted and other Harness; 100 pairs of Cord and Moleskin Trousers; newly-painted Dog Cart, Whitechapel Dog Cart, newly-painted and Lined Phaeton, under 4cwt; light Spring Cart, narrow-wheeled Cart, together with Three Store Pigs, the property of Mr. *Samuel Yeomans*, who is leaving the above premises.

Sale to commence punctually at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had of Mr. *Samuel Yeomans*, Freeth Street; and of the Auctioneers.

At the Same Place, a large quantity of Forfeited High Pledges, pledged between the months of December, 1866, and March, 1869, with Mr. *Samuel Yeomans*, Park Lane, Oldbury.

Auctioneers' Offices, JUNCTION HOTEL, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

In the 1871 census *Samuel Yeomans* was a pawnbroker at 48, Freeth Street.

1881 Census

47, Freeth Street – BLACK HORSE

Unoccupied

AND

48, Freeth Street

[1] *Samuel Yeomans* (43), married, pawnbroker and licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] Sarah A. Wakeman (29), house keeper, born Halesowen;

[3] Jane Yeomans (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] Clara Yeomans (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Elizabeth Yeomans (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] Walter S. Yeomans (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] Sarah A. Asbury (20), barmaid, born Oldbury;

[8] Elizabeth Asbury (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Samuel Yeomans* issued tokens from here.

Smethwick Telephone 29/8/1885

“Oldbury Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent Hardman called the attention of the justices to the fact that there were a number of houses in the division the licenses of which were annually renewed although they were not used as public houses, and he opposed a further renewal of the licenses this year, there being no necessity for their continuance .....

*Samuel Yeomans*, BLACK LION [sic], Freeth Street, Oldbury, closed one year. In the case of *Yeomans* no opposition was made to the application by the police to withhold the license.....

After the magistrates had considered in private the applications for renewals, Mr. Avery announced the following decisions. The renewal of licenses of ..... *Samuel Yeomans* ..... were refused.”

**BLACK HORSE**

49, Halesowen Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

Robert Jones [1871] – [1873]

## NOTES

### 1871 Census

49, Halesowen Street – BLACK HORSE

[1] *Robert Jones* (22), puddler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Charlotte Jones* (20), wife, born West Bromwich:

[3] *William Williams* (58), lodger, labourer, born Herefordshire;

[4] *Elizabeth Williams* (59), lodger, born Herefordshire;

[5] *Henry Williams* (18), lodger, monitor, born West Bromwich;

[6] *Ellen Williams* (14), lodger, general servant, born Oldbury:

*Robert Jones*, beer retailer, Halesowen Street. [1872]

*Robert Jones*, beer retailer, 49, Halesowen Street. [1873]

Check GREYHOUND.

## BLUE BALL

174, (134), (139), Dudley Road (East), Brades, (Oldfield), (Oldbury Green), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Showell's Brewery Co. Ltd.

Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (leased) (acquired on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1935)

Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1960)

## LICENSEES

*William Mills* [1834]

*Samuel Johnson* [1834] – [1875]

*Mrs. Betsy Green* [1872]

*Amplias Johnson* [ ] – **1878**)

*John Johnson* [1879]

*John Ratcliffe* [1880] manager

*George Thompson* [ ] – **1880**);

*Mrs. Betsy Green* (**1880** – [1884]

*Myra Blakeman* [1888] – [1892]

*Gerrard Carroll* [1888] – [1892] manager

*Mrs. Oliver* [1894]

*Thomas Webb* (**1895** – [ ]

James Hartland [1896]  
Albert Edward Holding [1900]  
Frederick William 'Fred' Growcott [1901] – [1905]  
Richard Clark [ ] – **1906**);  
Frank Grey\* (**1906** – [ ]  
Frederick Grey\* [1907]  
Frederick William 'Fred' Growcott [1911] – **1937**);  
Harold Troman (**1937** – **1938**);  
Frederick Ernest Stanley (**1938** – **1943**);  
Lawson Colley (**1943** – **1947**);  
William Henry Smout (**1947** – **1948**);  
Joseph Crosby (**1948** – **1952**);  
Albert Henry Dawson (**1952** – **1954**);  
Joseph William Roberts (**1954** – **1955**);  
Charles Howard Blizzard (**1955** – **1965**);  
George Henry Cox (**1965** – [ ]  
Alice Foster [1974]  
James Forbes (**1981** – [ ]

## NOTES

139, Dudley Road  
174, Dudley Road [1911], [1939], [1940]  
134, Dudley Road [1932]

It had a bowling green.

It was the headquarters of Brades Park FC.

### Black Country Bugle (January 1974) 'Who Is The Ghost Of The Blue Ball?'

“What restless soul paces the upstairs apartments of the BLUE BALL, peers in through its windows on dark nights, walks through walls and haunts the gloomy staircase of this 200 year old Oldbury pub?

We got a description of this flitting phantom from licensee *Mrs. Alice Foster* ..... an old man with a short white beard, a battered hat, who seems to be searching for something ..... Bolts and bars mean nothing to the BLUE BALL spook for several of the pub's customers have seen him disappear through walls without as much as a Cheerio folks, and his ceaseless pacing to and fro in the bedroom over the bar is regularly heard by the customers ..... Delving back into history, we find that the pub was always a great sporting house with its billiards room and bowling green, it was the haunt of the 'dogmen' of the area. The notice, headed Sports, which can be seen fixed to a wall of the tavern in the top picture opposite referred to a rat-killing leger ..... At the BLUE BALL INN, Oldbury, a Rat-killing Leger will take place November 1st, when the proprietor will give £1 10s if there are ten dogs at 2s 6d each. If over ten dogs, all money added. Heats, the best of three. Final the best of five.

Such contests took place in a rat pit, walled closely meshed iron bars, and there were many such arenas around Oldbury at that time. Harry Bashford, is a famous character from that period and almost invariably lifted the prize money from the BLUE BALL legers with his tiny terrier Rot Pizen ..... The landlord of the BLUE BALL was also severely lectured because arrangements for the illegal dog fight (at New Inns, Handsworth, 1850) had been made on his premises.”

### Black Country Bugle Letter from Henry Danks, Tividale

“I had never heard of the BLUE BALL being haunted. It was kept by *Fred Growcott*.”

Birmingham Journal 10/12/1831 -Advert

“The Creditors of William Proctor, late of Oldbury, in the parish of Halesowen, in the County of Salop, linen-draper and coal-master, formerly carrying on such last-mentioned business at the Union Colliery, in Oldbury, aforesaid, in partnership with Joseph Green, under the firm of Green and Proctor, and since on his own account, lately discharged from the goal of Shrewsbury, by an Order of the Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, are request to meet at the BLUE BALL, Oldbury, in the county of Salop, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December, instant, at 12 o’clock at noon, precisely, for the purpose of choosing an assignee or assignees of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.

John Taylor, 6, Clements Inn, for P. Smith, Birmingham.”

Staffordshire Gazette 13/7/1839

“On Monday week, a little boy wandered from his home at Oldbury with a band of music to the BLUE BALL, near the Brades, where he was seen at six o’clock in the evening. From his not returning home at bed-time, great alarm was felt by his mother lest he should have fallen into the canal or some of the coal-pits in the neighbourhood. Search was made for him throughout the adjacent towns and villages during the whole of that night, of Tuesday, and Tuesday night, and the forenoon of Wednesday, when he was brought home to his distressed mother. It appeared from the boy’s tale, that he had strolled about all the night, and on Tuesday was picked up by a lady about a mile and a half from Birmingham, and conveyed to the workhouse there; he would not tell the authorities his name, or where he came from, until Wednesday morning, when no time was lost in restoring him to his home.”

1841 Census

Brades

[1] *Samuel Johnson* (30), builder, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Amplias Johnson* (30);

[3] Samuel Johnson (7), born Staffordshire;

[4] John Johnson (5), born Staffordshire;

[5] Philip Johnson (4), born Staffordshire;

[6] William Randle (20);

[7] Martha Hinton (15):

Bell’s Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/10/1842

“John Rhodes, having been defeated in the half mile race by Burton, is now matched to run nine miles under the hour, over a quarter of a mile race ground, on the Dudley-road, near Oldbury, tomorrow (Monday) week, between 12 and 2. Joseph Purks staking £6 to Rhodes’s £5; £2 a side is down; the next deposit to be made tomorrow night at Aaron Peacock’s, the GEORGE INN, and the rest of the money on the morning of the race, at Mr. *Johnson*’s, the BLUE BALL INN, near Oldbury.

Is it fair for a man running against time to carry a watch on his arm? – Yes, or anything else he pleases.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/10/1842

“The nine miles race under the hour, over a quarter of a mile of ground, by John Rhodes, of Brades New Village, near Oldbury, came off on Monday last. A vast multitude of persons assembled, and the backers of the man offered level bets, but there were but few takers. Exactly at 25 minutes to 3, all being in readiness, the word was given and the man started in prime style, accomplishing the first mile in 5 minutes and 9 seconds; the first four miles in 23 minutes, and ultimately the whole distance in 5 minutes under the hour.....”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/4/1843

“Jumping. A person, who can be found at the BLUE BALL, near Oldbury, will jump three rising jumps against any man within twenty miles of that place, for from £1 to £10 a side. His money is always ready at the above house.”

*Samuel Johnson* was described as a builder. [1845]



Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/5/1845

“Samuel Fairfield of the Brades Works, Oldbury, will run the following, or all of them, six score yards, for from £2 to £5 a side, namely, Bayley, Taylor, Waver, W. Brown, Daniel Hadley, or Butt of Rounds Green; or he will run George Ham from eight to ten score yards, for the same sum. His money is always ready at the BLUE BALL, Brades, Oldbury, near Birmingham.”

*Samuel Johnson* was also a builder. [1850]

1851 Census

Brades

- [1] *Samuel Johnson* (42), timber merchant, born Rowley;
- [2] *Amphilis Johnson* (42), wife, born Haleston, Worcestershire;
- [3] Samuel Johnson (17), son, born Rowley;
- [4] John Johnson (16), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [5] Philip Johnson (14), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [6] James Johnson (5), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [7] Richard Edwards (20), labourer, born Western Dubbey (?), Gloucestershire;
- [8] Eliza Hill (14), servant, born Rowley:

Birmingham Journal 14/5/1853 - Advert

“Brades Building Estate. Votes for East Worcestershire and South Staffordshire.

Oldbury and Rowley Regis, on the north side of the Dudley and Oldbury Turnpike Road, close to the town of Oldbury, and within a very short distance of the Railway Station.

Messrs. Hammond and Oldfield are favoured with instructions to Offer by Auction, on Wednesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> May inst, at the house of Mr. *Samuel Johnson*, the BLUE BALL INN, Brades, at Six o'clock in the evening, in lots which will be set forth in a future advertisement, and subject to conditions then to be produced – part of the Brades Building Estate, in suitable lots for building upon.

From the contiguity of this Estate to Oldbury and the Important Works of the neighbourhood, the Coal Field, and the Bromford and Oldbury Station on the Stour Valley Line of Railway, render it desirable for the erection of Houses and Manufactories.

For further particulars, and plans, apply to Messrs. Lee, Pinson, and Best, Solicitors, Newhall Street; or to the Auctioneers, 21, Waterloo Street, all of Birmingham.”

*Samuel Johnson* was described as a brickmaker. [1854], [1860]

*Samuel Johnson* was described as a timber merchant. [1855], [1873]

Birmingham Journal 11/12/1858 - Advert

“Wanted, a Brewer and Ostler, who will be willing to make himself generally useful.

Apply at the BALL INN, Brades, near Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 1/12/1860 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, at Brades Village, near Oldbury.

Messrs. Cooksey and Rollason will Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Johnson*, the BLUE BALL INN, Brades Village, on Monday next, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

1861 Census

Oldbury Road – BLUE BALL INN

- [1] *Samuel Johnson* (52), timber merchant, born Rowley;
- [2] *Amplis Johnson* (52), wife, born Shropshire;
- [3] John William Johnson (26), son, born Rowley;

- [4] Phillip Johnson (24), son, colliery agent, born Rowley;  
[5] James S. Johnson (14), son, born Rowley;  
[6] George Mackeen (30), brewer, born Worcestershire;  
[7] Jemima Edwards (21), house servant, born Shropshire:

Birmingham Journal 21/11/1863

“Dudley, Oldbury, and Birmingham Railway.

Direct Railway Communication for Dudley with Birmingham.

An important meeting of gentlemen in direct communication with Birmingham was held at the BLUE BALL INN, Oldbury, yesterday, to consider the desirability of applying to Parliament this Session for an Act to construct a line the Dudley Station, through Oldbury, and into the Stourbridge and Smethwick Railway, now in course of construction near the latter place. It is proposed to take the line from out of the present West Midland and South Staffordshire Station at Dudley, and to follow a course near to Marsh’s Burnt Tree Works, Holcroft’s Dudley Port Works, Hickman’s Budd and Co’s, Porter and Sons, and Whitehead and Haines’s Works, at Tividale; Messrs. D. and G. Round’s, New Tividale Furnaces; the Brades Steel Works of Wm. Hunt and Sons; Captain Bennitt’s Oldbury Furnaces, the works belonging to Messrs. Perry and Co, the Britannia Works, and Messrs. Chance’s extensive Chemical Works, the town of Oldbury, and numerous extensive brick-yards, collieries, and Rowley rag quarries, all along its route, to or near Smethwick. The importance of such a direct means of communication with Birmingham for the towns of Dudley and Oldbury cannot be overstated, and is one we should be glad to see successfully carried through Parliament.....”

*Samuel Johnson* was described as a brick and timber merchant. [1864]

Western Daily Press 12/9/1864

“Great Strike of the Staffordshire Colliers.

A mass meeting of colliers was held on Thursday at Deepfield. Three thousand men were present, and it was resolved to come out that night. The whole of the miners of the thick coal district were urged to stand or fall together. At mid-day on Thursday a meeting, under the auspices of the Colliers’ Strike Committee, took place on a piece of waste ground in Union Street, Tipton. From 8,000 to 10,000 persons were present. A resolution was carried expressive of the determination of the men to prolong the strike until their demands should have been acceded to; and arrangements were made for the assembling, at 4.30 on Friday morning, of one body of men at the LIMERICK INN, Great Bridge, to proceed with the Great Bridge Band to Fiery Holes, Moxley, and for the assembling of another body, at the same hour, at the BLUE BALL Tividale; the object of these early gatherings being to lay the case of the men before their comrades at work at the collieries in the localities indicated. A district meeting was subsequently to take place at Crene Hills, at ten o’clock. It was also arranged to organise a body of men to proceed to Brownhills and Cannock at an early hour on Monday morning, for the purpose of addressing the men employed in that neighbourhood.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/3/1866 - Advert

“Wanted, a Single Man as Brewer, and to make himself generally useful.  
Apply, BLUE BALL INN, Brades, near Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/3/1867

“About seven o’clock on Saturday evening great consternation was caused in Brades Village, Oldbury, by the rumour that the Birmingham Canal, running between the Brades Steel Works and the BLUE BALL INN, had burst. The report, to a certain extent, was true, but happily the disaster was not so great as was anticipated. It was found that the canal near the BLUE BALL INN, had overflown, and was hurrying with tremendous force down into Brades Village, which lies considerably lower than the canal. It also overflowed close to the Brades Steel Works, finding its way into the warehouse, and filling it to the depth of two feet or more, and causing much damage to the finished goods. Happily, however, through the active exertions of the men in the village, further damage was prevented. Great credit is due to Mr. *Johnson*, landlord of the BLUE BALL INN, who immediately employed a number of men upon his own responsibility. Though further damage was averted, yet the fear of the people in the village was so great that several left to spend the night

in Oldbury and other places, and others sat up during the whole night. What gave strength to the rumour and excited the alarm of the people so much was the knowledge that many possessed that there were several weak places in the banks of the canal in that neighbourhood, and it had been said that if the water ever broke through that fifteen miles of water must of necessity escape before any effectual stoppage could be made.”

County Express 18/5/1867

“No less than 56 cases of defective weights and measures were brought before the bench by Mr. Tallett, inspector of weights and measures.....

*Samuel Johnson*, publican, Brades, two defective measures. Fined 4s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/8/1869

“Quoits..... The return match between the BLUE BALL, Brades Village, and the PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury, was played, as previously arranged, on the BLUE BALL grounds, on Wednesday last, when the BLUE BALL Club again became winners, Mr. J. W. Johnson scoring the greatest number of points. Although the weather was anything but favourable, a great many visitors were present.....”

[BLUE BALL won by 80 to 62.]

County Advertiser 23/7/1870

“Three well-built men, named George Millward, Joseph Powell, and James Williams, employed at the Brades Works, Oldbury, were summoned for assaulting Eli Webb, 63, at Tividale, on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Burbury defended.

Complainant deposed that he lived at Oldbury, and was a spade and shovel maker. On the day in question he went into the BLUE BALL public house, Tividale, for the purpose of getting some refreshment. Whilst there the three defendants came in and insulted him. Powell spat in his face, Williams struck him in the face, and Millward took hold of him and said he (witness) should not go out. He added that he would continue to serve him out, if it was for twenty years. Witness attributed the defendants’ conduct to the part he took some years since during a strike. They accused him of being the means of reducing the wages; and they had frequently molested him. John Darby and Simeon Jones gave evidence in support of the complainant. Mr. Burbury, on the part of the defendants, affirmed that the complainant and his witnesses had committed wilful perjury. A witness named Evelyn Reynolds, foreman at the Brades Works, Oldbury, supported this view of the case. In reply to the Bench, Reynolds said he believed the unpleasantness between the parties arose out of a trades’ union affair.

The Bench held that the case had been fully proved, and fined each defendant 1s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/8/1870

“Quoits. BLUE BALL, Oldbury v PLOUGH AND HARROW, West Bromwich.

This match came off on the grounds of the BLUE BALL Club, on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst, when, after a well-contested game, that club won by 25 points.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1870

“Quoit Match. BLUE BALL, Oldbury v PLOUGH AND HARROW, West Bromwich.

The return game between these clubs was played on the ground of the latter, on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst, leaving the BLUE BALL victorious on the aggregate score by 24 shots. The pitching on the part of several of the members of both clubs was excellent. After the contest the players sat down to an excellent dinner, and a very pleasant evening was spent.....”

1871 Census

Brades – BLUE BALL INN

[1] *Samuel Johnson* (62), timber merchant, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Amplias Johnson* (62), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Samuel N. Johnson (37), son, widower, formerly brickmaker, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Phillip Johnson (34), son, colliery agent, born Rowley Regis;

[5] James T. Johnson (25), son, timber merchant’s clerk, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 22/5/1873 - Advert

“Staffordshire. To be Sold by Auction.

By Mr. S. Powell, at the house o Mr. *Johnson*, the BALL INN, Brades, near Oldbury, on Wednesday, June 4, 1873, at 4 for 5 o’clock prompt (subject to conditions then to be read), a small but valuable Freehold Mineral Estate, containing 2A 2R 24½P of Coal and Ironstone, and including a Field of Land.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/6/1873

“Quoit Match. BLUE BALL, Brades v Britannic, Moxley. This match was concluded on the 9th instant, on the Moxley Ground, when the BLUE BALL were again victorious, the total majority for the successful club being 62 points.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/2/1875

“Yesterday, an inquest was held by Mr. E. Hooper, at the BLUE BELLS [sic], Brades Village, on the body of Mary Elizabeth Sharp (14), who died from the injuries she received on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, from the trap accident at Smethwick, by which her employer, Mr. Hinds, of Oldbury, lost his life. The evidence was the same as that produced at the inquest upon Mr. Hinds, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

*Amplias Johnson* died in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1878.

County Express 8/6/1878

“Alehouse Transfers. The Bench allowed the following transfers.....

BLUE BALL, Brades, from Ann Ampliss to the executors of the late Philip Johnson.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/7/1879 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Public House, the BLUE BALL INN, at The Brades, near Oldbury.

By Roderick & Son. To be Sold by Auction (by order of the Mortgagee), at the said BLUE BALL INN, at The Brades, near Oldbury, This Day (Wednesday), July 9, at 6 o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

The capital Old-Licensed Freehold Public House, known as the BLUE BALL INN, situate, free from opposition, on the Dudley Road, opposite The Brades Steelworks, about half a mile from Oldbury, and in close proximity to many large works, furnaces, and collieries.

The House contains ample business and domestic accommodation, and has Brewhouse and Stabling attached, and a large well-planted Garden; the whole extending to about 3,400 square yards.

It has been for many years past in the occupation of Mrs. *Amplias Johnson* (now deceased), who carried on a very extensive business.

The Property is particularly well worth the attention of Brewers, as early possession can be obtained, and the neighbourhood offers almost unlimited scope for business.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Griffin and Griffin, Solicitors, 7, Temple Row West; or to the Auctioneers, 2, Temple Row West, Birmingham.”

County Advertiser 27/9/1879

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions....

The Bench refused to grant an application for the transfer of the license of the BLUE BOAR [sic], Tividale, from *John Johnson* to *George Thompson*, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/12/1879 - Advert

“The OLD BLUE BALL INN, The Brades, Oldbury.

To be Sold, the Long Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, of the above Well-known, Old-Licensed Inn, situated on the Dudley and Oldbury Turnpike Road, about half a mile from Oldbury, near the West Bromwich and Oldbury Gas Works and close to the Brades Ironworks. In the immediate neighbourhood of important manufacturing concerns, from whence of necessity a large business must arise. In-coming about £450.

Apply Roderick and Son, Auctioneers, Birmingham.”

Dudley Herald 17/1/1880

“William Foster, Rounds Green, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *George Thompson*, BLUE BALL INN, Brades Village, Oldbury, on the 3rd inst. Mr. Hayes defended.

*John Ratcliffe*, manager of the BLUE BALL, stated that on the day in question the defendant was very quarrelsome, and on being requested to leave refused.

PC Winfield said he was called to the prosecutor’s house, and he found the defendant making a noise. The landlord had repeatedly told him to leave, but he would not. Witness, with the assistance of another police officer and the landlord, finally succeeded in ejecting him. Defendant was also charged with being drunk and riotous on the same day.

The Bench considered both charges fully proved, and for the first offence fined defendant 10s and costs, and for the second 5s and costs, or, in default, 14 days’ hard labour in each case.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/1/1880

“OLD BLUE BALL, The Brades, Oldbury, a well-known house, in one of the best business positions in the district. Long lease. In-coming £300.

Apply, Roderick and Son, Birmingham.”

*Betsy Green* = Betsey Green

1881 Census

Dudley Road

[1] *Betsy Green* (52), widow, licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] William Richards (22), son, born West Bromwich;

[3] Edith Richards (20), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] George Richards (18), son, jeweller, born Oldbury;

[5] Lillian Cornich (3), visitor, born Battle, Sussex;

[6] Mary Shakespear (22), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

County Advertiser 9/7/1881

“*Betsy Green*, of the BLUE BALL INN, Brades village, was summoned for keeping her house open for the sale of intoxicating drinks on Sunday morning, the 26<sup>th</sup> ult, during illegal hours. Mr. Shakespeare, Oldbury, defended.

Police-constable Winfield said from complaints he had received he was sent, in company with another officer, to watch defendant’s house. On the day named, about 8.40am, he saw a man enter the house by a back door, followed soon after by another man. At 9.15 three men entered the yard, and one of them, named Adlin, brought a jug of ale, and was in the act of pouring it into a glass when witness came upon the scene. Mr. Shakespeare urged for the defence that the man was a servant of the defendant, and that Mrs. *Green* had given him the ale. The case was dismissed on payment of costs.”

County Advertiser 3/9/1881

“The annual licensing session for the petty sessional division of Rowley Regis, were held on Wednesday last, at the Police Court.....

The following is the black list ..... Licensed Victuallers.....

*Betsy Green*, BLUE BALL, Tividale, prohibited hours, to pay costs.....

The persons in the black list were called before the Bench, and had their licenses suspended till the adjourned licensing day.”

County Advertiser 1/10/1881

“Adjourned Licensing Session.....

Jane Stanley, JUNCTION INN, Tividale; *Betsy Green*, BLUE BALL INN, Tividale; James Frederick Homer, BULLS HEAD INN, Windmill End; Samuel Paskin, WELLINGTON, Tividale; Ellen Darby, BEECH TREE

and, Benjamin Dando, Dog Lane, Blackheath, whose names were on the black list, and whose licenses had been adjourned from the annual licensing session, were called before the Bench. Their licenses were renewed after the holders had been duly cautioned.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 15/10/1881

“*Betsy Green*, BLUE BALL INN, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

PC Styles said at 10.30 on the night of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, he visited the defendant’s house in company with PC Garrs, and in the kitchen he saw two men who were drunk, one was sitting on a bench asleep. PC Garrs then shook the man and awoke him, he then spoke to defendant’s son who at first stated that the men had not had anything to drink at that house, but in a few minutes he admitted that they had had a drop. One of the men then poured a glass of ale out of a jug and asked his companion to drink. Soon after the men came staggering out of the house, and one of them was led home. PC Garrs corroborated.

Mr. Shakespeare denied that either of the men were drunk. They were engaged in calculating how long it would take a person to smoke a ton of tobacco if he smoked half an ounce per day. He put in a testimonial signed by a large number of the gentry of Oldbury and neighbourhood, the Vicar, and several members of the Local Board, stating that defendant always kept her house in a very exemplary manner. One of the men whose name was John Jones, said he was not drunk, but when the police entered he was engaged in a deep calculation. Mr. Bassano said the evidence was very clear on the part of the police that the men were intoxicated. Several witnesses were called for the defence. Mr. Bassano said as it was not a very bad case they should only inflict a fine of 20s and costs.”

AND

Dudley and District News 15/10/1881

“*Betsy Green*, landlady of the BLUE BALL INN, Oldbury Road, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness.....

Several influential gentlemen bore testimony to the good character borne by Mrs. *Green*, both during her stay at the BLUE BALL and at the JUNCTION INN, at Oldbury.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/10/1881

“John Jones, farmer, and William Darby, The Brades, were charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Betsy Green*, BLUE BALL INN, the Brades, on the night of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. A fine of 2s 6d and costs was imposed in each case.”

Dudley and District News 2/9/1882

“Old Hill annual Brewster Sessions were held at the Police Court on Wednesday.....

The following is the black list, and in each of the cases the licenses were suspended till the adjourned licensing meeting.....

*Betsy Green*, BLUE BALL, Tividale, opening during prohibited hours, to pay costs; permitting drunkenness, fined 20s and costs.”

Dudley and District News 30/9/1882

“This being the Old Hill adjourned licensing sessions the Bench granted a renewal of the licenses which were suspended at the last annual general sessions. The Chairman stated that the magistrates had very carefully considered each case, and they had decided to renew the licenses on the understanding that some assurance was given on the part of each defaulter, that their respective houses should be better conducted in the future. The Bench were determined that the law should be enforced, and if the defendants were guilty of any further offence against the Licensing Laws they would be severely punished and their licenses forfeited. The Chairman added that Henry Heath, who was convicted for selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, was now taking out a six days’ license instead of a seven days’, and his license was renewed on that condition; and if any of the others wished to have six days’ licenses the Bench would be pleased to grant them.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/6/1883 - Advert

“By T. F. Flint, This Day (Tuesday), at 5, at the BLUE BALL INN, Brades Village.  
Freehold Building and Wharf Land, nearly opposite to the BLUE BALL INN, Brades Village.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/11/1883 - Advert

“Lost, from BLUE BALL INN, Oldbury, Collie Dog; sable and black, with white patch on breast. Answers to Jarrow. Finder rewarded.”

*Betsy Green* – see also JUNCTION, Birmingham Street.

Birmingham Mail 20/10/1884

“Considerable excitement was created in the quiet village known as Tividale, lying between Rowley and Dudley, this morning by a rumour that a woman named Matilda Ingles, formerly residing in Brades Road, had been murdered by her husband, William Ingles, a labourer, of the same address. About one o’clock on Sunday morning two men went to Tividale police station and reported to Police-constable Winfield that they had dragged the body of a woman from the canal near the Brades Works. The officer went to the spot with the men and found the body of Matilda Ingles, who is 38 years of age, lying upon the towpath. The body was at once removed to the BLUE BALL INN, Tividale, and as soon as this was done, from information received, the constable proceeded to arrest William Ingles, the husband, on the charge of causing the death of the deceased. He was taken to Tipton and lodged in the lock-up. It appears that the finding of the body of the deceased is only the sequel to a sad, and we might say shocking, domestic tragedy which was enacted late on Saturday night and early yesterday morning.

Deceased is described as being a very respectable woman. On Saturday it is stated that a neighbour accused deceased, in the presence of her husband, of stealing £2 out of her house. This exasperated prisoner very much, and he commenced to beat the deceased. A neighbour went into prisoner’s house and separated them, and for a time peace appeared to have been restored between them. Later in the evening deceased went to Rounds Green and returned some time afterwards with her marketings. It is supposed that when deceased returned home she found prisoner already in the house, and that the quarrel was renewed on the threshold, as the articles which deceased brought with her were found afterwards scattered about the yard. However, the next that was noticed of the deceased was she was seen running away from prisoner and proceeding in the direction of the canal at the back of the house. Deceased was apparently terribly alarmed, and begged of a neighbour to interfere and prevent her husband from ill-using her further, and stating that she was afraid he would kill her. When the neighbours who had hurried out in consequence of hearing deceased’s screams saw prisoner pursuing his wife, one of them caught hold of his arm, and tried to dissuade him from his purpose. He, however, refused, and ran after deceased in an excited manner, and both of them at the time were running in the direction of the Birmingham Canal. Shortly afterwards he returned home, but deceased did not, and nothing more was heard of her until the finding of the body.

It is said that screams were heard coming from the direction of the canal, and it is supposed that prisoner and deceased struggled together on the canal side, and that the latter was either pushed in by her husband or fell in during the scuffle. Another supposition is that she, being afraid of her husband, jumped into the canal to get out of his way. When charged by constable Winfield with causing the death of deceased, he replied that he never saw his wife after she went to market, and added that it was all through the money alluded to and the drink.

The inquest on the body will be held this afternoon before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner. The deceased leaves three young children.”

[At the inquest at the BLUE BALL INN an open verdict of Found Drowned was returned.]

Birmingham Mail 28/10/1884

“William Ingles (34), labourer, of the Shrubbery, Tividale, near Oldbury, has been re-arrested on a charge of wilfully murdering his wife, Matilda Ingles, by pushing her into the canal on the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. Since the inquest, on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst, it is stated that additional information had been obtained, which, in the opinion of the police authorities, justified them in re-arresting Ingles. Prisoner will be taken before the magistrates at Old Hill Police Court tomorrow, on a charge of wilful murder, when the results of subsequent investigations will be given in evidence.”

[William Ingles was committed to be tried at Staffordshire Assizes for wilful murder.]

County Advertiser 21/2/1885

“William Ingles, labourer, has this week been tried at the Staffordshire Assizes on a charge of murdering Matilda Ingles, his wife, at Tividale, and has been acquitted. ....

The coroner who held the inquest did not think the evidence called for a post mortem examination, and the body had to be exhumed after the husband had been taken into custody by the police. Mr. Standish, surgeon, at the trial on Wednesday, attributed death to shock or syncope, but, in answer to prisoner’s counsel, said he had never met with a more unsatisfactory case on which to form an opinion, which must necessarily in a case like this be more or less speculative. The woman might have fainted on the bank and rolled into the water. On the medical evidence the jury had no opinion but to acquit the prisoner.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/10/1885

“An inquest was held yesterday, before Mr. E. Hooper (coroner), at the BLUE BALL INN, Tividale, respecting the death of Susannah Clark, alias Jewkes (44), of 86, Stafford Street, Dudley, hawker, whose body was found in a pool of water by the roadside between Brades Village and Tividale, on Saturday night last.

Police-constable Smith stated that on Saturday night, shortly before eight o’clock, he saw the deceased standing on the Furnace Bridge, on the Dudley Road. Witness asked deceased where she was going, and she replied that she was going to Dudley. Deceased then walked away in the direction of Dudley. Witness noticed that deceased was under the influence of drink. About half an hour afterwards, whilst he was in Junction Street, Brades Village, a woman came to him and said a woman had been found in a pool of water near the roadside. He went to the place and found deceased lying in the water, which was about two feet deep, with her face downwards. She was quite dead. In reply to the Coroner, witness said he thought there was no suspicion that deceased had met with any foul play. The pool was close to the side of the road, and there was no protection except some posts. Formerly there was a wire fence, but it had been broken down. In reply to a juror, witness said he believed the street lamps were not lighted, but he could not swear that positively.

The juryman observed that the authorities were not accustomed to light the public lamps on moonlight nights, but he thought it was a mistake, and was highly dangerous to the public, especially in a locality such as that.

Edward Jewkes, with whom deceased lived, stated that she left home about eleven o’clock on Saturday morning for the purpose of selling some wire articles, and he saw nothing more of her until he saw her dead body at the BLUE BALL INN.

Mary Ann Martin said that on Saturday night, whilst walking in the direction of Dudley, she saw deceased, who was drunk, staggering about the footpath near the pool where her body was found. Shortly afterwards she saw deceased fall off the footpath into the water. Witness made an alarm, and assistance was obtained, and the body was pulled out, but life was extinct. In reply to a juror, witness stated that the public lamps were lighted at the time.

The Coroner called attention to the insecure state of the fence, and strongly advised the jury to make some recommendation respecting that, as it appeared to be a very dangerous place.

A juror said the fence had been in a dangerous condition for three years.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and requested the Coroner to write to the Rowley Local Board, asking then to provide a proper fence at the place where the accident happened, for the safety of the public.”

Sheffield Daily Telegraph 2/6/1887 - Advert

“Traveller seeks Engagement, Electro-Plate, Cutlery, Edge Tool, or any branch of Hardware. Good connection Eastern Counties, North of England, and Scotland.

Address, W. T. B., BLUE BALL HOTEL, Brades, near Birmingham.”

Lichfield Mercury 6/7/1888

“Mr. *Carroll*, of the BLUE BALL INN, Dudley Road, Brades Village, has in his possession a remarkable duck-egg. It weighs over six ounces, and upon being broken it was found that it contained, besides a yoke,



another perfect egg weighing about three ounces.”

Staffordshire Chronicle 7/7/1888

“Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions.....

Nathan Price (38), stocktaker, was indicted on charges of obtaining 15s from John Gasson by false pretences on May 17, and endeavouring to obtain 30s by false pretences from John Orrock, on June 7.

Mr. Udall, who appeared to prosecute, said the case was one of a very peculiar character. The prosecutor Gasson, who was a laboring man living at Riverhead, near Sevenoaks, Kent, caused an advertisement to be inserted in *Reynolds Newspaper*, of May 13, asking for news of his son, who had not been heard of for years. Soon afterwards a letter was received from prisoner which purported to have been sent by the son, and was signed ‘George Gasson.’ The writer stated that he had come back from Australia and was now penniless, and he asked for money to enable him to get home. A postal order for 15s was sent him at the BLUE BOAR [sic] INN, Oldbury, which was the address he had given, but after that nothing more was heard of him.

The prosecutor Orrock had advertised in the same paper for two sons, John and David, who had gone abroad, but the name ‘David’ was accidentally printed ‘Daniel.’ A few days later Orrock received a letter signed ‘John Orrock’ stating that ‘me and Daniel’ had come back to England and were penniless. The letter said that ‘Daniel’ was very ill and could not write, and asked that 30s might be sent to help them home. Being suspicious through the use of the name ‘Daniel’ instead of ‘David’ Orrock informed the police. PC Winfield arrested the prisoner near the BOAT INN, Oldbury, the address he had given in the letter. Prisoner was then living at Horsley Heath, near Tipton. In his house a book was found, containing copies of the advertisements, and the paper on which the letter to Orrock had been written appeared to have been torn from the book.

Prisoner was convicted. He had been convicted of a similar offence in June, 1886, and sentenced to 12 months’ hard labour and there were other convictions recorded against him. The Assistant-Chairman remarked that this was a cruel mode of defrauding anxious parents of their money, and sentenced the prisoner to penal servitude for five years.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1889 - Advert

“Lost, on Monday, June 17, a brown Collie and Sheep Dog, answering to the name of Jack. Finder rewarded by bringing same to BLUE BALL INN, Brades Village, Oldbury. Anyone found detaining same will be prosecuted.”

County Express 14/2/1891

“*Myra Blakeman*, landlady of the BLUE BALL public house, Tividale, was summoned by the inland revenue authorities for making a false entry in her brewery book on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1890. Mr. Barradale, Dudley, appeared for the authorities; and Mr. W. Shakespeare, Oldbury, defended.

Mr. Barradale said an entry was made in the defendant’s brewing book on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, of the intention to brew one quarter two bushels of malt at four o’clock in the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> December. Samples of the brewing were taken, and the result of the analysis showed that one quarter and four bushels of malt had been used. The gravities in two vessels were found to be higher than stated in the brewing book by two degrees; on another by three degrees. Upon being asked about this, the brewer said he was unable to account for it.....

Mr. Shakespeare admitted the charge, but said he felt sure when the Bench heard his explanation they would take it into consideration in dealing with the case. Miss *Blakeman* had kept this house five or six years. It was a small house, doing a small amount of trade, the only ale sold being the ale brewed there. Although the supervisor had told them the brewings were irregular, still that was no offence. The explanation was this. Miss *Blakeman* was a woman who understood little about public house business, and her brother-in-law, who was partly blind, managed the house; and being unable to brew employed a man named White. As regarded this brewing, White was given three bags of malt and was told the quantity he was to use. In accordance with these instructions the entry was made in the brewing book. White from forgetfulness put in the whole of those three bags of malt, and it was not until he admitted it that they could account for the gravity. If that statement was true he thought he might respectfully ask them to consider that Miss *Blakeman* was not

a party to it, and that a slight penalty would meet the justice of the case.

*Gerald Carrol*, brother-in-law of defendant, gave evidence to the effect that he instructed White to use two bags and a half of malt, and he did not know until after the brew that more had been used. He said to White that the gravity seemed higher, but he did not answer. In cross-examination, witness said he believed White put in the malt maliciously, and for the purpose of getting him into trouble.

The Bench imposed a fine of £20.”

#### 1891 Census

Dudley Road – BLUE BALL INN

[1] *Myra Blakeman* (44), single, publican (licensed victualler), born Stafford;

[2] *Gerrard Carroll* (48) brother-in-law, publican’s manager, born Edinburgh;

[3] *Mary Ann Carroll* (42), sister, born Stafford;

[4] *Edwin Gerrard Carroll* (10), nephew, born Wednesbury;

[5] *Emily Hay* (19), niece, born Houghton, Staffordshire:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/4/1892 - Advert

“Youth (respectable) Wanted, about 18, to Assist in brewing and garden.

Apply, BLUE BALL, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1892

“Yesterday, at the Tipton Police Court – before Dr. W. L. Underhill, and Mr. Guy (magistrates) – John Vale (31), an ex-soldier, was charged with abducting *Mary Emma Bevan* (17), daughter of *William Bevan*, galvaniser, Dudley Port.

Prisoner, it was stated, left the army some months ago, and went to reside at Dudley Port, with Mr. Bevan, prisoner being the brother of Bevan’s first wife, and consequently uncle to the girl. On August 12 prisoner and the girl disappeared together.

The girl, who is a good-looking person, said prisoner frequently advised her to run away with him from her step-mother, and on the 12th August he wrapped some of her clothes up with his own, and asked her to follow him to Oldbury. She met him at the BLUE BELL [sic], Oldbury, and they travelled to Birmingham, prisoner paying the fares. From Birmingham they walked to Alcester, where prisoner engaged two beds at a public house for them. They next went to the prisoner’s uncle’s at Sainsbury, where they stayed some days, and afterwards to his cousin’s at Condicott. Subsequently they proceeded to Cheltenham, and occupied separate sleeping apartments at a lodging house. Here prisoner left her, telling her to make the best of her way home. She returned to his cousin’s at Condicott, where a day or two later prisoner found her, and asked her to go away with him again. She declined to do so until she had heard from her father, and prisoner went without her. After staying at prisoner’s cousin’s for about a week she went into the Stone Union Workhouse, where she remained until fetched by her father. Prisoner, who was arrested at Worcester on Friday, was remanded for a week.”

[At the adjourned hearing John Vale was discharged.]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 2/12/1892

“Birmingham County Court. Yesterday. Before His Honour Judge Chalmers.

*William John Seal*, of Union Street, Birmingham, auctioneer, sued *Gerrard Carrall*, of the RED LION public house, Darlaston to recover £9 7s for expenses incurred in advertising a public house for sale and for work done in trying to sell it. Mr. Tanner appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Harton for the defendant.

In February last defendant called on plaintiff and instructed him to take steps to sell the BLUE BALL INN, Brades, Oldbury, of which at the time defendant was owner. Plaintiff advertised the house from that time until September last, and sent particulars to many applicants. One applicant, who went to Oldbury in September to see the house, returned to complain that when she got there she was informed the house was sold. Plaintiff then sent his account to the defendant, and defendant refused to pay on the ground that the house had been sold by a Mr. Hackett, of Oldbury, in May last, and that he had sent Mr. Seal notice to that effect at the end of May.

Plaintiff denied that he had received such a letter, and stated in cross-examination that he did not take busi-

ness in consideration of being paid commission if he sold, and only out-of-pocket expense if he did not sell. The defendant said he sent a letter to Mr. Seal in May saying that the house had been sold by Mr. Hackett. He did not instruct Mr. Hackett to sell the house, nor tell Hackett that the house was for sale; but Mr. Hackett came to him and said he could find a purchaser for it. Mr. Hackett afterwards brought the customer and received the commission.

His Honour said he thought the right sum to give judgement for was £8 10s.”

*Gerrard Carroll* – see also RED LION, Wednesbury.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/1/1893

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the BLUE BALL INN, Brades Village, Oldbury, respecting the death of George Knight (35), labourer, of Park Lane, who was killed by a fall of marl whilst employed at the Brades Village Brickworks on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. G. Wood represented the proprietor of the works.

The deceased was employed with other men in a marl-hole, and he found it necessary to drill a hole for a shot, when, without any warning, a quantity of earth fell upon him from the face of the hole, death resulting immediately.

Daniel Ockold, a fellow-workman, said the place was examined prior to the commencement of work, and he attributed the accident to the frost.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/4/1894 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted, age about 17 or 18; good character; one from the country preferred; a lad kept; no children.

Mrs. *Oliver*, the BLUE BALL, Dudley Road, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 7/9/1895

“On the application of Mr. J. S. Sharpe, of West Bromwich, the magistrates granted the transfer of the license of the BLUE BALL INN, Tividale, to *Thomas Webb*, of Birmingham.”

*James Hartland* was also a brewer. [1896]

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/9/1900

“An accident of a very sad nature occurred on Wednesday, at the Brades Hall Boiler Works, which resulted in the death of Mr. Eder Harper, one of the members of the firm of Harper and Screen, boiler makers. Deceased was seventy years of age, and for some years past has not taken an active part in the business of the firm. His son, Mr. W. Harper, and Mr. Screen had carried on the works, but as his son and daughter had started for the Isle of Man for a holiday, he went to the works on Wednesday. He was helping in the moving of a boiler when the packing was displaced and the boiler rolled over and jammed him against some iron plates. He was internally crushed, and died shortly afterwards. Deceased was widely known throughout the district, and was highly respected. He was a prominent member of the Wesleyan Church, and considerable sympathy is felt with his relatives.

The inquest was held on Friday morning at the BLUE BALL INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, by Mr. H. A. Pearson (Coroner).

Mr. Ashworth (Inspector of Factories and Workshops) was present.

William Henry Harper, deceased’s son, said he was on an Isle of Man boat at Liverpool on Wednesday morning when he received a telegram conveying the news that his father had met with a serious accident, and he returned home to find him dead. He did not attach any blame to anyone for the accident.

Arthur Harry Screen, a boiler maker employed at the Brades Hall Works, said that on Wednesday morning deceased came to the works and gave instructions that a boiler should be moved. Deceased had already prepared the packings, and the boiler was ready to be rolled over. Witness proceeded to move it by means of a ‘jack,’ and as the boiler began to move he called out that the weight was off the ‘jack.’ Deceased was rather deaf. The boiler rolled over, and the dome bumped against the packings with such force that they were

displaced, and the boiler slipped and jammed deceased against a section of plates. It rolled away again, and they removed deceased, who died an hour afterwards while they were taking him home. The boiler would weigh between 3 tons 10 cwts and 4 tons.

In answer to Mr. Ashworth, witness said the boiler could have been prevented rolling by means of scotches. Hader Smith, of Camden Street, Dudley, who is employed at the Brades Hall Works, and Thomas Screen corroborated this evidence. The latter said the deceased had been his partner for 38 years. The packing was strong enough for a boiler twice as heavy as that one, but the bump displaced the timbers.

PC Robinson spoke to making enquiries and that no blame was attached to anyone.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### 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.....

*F. W. Growcott*, BLUE BULL [sic] HOTEL, Brades, Oldbury.”

#### 1901 Census

Dudley Road – BLUE BALL INN

- [1] *Fred W. Growcott* (33), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Rachel Growcott (32), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Dorothy M. Growcott (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Laura Growcott (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Ida Growcott (6 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Elizabeth Tranter (20), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Rosehannah Wassell (76), widow, monthly nurse, born Kingswinford:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/10/1902

“At Rowley Regis yesterday, George Tasker (29), labourer, Salop Street, Oldbury, was charged before Mr. John Green with unlawfully wounding *Frederick William Groucutt*, landlord of the BLUE BALL INN, Dudley Road, Tividale. It was alleged the prisoner was ordered to leave the licensed premises in consequence of disorderly conduct, and when he was requested to leave he stabbed the landlord with his pocket knife, inflicting a serious injury. The prisoner was remanded until Wednesday.”

#### County Advertiser 7/2/1903

“*Frederick William Growcott*, landlord of the BLUE BALL INN, Tividale, made an application for an occasional license to sell intoxicants on Brades Park Football Club Ground at Tividale between the hours of 2-30 and 5 o’clock on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of this month. In reply to the Magistrates’ Clerk, applicant said the license had been granted to him on previous occasions. The Bench decided to grant the license for the 7<sup>th</sup> only, and it was intimated that the matter would be raised at the annual licensing sessions.”

#### County Advertiser 19/9/1903

“*Frederick William Growcott*, landlord of the BLUE BALL HOTEL INN, Tividale, applied for a license to sell intoxicants on the Brades Park Football Club ground on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, on the occasion of a football match in the Birmingham Junior League competition, between Brades Park and Oldbury Town. Mr. Cooksey (magistrates’ clerk) explained that some time ago the magistrates intimated that they would not grant any more occasional licenses. Applicant, in reply to Mr. Cooksey, said he was perfectly aware of the decision of the magistrates, but he urged that the ground was a considerable distance from any public house, and a large crowd of spectators was expected. The Bench considered there was no necessity for the license, and they refused to grant the application.”

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

Birmingham Mail 22/11/1905

“Buying an Oldbury Trotter.

At the Birmingham County Court, today, before his Honour Judge Whitehouse and a jury, Thomas Jones, metal dealer, of Cowper Street, Birmingham, brought an action against *F. W. Growcott*, publican and horse dealer, of the BLUE BALL, Oldbury, to recover damages for an alleged breach of warranty regarding a horse. Mr. S. S. Dorsett appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. S. Pritchett for the defendant.

Mr. Dorsett stated that the plaintiff went over to Oldbury in August last to see the horse, and was informed by the defendant that it was perfectly sound and all right. It was tried in harness, but no bargain was struck on that occasion, the plaintiff returning home to think the matter over. On September 1<sup>st</sup> he agreed to pay £32 for the horse, the defendant having again assured him that it was all right, and agreed, if the plaintiff was not suited with the horse, to return the money. He also said he would match the horse against any animal in England, as it could trot at 16 miles an hour. The plaintiff, on getting the horse, found, the first time he attempted to drive it, that it was broken-winded, and quite useless. Defendant refused to return the money, and the horse, after being treated by a veterinary surgeon, and kept for three weeks, was sold at a loss of £13 16s, the total damages claimed being £15 11s 6d.

The defence was that there was no warranty, and that the arrangement was to exchange the horse for another if the plaintiff intimated within three days that he was not suited. The defendant also said that the plaintiff knew if the horse had been perfectly well it could not have been bought for £100. Defendant was still prepared to carry out what he said was the original bargain.

Witnesses were called to show that when the horse was sold defendant represented that it was sound in wind. John Young, veterinary surgeon, who examined the horse, said that the animal was broken winded.

Mr. Dorsett: Is it true that a horse can be ‘set’ so that no one can tell whether he is broken-winded? – It is done regularly.

Answering the Judge, witness said that a horse suffering from broken wind could be so doctored that he would breathe with freedom for three or four days.

His Honour: What a pity it is you cannot always keep him doctored.

Mr. Dorsett: A horse has not always a doctor at his heels.

Defendant, called by Mr. Pritchett, denied that he told the plaintiff that the horse was sound in wind and limb. He told Mr. Jones that the horse could trot sixteen miles an hour, and that was true.

Mr. Dorsett: Perhaps you can explain how this horse came by the name of ‘The Doctor’? – Witness: That was his registered name – ‘Doctor.’

Mr. Dorsett: Dr. Yankee-land? – Witness: He was a Yankee, sir.

Answering further questions, witness said the horse had since come into his possession again, and he had sold it for £30.

Mr. Barker, farmer, of Quinton, said that no warranty was given with the horse.

Mr. Dorsett: He was a rank bad horse, wasn’t her? – Witness: He was a good horse but for his wind.

The jury returned a verdict for plaintiff for £15, the amount claimed as agreed upon, and his Honour gave judgement accordingly.”

*Richard Clark* = Richard Clarke

County Advertiser 3/11/1906

“*Richard Clarke*, licensee of the BLUE BALL INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness upon his premises, and also with supplying a drunken person on the 15<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. J. W. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. W. Waldron defended.

Mr. Clulow explained that on the evening in question Police-constables Heatherley and Walton visited the house, and in the tap room they found Charles Harper, of Gornal, drunk, with a jug and a glass containing ale near him. The landlord was not in the house, but when he came in the officers spoke to him and he asked who was in charge of the premises. He replied ‘David,’ meaning a lad named David Sadler, aged fourteen years, who was engaged by the landlady as an errand boy. Defendant then ordered Harper to leave the house, but there was no denial of the man’s condition.

Evidence in support of this statement was given by Police-constables Heatherley and Walton.

The lad Sadler stated that he supplied Harper with beer. He informed Mrs. *Clarke* that Harper was drunk,

and she told him to tell him to leave. This Harper did, but he subsequently returned. Defendant was playing in the billiard room with a friend all the time Harper was in the house.

For the defence Mr. Waldron denied that the man Harper was drunk, or that he was supplied. He called several witnesses, but the Bench considered the case proved, and said that it was improper to leave a lad like Sadler in charge of the house.

Defendant was fined £10, including costs.”

#### County Advertiser 10/11/1906

“Charles Harper, salt dealer, of Ruiton, Lower Gornal, was charged with being drunk upon the licensed premises of the BLUE BALL INN, Tividale, on the 15<sup>th</sup> ult.

Police-constable Heatherley proved the case.

Superintendent Johnson said defendant had 41 previous convictions against him, and was also upon the black list.

He was fined 10s and costs, or in default fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

#### Birmingham Mail 19/11/1906 - Advert

“Screw-Cutting Lathe (4½in), 4ft bed, drills, taps, and chucks; also 3-horse Stockport Gas Engine, new; £16 the lot.

BLUE BALL, Brades, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Mail 24/11/1906 - Adverts

“High-Class Piano, cost £45, practically new. £25.

BLUE BALL Dudley Road, Oldbury.”

AND

“National Cash Register and Gold Change Till. £15 the lot.

BLUE BALL, Dudley Road, Oldbury.”

\*probably the same person

#### County Advertiser 9/2/1907

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday at the Police Court.....

Mr. W. Waldron applied for the renewal of the license of the BLUE BALL INN, Tividale, to *Frederick Grey*. He mentioned that since the conviction Messrs. Showells, the owners, had put in a new tenant, who had conducted the house well.

Mr. Bassano said, having regard to the fact that the last conviction was in 1881, the justices would renew the license, but greater care was necessary in future.”

#### County Advertiser 16/3/1907

“Howard Nash, (20) ironmonger, of Church Street, Oldbury, was charged under the Prevention of Crimes Act that he did on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult purchase 29lbs of brass, whereas the minimum allowed is 112lbs. Mr. H. Jeffries (Oldbury) defended.

Police-constable Heatherley said that on the date in question he saw a boy standing outside the BLUE BALL INN, Tividale, with a quantity of metal. In consequence of what the boy said witness went into the public house, where he saw the defendant, who admitted having purchased the metal off the landlord for 5s. There were 13lbs of lead and 39lbs of iron and scrap brass. Defendant estimated that there were 29lbs of brass.

Mr. Jeffries submitted that defendant was not a dealer in old metals, and therefore did not come within the meaning of the Act.

The Bench dismissed the case on payment of costs, defendant promising not to deal in old metals again.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/2/1908

“Great consternation was caused in the Oldbury district yesterday afternoon, by the news that a tram-car on the Birmingham and Midlands Tramways line had been overturned in Dudley Road, Tividale, not far from

the Oldbury boundary. Seven men were injured, three of them seriously, and one man, the conductor, was killed.....

The accident occurred between the BOAT INN, Tividale, and the BLUE BALL INN, a few hundred yards from the latter place. It was entering a loop on the rise of a canal bridge at the time, just opposite Gipsy Lane ..... The tram was travelling from Dudley to Oldbury. Everything had gone smoothly until soon after leaving the BOAT INN at Tividale.....”

#### Tipton Herald 10/7/1909

“An inquest was held on Saturday by Mr. W. L. Lewis (deputy coroner), at the BLUE BALL INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, Rowley Regis, concerning the death of Isaac Horton (62), labourer, of Unity Place, Oldbury, who had died from injuries sustained at the Upper Stour Valley Main Drainage Works, Tividale. Mr. K. H. Garvis, Government Inspector of Factories, attended.

Charles Gregory, builder, stated the deceased had been in his employ for twelve years, and was a most reliable workman. Recently he had been engaged in the construction of a culvert at the Tividale Drainage Works, and it was necessary for him and the deceased to work on Sunday last. When deceased was getting on to a scaffold a plank tipped up and Horton fell 10ft, sustaining serious injuries. He was removed to a house in Roway Lane and attended by Dr. Harper, and died on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst.

Dr. Harper stated that the deceased’s skull was badly injured and a collar bone broken. Death took place from shock.

The Deputy Coroner said he had visited the works, and as far as he could see, everything possible had been done for the safety of the workmen.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### 1911 Census

174, Dudley Road – BLUE BALL INN

[1] *Frederick William Growcott* (45), manager of licensed house, born Brades Village;

[2] Rachael Growcott (46), wife, married 22 years, born Oldbury;

[3] Dorothy Growcott (16), daughter, helps at home, born Brades Village;

[4] Lorna Growcott (15), daughter, helps at home, born Brades Village;

[5] Ida May Growcott (10), daughter, school, born Brades Village;

[6] Evelyn Dot Growcott (8), daughter, school, born Brades Village:

#### Dudley Chronicle 26/2/1925

“The story of how a little boy’s attempt to emulate a film actor’s exploits came to a tragic termination was narrated to the South Staffordshire Coroner, Mr. W. C. Checkley, at an inquest held at the BLUE BALL INN, Tividale, Rowley Regis, on Tuesday, February 17.

The inquiry concerned the death of a six-years-old lad named Arthur Henry Welton, who lived with his parents at 243, Dudley Road, Tividale, and who was drowned in the canal near the Brades Blue Brick works, on Saturday afternoon. His father, Thomas Pennington, a steeplejack, said he last saw his son alive on Saturday afternoon, at about 2.40. He was then at home, but about 4.30 witness said he was called to the canal-side, and was present when the body of his boy was taken from the water.

Alfred Hale, a schoolboy, living at 10, Brades Road, Tividale, told the Coroner that at 3.30pm on Saturday the deceased and another boy named Price were playing near the canal basin adjoining the brickworks. They were pushing an empty boat from the side when there was a sudden splash, and witness, not knowing the cause, turned to Price and asked him what had happened. The latter replied that ‘Captain’ (the deceased’s nickname) had fallen into the canal. Witness said he then called a man from the brickyard, and told him what had happened.

Lawrence Price, aged 12 years, of 242, Dudley Road, Tividale, then gave evidence to the effect that when at the side of the boat Welton called out, ‘Watch me; Richard Talmadge in ‘Taking Chances!’”

The Coroner: That was because he had seen something like that on the pictures, wasn’t it? – Witness: I think so.

The Coroner: What did he do after he said that? – Witness: He pushed the boat out and tried to jump on. He got on to the side, but could not hold on, and tumbled into the water.

Benjamin Hale, a boatman, residing at 10, Brades Road, Tividale, spoke to receiving information of the affair. He saw a boy's cap floating on the water, but over half an hour elapsed before the body could be located. It was then underneath the boat in about 5ft of water, and when pulled out with the aid of a boat hook life was extinct.

In answer to the Coroner, witness said the property on which the boys were playing was private, and they had no right to be there. A football match was in progress in an adjacent field, and it was a common thing for some of the spectators to go on to the canal-side at half-time in order to warm themselves at the brick-yard fires. It was possible that the boys went there for that purpose, and then started playing with the boat. The Coroner, in returning a verdict of Accidental Drowned, said: I am afraid this is another one of those instances where the 'pictures' were responsible to some extent for a boy's unfortunate death. I think I have seen a film title somewhere about of someone taking chances, and in this case the poor boy took one too many."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/7/1926

"Coalfield Distress Fund. Boots and Clothing Wanted.

The situation in the Midland coalfields may be judged from the letter received yesterday from Mr. J. Blake-more, JP, the agent of the Pelsall District Miners' Association – which co-ordinates the work of the various voluntary relieving organisations in the Pelsall district – in the course of which he says, 'Appalling cases of extreme poverty come to my notice day after day – cases so dreadful that they wring the heart. What relief is possible we are giving, but what cuts one to the quick is to find that the resources are so inadequate to the needs.'

Mr. James Thomas, secretary of the Arley (near Coventry) Distress Fund, in the course of a letter says that the children of the district badly need boots and clothing, and if any reader has any to spare he would be glad to receive them.....

*F. W. Growcott*, BLUE BALL, Brades, Oldbury, 3s."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/9/1937

"When the license of the BLUE BELL [sic] INN, Brades, Tividale, was transferred from *Frederick William Growcott* to *Harold Tromans* at Old Hill Police Court yesterday, Superintendent Elliott said it was unusual for the police to compliment a licensee, but he felt he must say that Mr. *Growcott* had been in this licensed house for 42 years without any sort of complaint."

#### 1939 Register

174, Dudley Road

[1] *Ernest Stanley*, date of birth 4/5/1894, presser, seamless steel tubes, married;

[2] *Mary Stanley*, dob 30/12/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Ernest W. Stanley*, dob 19/7/1913, labourer, town corporation, single;

[5] *Arthur Badham*, dob 17/9/1915, electro plater, seamless steel tubes, single:

#### Evening Despatch 18/10/1945 - Advert

"Morris 12, Saloon, reconditioned throughout, £225. Taxed December. Trial. Clews, BLUE BALL, Brades Village, Oldbury."

*Joseph Crosby* – see also JUNCTION.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/6/1953

"A Birmingham man said to have been awarded the DMC for bravery at Dunkirk was fined £10 for theft at Old Hill yesterday.

*Wilfred Harrison* (47), of Bodenham Road, Northfield, was alleged to have stolen £8 10s belonging to the licensee of the BLUE BALL INN, Tividale.

*Harrison*, who had been a captain in the Army, said he had been drinking at the time. He was ordered to pay £3 9s costs."



Smethwick Telephone 16/7/1970

“.....Joe [Shakespeare], 67 years old and silver haired lives in Salop Road, Brades Village, Oldbury, and first took up the secretarial pen on behalf of the Oldbury and District Flying Club in 1935. That was when the headquarters were at the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, which was demolished two years ago. The club, along with 25 others, is affiliated to the Dudley and District Federation, and for 17 years Joe ..... was the Federation secretary too.....

One of six brothers in a family of ten children, Joe Shakespeare was literally born and bred with pigeons in Albion Street, Brades Village, just a stone's throw from his present home. His dad, Sam, and uncle Joe, both well-known fanciers, were always at hand with advice to the eager listener.....

Joe Shakespeare is back in office now with Oldbury and District Flying Club at their BLUE BALL headquarters near his home.....”

Closed [1984]

Demolished

**BLUE BRICK**

OLDBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

A Whitehouse [ ]

NOTES

*A Whitehouse* issued tokens from here, bearing Wines and Spirits.

**BOAT**

304, (104), (120), (104), (70), Birchfield Lane, (Birchfield Road), Church Bridge, Titford, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Mrs. Hodgetts, Birmingham

Jarvis Hodgetts, Temple Street, Birmingham

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (leased) [1902]

Charles King, Arden Grove, Oldbury

LICENSEES

Samuel Mallin [1845] – [1848]

Noah Timmins [1851]

Thomas Timmins (1852 – 1861)  
Joseph Firm [1861] – [1865]  
Richard Bore [ ] – 1869);  
Thomas Price (1869 – [1873]  
Mrs. Priscilla Latham [1880] – [1880]  
William Elcock Fletcher [1881] – 1887);  
Charles Humphries (1887);  
Richard Elliott (1887);  
William Morgan (1887 – 1895);  
John Henry Cox (1895 – 1904);  
William John Comley (1904 – 1906);  
Emmett Dalton (1906 – 1908);  
Arthur John Busby (1908):

## NOTES

70, Birchfield Lane [1870], [1873], [1881]  
104, Birchfield Lane [1891]  
120, Birchfield Lane [1892]  
304, Birchfield Lane [1896]  
Birchfield Road [1899]

It was situated on the Portway Branch Canal.

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/10/1848 - Advert

“Jim Crow Bridge, Birchfield Lane, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Hammond (by order of the Mortgagee), on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November next, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at six o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then and there to be produced.

The BOAT INN and Premises, together with the House and large Garden adjoining thereto, having a frontage to the road leading from Oldbury to Birchfield, in the occupation of *Samuel Mallin* and his under-tenant. This Property is situated in the midst of the Collieries, adjoins the Canal, and possesses extensive advantages.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Thomas Smith James, Solicitor, or to the Auctioneer, both of Waterloo Street, Birmingham.”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/10/1848 - Advert

“Jim Crow Bridge, Birchfield Lane, near Oldbury.

The above Sale, advertised to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, is Postponed.

Joshua Hammond, Auctioneer, 21, Waterloo Street, October 26, 1848.”

### Birmingham Journal 27/1/1849 - Advert

“To Publicans, Retail Brewers, and Others.

Valuable opportunity of taking that compact, Old-Licensed Public House, known by the sign of the BOAT, excellently situated near the Bridge, in Birchfield Lane, a short distance from Oldbury, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Rodway, upon the Premises as above, on Monday Next, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and valuable Possession of the above old-established Public House, together with the Household Furniture, Fixtures, Brewing Utensils, &c.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

NB. The Licenses and Goodwill will be sold the first lot, subject to the Purchaser taking to the Fixtures, and such part only of the Effects as he may think proper, at a fair valuation.”

### 1851 Census

Birchyfield Lane

- [1] *Noah Timmins* (64), victualler and boat loader (coal), born Tipton;
- [2] Sarah Timmins (63), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] William Timmins (32), son, labourer, born Tipton;
- [4] Thomas Timmins (28), son, labourer, born Tipton;
- [5] Noah Timmins (25), son, boat loader (coal), born Dudley Port;
- [6] Abraham Timmins (23), son, boatman, born Dudley Port;
- [7] Sarah Roberts (13), house servant, born Oldbury;
- [8] Margaret McDermot (21), house servant, born Ireland:

### London Gazette 9/7/1852

“Whereas a Petition of *Thomas Timmins*, now and for the period of three years or thereabouts residing at the BOAT INN, Church Bridge, in the township of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, carrying on the trade or business of a Boat Loader, and also since the 3rd day of February last managing the business of the before-mentioned Inn for and on behalf of *Noah Timmins*, 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 *Thomas Timmins*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Thomas Timmins* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 24th day of July instant at two of the 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 *Thomas Timmins*, 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.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/4/1858

“A gentleman has made a bet of £10 that he will produce a man to walk seven miles and a half in one hour, on the turnpike-road, tomorrow, to start at Mr. *T. Timmins*’s, BOAT INN, Birchyfield Lane, near Oldbury.”

### London Gazette 8/10/1858

“Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between John Fletcher, James Griffiths, and *Thomas Timmins*, trading and carrying on business under the style or firm of Fletcher, Griffiths, and Timmins, at Titford Colliery, near Oldbury, is this day dissolved and terminated by mutual consent, by the withdrawal of the said John Fletcher from the concern. All moneys now owing to, and all debts contracted and owing by, the said firm of Fletcher, Griffiths, and Timmins, will be received and paid by the future firm of Griffiths and Timmins.

Dated this 28th day of September, 1858.

John Fletcher, James Griffiths, *Thomas Timmins*.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 18/1/1861 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the BOAT INN, Birchyfield Lane, and at Titford Colliery, near Oldbury.

To Coalmasters, Butty Colliers, Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. S. Parkes, This Day, Friday, and Tomorrow, Saturday, January 18 and 19 (under an Execution from the Sheriff) – all the neat and clean Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, Fixtures, and other Effects; consisting of drinking and other Tables, drinking Forms, Windsor, arm, easy, and other Chairs; mahogany horse-hair-seated Sofas and Chairs, thirty-hour Clock and Spring Dial, Glass, Earthenware, Chimney Ornaments, quantity of French Brandy and Rum, sixty gallons of Ale, four-pull Beer Machine, metal-top Table and Cupboard, Glass Shelving, set of ale and spirit Measures, large oval Cooler, wood and iron Buckets, Mash Rule and Sieve, Mash Tubs, Wort Vats, Brewing Vessels, Ale Barrels, Tun Palls, mahogany Chest of Drawers, four-post mahogany and other Bedsteads, feather Beds, Bolsters, and Pillows, Palliasses, Sheets, Blankets, Counterpanes, Floor Carpeting, Wash-stands, Toilet Glasses, &c, &c; belonging to Mr. *Thomas Timmins*, the BOAT INN, Birchyfield Lane, near Church Bridge, Oldbury.

Together with the Valuable Colliery Plant, at Titford Colliery, near Oldbury.

Consisting of cast and wrought iron Rails and Sleepers, Round Chains, Skips, Skip Rings and Bows, Pit Timber, Holding-down Pulley, Coal Pikes and Rakes, three Wharf Lamps, Guide Plate, Skip Tacklers, five Tipping Plates, Office Desk and Stools, Two powerful Horses, and other Effects, belonging to Messrs. Griffiths and *Timmins*.

Sale to commence each day at Ten o'clock.

Catalogues may be had of Mr. Tonge, Printer; at the Place of Sale; and at the Auctioneer's Offices, Wesley Street and Freeth Street Oldbury."

#### 1861 Census

Birchyfield Lane

[1] *Joseph Firm* (55), victualler, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary Firm* (50), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Joseph Firm* (11), grand-son, scholar, born West Bromwich:

#### Birmingham Journal 13/1/1866 - Advert

"A Genuine Old-Licensed Business, the BOAT INN, White Heath, near Oldbury, fronting the Birmingham Canal and the main road leading from Oldbury to Hales Owen, and adjoining the Canal Bridge.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the above genuine Old-licensed Inn, now doing a good in and out-door trade.

The Premises consist of three Bed-rooms, large Club-room, front Tap and Smoke-room, Bar, Bar Parlour, Brewhouse, Malt-room, two Cellars, Stabling for seven Horses, Piggeries, large and productive Garden, with extensive Yard, and an excellent supply of Water.

Rent £26 per annum. Returns £12 per week. Satisfactory reasons can be given for disposing of the same, and immediate possession may be had.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply on the Premises; or to Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Hotel and Brewery Valuer, Wesley Street, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Journal 13/4/1867 - Advert

"Roadside Old-licensed Public House, BOAT INN, Titford, near Oldbury, situate well and pleasantly in the neighbourhood of Mining Operations and Brickworks, now in full work. The House has every convenience, with a good Garden, well stocked with fruit trees, and any amount of water; and now doing a genuine and satisfactory business. Rent and payments low. In-coming to suit an immediate purchaser.

Apply upon the Premises, or to A. Atree, Auctioneer, Church Square, Oldbury.

NB. To be disposed of in consequence of the Proprietor's undivided time being required at other engagements at a distance."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/11/1867 - Advert

"Sale This Day, at 11am.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at the BOAT INN, Birchfield Lane, near Oldbury.

Brewing Plant, Public House Fixtures, Furniture, Stock-in-Trade, and Effects."

#### Birmingham Journal 4/1/1868 - Advert

"A Capital and Well-Situated Shut-Up Old Licensed Inn, the BOAT INN, Birchfield Lane, near Oldbury.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes.

To be Let, with immediate possession the above well-situated Shut-up, Old-licensed Inn, fronting the main road leading from Oldbury to Hales Owen, adjoining the Birmingham Canal, and near important Collieries, Brickyards and other Works.

Cause of letting, the late Occupier having gone abroad. Only a few Fixtures to be taken to.

The House and Premises consist of front Tap Room, Smoke Room, Bar, Sitting Room, Club and Bed Rooms, compact Brewery, excellent Cellaring, Stabling for ten Horses, extensive Yard, Piggeries, and Garden, well stocked with fruit trees; with abundant supply of hard and soft Water. Rent low.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, and Publicans' Valuer; Offices, Wesley

Street, Oldbury.”

#### 1871 Census

Birchy Field Lane

[1] *Thomas Price* (38), mining engineer and coal master, born Tipton;

[2] *Hannah Price* (41), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Mary Price* (12), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;

[4] *James Price* (10), son, scholar, born Tipton;

[5] *Thomas Price* (8), son, scholar, born Tipton;

[6] *Joseph Price* (6), son, scholar, born Tipton;

[7] *Alfred E. Price* (3), son, born Tipton;

[8] *Sarah Bate* (15), domestic servant, born Tipton:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 3/5/1873

“The adjourned inquest upon the body of *William Lett*, landlord of the TALBOT INN, West Bromwich, was held yesterday morning, at the BOAT INN, Birchfield Lane, near Oldbury. The inquest had been adjourned for a post mortem examination to be made, to ascertain the exact cause of death.

*Mr. Sainsbury*, who made the examination, expressed his opinion that death had resulted from injury to the brain, caused by the accident.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. They considered that the deceased had driven too near the edge of the road, with the view to avoid a hollow on the other side. A recommendation was made by the Jury that the Oldbury Local Board should be requested to put lamps along the thoroughfare to prevent future accidents; and two or three of the Jury expressed their opinion that the road was in a dangerous state owing to the hollow.

*Mr. Wright*, the Clerk of the Board, promised to convey the suggestion of the Jury to the monthly meeting of the Board, which was to be held that evening. In accordance with his undertaking, *Mr. Wright* informed the Board of the recommendation of the Jury. He explained that he had attended the inquest to watch the proceedings on behalf of the Board, to be prepared to advise them in the event of the Board being in any way implicated. Before taking this course, he had consulted one or two members of the Board, and obtained their approval. He had requested the surveyor to obtain a photograph of the place, with the view to being prepared to maintain the interests of the Board in any action that might arise. He thought he was warranted in doing as he had done from the fact that the relatives of the deceased had examined the road, and the heap of stones, and had employed *Mr. Hayes* as their solicitor, apparently indicating that they had the intention of taking proceedings against the Board. The Jury had made some complaints as to the state of the road at the place where the accident happened. The complaints, however, did not affect the Board so much as the Canal Company, to whom the cottages belonged on the left hand side to the road, over the canal bridge, where there was a very deep hollow. It was not at all improbable that the deceased, who was well acquainted with the road, in endeavouring to avoid the hollow, had gone too much to the opposite side, and consequently run over the stones. It was now become necessary that the Board should insist upon the Canal Company taking steps to put the road into a state of repair. The Board approved of the steps taken by *Mr. Wright*, and instructed him to take the necessary steps in protection of their interests.”

#### Dudley Herald 4/12/1880

“Local Failures....

In Re *Priscilla Latham*. The debtor, described as a licensed victualler, of the BOAT INN, Titford, has filed her petition for liquidation in the Oldbury County Court, with liabilities estimated at £750, and assets nil.

*Mr. Samuel H. Forrest*, of Oldbury, is solicitor for the debtor.”

#### London Gazette 7/12/1880

“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 *Priscilla Latham*, of the BOAT INN, Titford, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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 office of Mr. Samuel Henry Forrest, Solicitor, 21, Church-street, Oldbury, on the 17th day of December, 1880, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 1880.

Samuel H. Forrest, 21, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Solicitor for the Debtor.”

#### Dudley Herald 25/12/1880

“Re *Priscilla Latham*, of the BOAT INN, Titford, licensed victualler.

A meeting of the creditors herein was held on Friday last at the office of Mr. S.H. Forrest, solicitor, Oldbury. The statement of affairs showed liabilities £597, as against assets £15. Mr. Forrest, on behalf of the debtor, made an offer of 6d in the £, payable in three months from registration, which offer was ultimately accepted.”

#### 1881 Census

70, Birchy Field Lane – BOAT INN

[1] *William E. Fletcher* (27), licensed victualler, born Smethwick;

[2] Hannah Fletcher (28), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] William E. Fletcher (2), son, born Smethwick;

[4] Louisa Fletcher (1), daughter, born Smethwick;

[5] Charlotte Fletcher (64), mother, widow, born Tillington, Herefordshire:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 10/12/1881

“General Servant Wanted, a Strong Girl, about 16 or 17, Good Character.

Apply BOAT INN, Birchfield Lane, Oldbury.”

*William Elcock Fletcher* = William Elcocks Fletcher = William Hancox Fletcher

#### Smethwick Telephone 25/4/1885

“*William Elcock Fletcher*, landlord of the BOAT INN, was charged with allowing drunkenness to have taken place in his house on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> instant.

PC Cox stated that he visited the defendant’s premises on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> April, in company with PC Smith, and found a man there named W. Evans, drunk. Evans had been summoned before the magistrates on the previous week, and pleaded guilty to the charge. PC Smith corroborated and stated that he saw the defendant drink.

Mr. Shakespeare defended and called a man named Boswell who had been present upon the occasion, and stated that Evans was not served with any beer upon the premises.

A fine of £1 and costs was inflicted, the license not to be endorsed.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 14/8/1886

“*William Hancox Fletcher*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, was charged with selling beer during prohibited hours on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Police-constable Clark stated that calling at the defendant’s house just before dinner time on Sunday morning of the date mentioned he found two men drinking in the house. In reply to questions he put to them, one of the men stated that he came from Wyrley, near Cannock, and the other two gave an address at West Bromwich. He had since, in company with Sergeant Stanton and Police-constable Rivers, measured the distance from the residence of the two men at West Bromwich to Birchfield Lane, and found that the same was under three miles.

Police-sergeant Stanton deposed to having assisted to measure the distance from Overend Street, West Bromwich, to the Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, and found the distance was about two miles and three-quarters. In reply to Mr. Shakespeare, witness stated that they came down a narrow street, and proceeded along High Street and Paradise Street. Police-constables Clark and Rivers carried the chains and witness booked the measurements.

For the defence, Mr. Shakespeare called the barmaid at the house, Mary Eliza Simpson, who swore that the man who entered the house first stated that he came from Wyrley, and the other two said they came from the

same place. She declined to serve until Mr. *Fletcher* had seen them.

Defendant also gave evidence to the effect that the men stated that they came from Wyrley, and it was in consequence of this statement that he allowed them to be served.

Mr. Shakespeare contended that the landlord had taken reasonable precaution to ascertain that the men had travelled the prescribed distance, and therefore had not committed any offence against the law.

The Bench agreed that, as the landlord and the barmaid had both sworn positively the men stated they came from Wyrley, a distance of ten miles from the house, the case would be dismissed.”

AND

“John Horton and Joseph Payne, both residing in Overend Street, West Bromwich, were each fined 5s and the costs for being in the BOAT INN during prohibited hours, on Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup>. Police-constable Clark proved the case.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 28/8/1886

“The annual Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday.....

The following persons had been summoned for offences against the licensing laws, and dealt with as follows ..... Licensed Victuallers.....

*William Elcock Fletcher*, selling during closing hours, on August 10<sup>th</sup>, dismissed.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 19/2/1887 - Advert

“BOAT INN, Whiteheath Gate. This well-known Old-Licensed House to be Let, with immediate possession. Incoming, with Fixtures and Licenses, only £50. Apply W. H. Pass, 50, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### 1891 Census

104, Birchfield Lane

[1] *William Morgan* (55), widower, labourer and publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Polly Morgan (17), daughter, born Blackheath;

[3] Joseph Morgan (15), son, born Blackheath;

[4] Annie Morgan (13), daughter, scholar, born Blackheath:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 8/7/1891

“At the Oldbury Police Court yesterday, *William Morgan*, of the BOAT INN, Birchfield Lane, for failing to report that two pigs were affected with swine fever on June 28, was fined £2 1s, including costs.”

#### Worcester Journal 20/8/1892

“On Tuesday afternoon Mr. E. Docker held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Churchbridge, Oldbury, respecting the deaths of Hannah Debney (3) and Walter Harrold (6), whose parents reside in Potato Row, Churchbridge, who died – the former on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and the latter on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst – from the effects of poisoning.

Mrs. Debney stated on Friday she took her husband’s dinner, leaving the deceased and another girl, named Georgina, getting their dinners. As she was returning home she was told by a girl named Lowe that deceased and another child had been taken suddenly ill. When she got home she found the two children lying on the sofa, and they appeared to have been very sick. She asked the children what was the matter, and deceased said they had been eating Indian wheat. Witness gave them tea and brandy, and in the evening medical assistance was sent for. The eldest girl, Georgina, said she had had some flour and sugar off a shelf, and some powder was found in the pockets of the deceased Walter Harrold. A man whom they called Tom, and who had gone to America, gave her a box of powder, which he said would kill the mice. She knew it was poison, and always kept it out of the way of the children.

Mrs. Harrold stated that on Friday Mrs. Debney asked her to accompany her on an errand. Witness left her three children, Walter, Polly, and Thomas, in the house with Mrs. Debney’s two children. When she returned she found her three children lying in Mrs. Debney’s back yard vomiting, and they said Georgina Debney had been making some ‘pop,’ and she had given them some flour and sugar, which they had eaten; and she also mixed some up in water, which they drank, thinking it was pop. Witness at once gave them some salt and water, but did not send for a doctor, because the neighbours said it was a sunstroke the children were suffering from. A doctor was sent for about six o’clock. Her other two were progressing favourably.

Police-constable Stevens having been examined as to a statement the girl Georgina made to him, the coroner and the jury adjourned to Mrs. Debney's house to take the evidence of the child. She stated that they got the powder off the shelf, and after mixing it up drank it between them.

Dr. Buttery stated that on Friday night he went to Harrold's house, accompanied by his assistant. He found all three of Harrold's children unconscious and in a state of collapse. He ordered them brandy and milk. Mrs. Harrold handed him a powder, which she had found in Debney's pantry, and after examination he discovered that it was white arsenic. He then visited Debney's house, and found Hannah in an unconscious condition, and Georgina was also partly unconscious. He examined their gums and found that they were irritated. He went to Lowe's house, the other one who was poisoned, and found him vomiting badly. He made a post mortem examination of the bodies on Monday, and found traces of arsenic in each child's stomach. Death was due to poisoning by arsenic.

The coroner summed up, and the jury returned a verdict that the children were Accidentally Poisoned. They requested the coroner to caution Mrs. Debney to be more careful in dealing with poison in future."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1893

"The licensing sessions for Oldbury division were held yesterday.....

Superintendent Chare reported ..... Four licensed persons had been convicted during the year. Three of those licenses would be renewed, but that of *William Morgan*, of the BOAT INN, Church Bridge, who was fined 40s and costs for permitting drunkenness on August 14 last, would be deferred until the adjourned licensing meeting. With that exception all the old licenses would be renewed. All the applications for new licenses were refused."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 15/11/1895

"Yesterday Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Church Bridge, Oldbury, concerning the death of Thomas Taylor (32), bicycle-chain maker, formerly residing at Barr Street, Hockley, whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal, near the Jim Crow Bridge, Birchfield Lane, on Tuesday morning.

Charles Taylor, the father of the deceased, stated that about two years ago his son buried his wife, and that appeared to prey upon his mind. Since that time he had been depressed and strange in his manner. Witness did not think deceased had committed suicide.

Police-constable Harrison, who conveyed the body to the BOAT INN, said he found 5d in coppers in the pockets, also a contribution card showing that deceased was a member of the Birmingham Ebenezer Provident Sick Society. The water was only about five feet deep where the body was found. Witness was told that deceased went about singing in public houses, but on making enquiries he found that was incorrect. Deceased had been mistaken for a man who closely resembled him. He belonged to a respectable family in Birmingham.

There was no evidence to show how he got into the water. The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned."

#### County Advertiser 24/6/1899 - Advert

"To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Important Sale of Freehold Licensed Premises, and other Properties, at Oldbury, Titford, Causeway Green, and Bristnall Fields, in the Parish of Halesowen.

H. King and Son are favoured with instructions from Messrs. Hodgetts to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.....

The BOAT INN, Birchfield Road, Oldbury, adjoining the Birmingham Canal, let to Messrs. Thompson, under lease expiring June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1905.....

Plans and particulars may be had of Mr. T. Jarvis Hodgetts, Surveyor, 21, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham; Messrs. Bourne and Co., Solicitors, Dudley; or of the Auctioneers, Stourbridge."

AND

#### Smethwick Telephone 24/6/1899 - Advert

".....Sale by Auction, on Thursday Next, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899.....

Lot 5. The BOAT INN and Premises, a Freehold and Fully-Licensed House, in Birchfield Road, Oldbury,



having a frontage to Birchfield Road, aforesaid, being the Main Road from Oldbury to Blackheath and Halesowen, and also to the Birmingham Canal, with Stabling for six horses, Yard and Garden occupied therewith, held by Messieurs Thompson on a repairing lease, which expires on the 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1905.”

#### County Advertiser 10/6/1899 - Advert

“To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Important Sale of Freehold Licensed Premises, and Other Properties, at Oldbury, Titford, Causeway Green, and Bristnall Fields, in the Parish of Halesowen.

H. King and Son are favoured with instructions from Messrs. Hodgetts to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, at Three o’clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.....

The BOAT INN, Birchfield Road, Oldbury, adjoining the Birmingham Canal, let to Messrs. Thompson, under lease expiring June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1905.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 5/5/1900

“*John Henry Cox*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 9<sup>th</sup> ult. .... under the circumstances the case might be dismissed on the payment of costs, as there had been no wilful neglect or mismanagement on the part of the defendant. The Bench allowed this course to be taken, the costs being 7s.”

#### 1901 Census

304, Birchfield Lane

[1] *John H. Cox* (28), circular sawyer, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary M. Cox* (27), wife, born Blackheath;

[3] *Ada Cox* (4), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] *May Cox* (11 months), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] *Sarah Glaze* (20), domestic servant, born Blackheath:

#### County Advertiser 18/1/1902 - Advert

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Wine And Spirit Merchants, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Sale of Valuable Freehold Licensed Premises, at Oldbury, Worcestershire.

H. King and Son are favoured with instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. Jarvis Hodgetts to Offer for Sale by Auction at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1902.....

Lot 4. The Freehold and Fully-Licensed Premises, known as the BOAT INN, situate at Birchfield, Oldbury, fronting the main road from Oldbury to Blackheath and Halesowen and also to the Birmingham Canal, with Stabling for Six Horses, Yard and Garden occupied therewith, held by Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers on a repairing Lease, which expires on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1905.....

For Plans and Particulars apply to Messrs. Bourne and Company, Solicitors, Dudley; Mr. T. J. Hodgetts, Land Agent, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham; or of the Auctioneers, Stourbridge.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 2/5/1908

“There were some important comments made in reference to the granting of three off licenses for the Lightwoods district by the Oldbury justices, at a meeting of the County Licensing Committee, at which application was made for the confirmation of the concessions. At the outset, Mr. Willis Bund (the chairman) said that in reference to these three applications he understood there was some agreement or understanding between the Oldbury justices and the applicants. They had no particulars of that understanding. The brewers were willing, if the licenses were granted, to surrender certain licenses in Oldbury. The question was whether the committee ought not to have before them very full information concerning those houses which were going to be surrendered.

The first applicant was James Swain, Katherine Road, Warley, grocer, on whose behalf Mr. J. J. Parfitt, KC, appeared. The offer made on behalf of the brewers, through the applicant, was to surrender three licenses in Oldbury, viz, the JOLLY COLLIER, Albert Street; BOAT INN, Birchfield Lane (both fully-licensed houses); and the RISING SUN, Queen Street, a beer ‘on’ license. The district (observed Mr. Parfitt) for which

the new license was asked was a growing one, and many houses were springing up on all sides. The shop for which the off license was requested was at the corner of two streets, and in those streets and three others adjoining there were 278 houses, and something like 1,390 inhabitants, so that the need was real.

The Chairman said his point was that they ought to have further information as to the value of the houses which were to be surrendered. They might be valuable, and they might not, but it was very important for the Court to know what value the brewers put upon the houses.

Mr. Parfitt said information could be given, and handed in a statement, expressing the hope that with this information it would be possible for the committee to come to the conclusion that the site for the new license was an admirable one. and confirm the granting of the license.

The Chairman said that the site of the house was only fifty yards from the Staffordshire border.

Evidence was given showing that 280 people petitioned in favour of the license being granted.....

The Chairman said an attempt had been made – rightly or wrongly he would not say – to cover the district with off licenses, which would pay no monopoly value and contribute nothing to the compensation fund, and for which certain licenses were offered in order to get over any objections. The licenses it was proposed to surrender were not those it was most desired to take away, because they were not included in the twenty reported by the Oldbury justices. In the discharge of their duty to the ratepayers were the committee justified in covering the district with off licenses? Another point was whether the committee ought to grant the licenses applied for. They were offered valuable terms, but he was loth to tie the hands of the committee by asking them to accept them in view of the pending legislation. The applications would be granted, but it must be distinctly understood that the terms agreed upon between the justices of Oldbury and the applicants did not fetter the committee in any way if they were called upon to deal with the licenses in the near future.”

The license was surrendered on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1908.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1915

“On Tuesday at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, Messrs. Alfred W. Dando and Co. sold several properties.....

A dwelling house, 304, Birchfield Road, Oldbury (formerly known as the BOAT INN), and let at £18 4s gross per annum, was sold for £170.”

#### BOAT

11, (119), Tat Bank Road, (Stone Street), OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Samuel Bridge (later at Causeway Green, then SYCAMORE INN, then Moat Road), Oldbury  
William Butler and Co. (acquired c.1890)

#### LICENSEES

Timothy Bridge [1855] – 1865);

Sarah Bridge (1865 – [ ]

Samuel Hartshorne [1870] – [1880]

Samuel Bridge [1881] – 1890);

John Lawrence (1890 – 1891);

Thomas Keough (1891 – 1892);

Eliza Air (1892 – 1894);

Thomas Shaw (1894 – 1896);

John Beasley (1896 – 1897);  
William Foley (1897);  
William Millward (1897 – [1898])  
Abraham T Millward [1900] – 1905);  
Joseph Henry Lowe (1905 – 1908);  
John Rollason (1908 – 1910);  
Levi Gough Harrison (1910 – 1911);  
John Compton (1911 – 1912):

## NOTES

Stony Lane [1855]  
119, Tat Bank Road [1873]  
Stoney Lane [1861]  
Stone Street [1871], [1884], [1888], [1892]  
11, Tat Bank Road [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912]

### 1861 Census

Stoney Lane – BOAT INN

- [1] *Timothy Bridge* (40), victualler and carpenter, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Bridge (38), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Sarah Bridge (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Samuel Bridge* (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] Eliza Harvey (18), house servant, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Journal 21/1/1865 - Died

“On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, in the 45th year of his age, *Timothy Bridge*, of the BOAT INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1865

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, the following transfers of licenses took place.....  
BOAT, from the executors of *Timothy Bridge* to *Sarah Bridge*.”

*Sarah Bridge* (41), widow, licensed victualler, married *Samuel Hartshorne* (31), bachelor, forgerman, on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1867 at St. Martin, Tipton.

*Samuel Hartshorne* = Samuel Hartshorn

### 1871 Census

Stone Street – BOAT INN

- [1] *Samuel Hartshorn* (35), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] Sarah Hartshorn (45), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Sarah Bridge (20), step-daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Samuel Bridge* (18), step-son, carpenter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Eliza Biddle (18), servant, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Daily Post 17/4/1872 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant.  
Apply at the BOAT INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

### Dudley Herald 8/3/1879

“At the Police Court, on Monday, William Dunn, labourer, was charged with assaulting *Samuel Hartshorne*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Tat Bank. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June last, the prisoner went to the complainant’s house,

and being under the influence of drink and disorderly was requested to leave the house. He therefore became very violent, broke a jug by dashing it to the ground, and finally struck the landlord in the face. He had absconded since the offence, and was apprehended on a warrant. The prisoner was fined 10s and costs for the assault, and 5s for damaging the jug.”

#### 1881 Census

119, Stone Street

- [1] *Samuel Bridge* (28), licensed brewer, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Bridge* (30), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Samuel Bridge* (4), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *William Bridge* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth Smith* (16), domestic servant, born Tipton:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 10/9/1887 - Advert

“Oldbury. To Let, BOAT INN, Tat Bank. Apply *S. Bridge*.”

*Samuel Bridge* – see also BARREL, Causeway Green.

#### Smethwick Telephone 8/2/1890- Advert

“BOAT INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.

Mr. W. H. Pass is favoured with the instructions from Messrs. Butler & Co., who have taken to the Business, to Sell by Auction upon the above premises, on Friday Next, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1890, a Quantity of Household Furniture, Brewing Plant and Effects, comprising Mahogany Hair-seated Chair, Dressing Chests, Swing Glasses, Bedsteads, Chest of Drawers, Dressing Tables, Mahogany Hair-seated Sofa, Cane-seated and other Chairs, Two Large Cast Iron Boilers, Deal Vats, Round Tubs, Zinc Refrigerator, Fermenting Vessels, Copper Temperator, 22 Casks (various), and other Effects.

Sale to commence at 11am prompt.

Auctioneer’s Office, 52, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### 1891 Census

11, Stone Street

- [1] *Thomas Keogh* (41), licensed victualler, born Leamington;
- [2] *Mary A. Keogh* (35), wife, born Old Hill;
- [3] *Percival Keogh* (9), son, scholar, born Dudley;
- [4] *Frederick Keogh* (7), son, scholar, born Dudley;
- [5] *Thomas Keogh* (5), son, scholar, born Dudley;
- [6] *Catharine Round* (14), servant, born Dudley:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1891

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, Mr. *T. Keogh*, BOAT INN, Tat Bank, applied for an extension of one hour on 24<sup>th</sup>, 26, and 28<sup>th</sup> inst. The application was refused.”

*Thomas Keough* – see also WHITE LION.

*Eliza Air* – see also GOLDEN CUP, West Bromwich.

*William Millward* was fined 40s and £2 12s 0d costs, on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1898, for permitting drunkenness.

#### 1901 Census

11, Tat Bank Road

- [1] *Abraham T. Millward* (33), bookbinder and licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *May Millward* (30), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Gladys M. Millward* (5), daughter, born Oldbury;

- [4] Ann Millward (72), mother, widow, born Oldbury;  
[5] Jennie Green (26), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/5/1907

“William Stevens (20), a boatman, of Spon Road, Langley, was at Oldbury yesterday committed to the Quarter Sessions on a charge of burglariously entering the grocer’s shop of George Shackleton, in Tat Bank Road, with intent to commit a felony, on the night of April 30.

Mr. Shackleton said he was roused just after midnight by the smashing of glass, and on making an examination he found that the fanlight of the back door had been broken. There were bloodstains on the floors and walls.

Stevens was arrested by Sergeant Callaway on the following day, when his left hand bore marks of blood. There were also bloodstains upon his clothes. A button found in the house corresponded with the buttons on Stevens’s clothes, while the cast of a footprint in the garden near the back door exactly fitted his boot. The clothes and boots were identified by Stevens’s mother, who said her son was wearing them on the night referred to.

Stevens was further charged with burglary at the BOAT INN, Tat Bank, from which it was alleged he stole 8s in money and a silver watch. He was committed to the sessions on this charge also.”

[On 3<sup>rd</sup> June William Stevens was found guilty and sentenced to 12 calendar months’ imprisonment.]

*Joseph Henry Lowe* – see also MANCHESTER STORES, and COACH AND HORSES, West Bromwich.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1910

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury division were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding over the magistrates. The principal business was the consideration of six licences which the magistrates proposed to refer to the Quarter Sessions for compensation on the ground of redundancy. The houses in question were the CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street; BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street; ROYAL OAK, Park Lane; NAGS HEAD, Flash Road; HOPE AND ANCHOR, Halesowen Street; and BOAT INN, Tat Bank.....

Mr. Albright then announced that the magistrates had decided to refer only four licenses to the Quarter Sessions at Worcester this year instead of six as originally proposed. They would therefore renew the licenses of the BIRD IN HAND and ROYAL OAK.....

Mr. Dawes appeared in reference to the BOAT INN, the licensee being *Levi Gough Harrison*, and the lessees Messrs. Butler and Co., Wolverhampton.

Mr. Jones said within 500 yards there were eleven full-licensed houses and two beerhouses on..... All four houses were referred to the Quarter Sessions.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority.

The renewal was refused on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1910.

Evesham Standard 10/12/1910

“Worcestershire Licensing Committee. Determining Compensation Claims.

A supplemental meeting of this Committee was held on Saturday at the Shirehall.....

The special purpose of the meeting was for the purpose of determining the amount of compensation to be paid for the extinction of licenses. Fourteen such licenses had been reported by the justices to the Committee, and the Committee had already decided to renew one. The amounts claimed in respect of the other thirteen were.....

BOAT INN, Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, £1,518.....

The Committee took evidence in support of the claims calculated on the capitalised loss of trade, the capitalised loss in the value of the premises by the extinction of the license, and the loss on the sale of fittings.....

The Committee then announced the following awards.....

BOAT INN, Oldbury, £994.”

Alcester Chronicle 14/1/1911

“An adjourned meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday.....

At the meeting of the committee in December six claims for compensation were heard, and awards were made. The committee now settled the shares to be paid to the parties as follows.....

BOAT INN, Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, £994 awarded, £50 licensee, £894 6s owner, £49 14s lessees.”

1911 Census

11, Tat Bank Road – BOAT INN

- [1] *Levi Gough Harrison* (51), iron moulder, born Tipton;
- [2] Catherine Harrison (49), wife, married 28 years, born West Bromwich;
- [3] William L. Harrison (27), son, iron moulder, born Derby;
- [4] Catherine Harrison (25), daughter, dressmaker, born Smethwick;
- [5] Millicent Harrison (22), daughter, draper’s assistant, born Smethwick;
- [6] Bernard Harrison (14), son, scholar, born Smethwick:

*Levi Gough Harrison* – see also ASH TREE, Broadwell Road, and NAVIGATION, Tat Bank.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1912

“At Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday Superintendent Davis presented his report.....

The licenses of the following four houses were entered for compensation in 1910, and were refused renewal, but the compensation money not having been paid yet the houses were not closed ..... BOAT INN.....

Mr. Albright said that there seemed little doubt that all the arrears of compensation would be cleared off in the present year, and the houses closed, although the amount of money available now would be considerably decreased by the absorption of a large portion of the county in Greater Birmingham.”

Bromsgrove Messenger 9/3/1912

“A meeting of the Worcestershire County Licensing Committee was held at the Shirehall, Worcester, on Saturday afternoon.....

The following amounts, which had previously been awarded, were now ordered to be paid on March 29<sup>th</sup>..... BOAT INN, Tatbank, Oldbury, £994 (including £50 for licensee).”

Compensation was paid on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1912.

The license was extinguished on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1912.

**BOAT**

21, (114), (15), Dudley Road East, (Oldbury Road), TIVIDALE

OWNERS

William Barratt [1881], [1887]

H. O. Smout [1894]

J. A. and A. Thompson, maltsters, Oldbury (leased)

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1919]

LICENSEES

William Whitehouse [1834]  
Stephen Timmins [1835] – [1842]  
Joseph Timmins [1845]  
Stephen Timmins [1851] – **1859**);  
Elizabeth Timmins (**1859**);  
John Lees (**1859** – [1865]  
John Hubbard [ ] – **1867**);  
Edmund Staley (**1867** – **1870**)  
Samuel Davis [1871] – **1872**);  
William Barratt (**1872** – **1887**)  
Mrs. Barratt [1887]  
John Smallwood [1890] – [1892]  
Robert Allen [1894] – [1896]  
Joseph Whild [1900] – [1901]  
Mrs. Jackson [1902]  
John Hingley [ ] – **1903**);  
Enoch Roderick (**1903** – **1904**);  
Robert Hipkins (**1904** – [1912]  
J Hipkins [ ] – **1912**);  
John Grainger (**1912** – [1916]  
John William Tolley [1919] – **1928**);  
John Phillips (**1928** – **1930**);  
Samuel Richard Darby (**1930** – **1931**);  
John Oliver Newey (**1931** – **1936**);  
George Hughes (**1936** – **1938**);  
Thomas William Baker (**1938** – **1939**);  
Richard Samuel Hadley (**1939** – **1953**);  
John Barnes (**1953** – **1957**);  
James Wall (**1957** – **1959**);  
Sidney Butler (**1959** – [1965]  
Ray Smith [1988]  
Ken Prosser [1992]  
Julian Dunn [1995]

## NOTES

Oldbury Road [1884]  
15, Dudley Road East [1892], [1900], [1901]  
15, Dudley Road [1891], [1896], [1901], [1904]  
114, Dudley Road [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1932], [1940]  
21, Dudley Road East [1993]

*Stephen Timmins* = Stephen Timmings

*Stephen Timmins*, beer retailer, Tividale. [1835]

## 1841 Census

Tividale

[1] *Stephen Timmins* (45), publican, born Staffordshire;  
[2] Jane Timmins (46), born Staffordshire;  
[3] David Timmins (24), engineer, born Staffordshire;  
[4] Isaac Timmins (19), born Staffordshire;

[5] Rebecca Draycott (16), f.s., born Staffordshire;

[6] Charlotte Thorneycroft (11), f.s., born Staffordshire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/2/1847

“On Friday morning last, a man named John Bissill, aged 30 years, accidentally fell down one of the pit’s shafts belonging to Messrs. John Bagnall and Sons, at Tividale colliery, and was killed. An inquest was held in the evening before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, at the BOAT INN, Rowley, and verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/7/1847

“An inquest was held at the BOAT INN, Tividale, Rowley Regis, on Saturday, on the body of George Pearce, aged 37 years. The deceased was the engineer at Mr. Batson’s Colliery at Tividale, and some new trees were being put into the water pit. The pit was 170 yards deep, and the deceased had the management of fixing the trees. Before he descended to the place in the pit where he was going to fix the trees, which was 110 yards from the mouth of the pit, he found there was not room for the trees to descend down the centre, without keeping the rope which was then down the pit supporting the machinery below on one side. With this view the deceased put a loose brick between a beam of wood across the mouth of the pit and the frame of it, to force the rope a few inches over the centre to allow room for the tree. After having done this, he descended to his work on a small board, at each end of which is attached a rope, and from the top of which is attached another rope, which is affixed to the engine above. Upon this the engineer sits, and he can be raised or lowered as his work requires. This is called a horse. There was a person named John Wilkes at work on a scaffold in the pit, about four yards below the spot at which the deceased was to regulate the trees; the trees were let down, and shortly afterwards the vibration occasioned by the rope shook the frame at the top and loosened the brick, and it fell on the head of the deceased, and knocked him off the horse; he fell to bottom of the pit, a distance of 60 yards, the water at the time being eleven yards deep. Wilkes, who was on the scaffold below when the brick fell, heard it coming, and had a very narrow escape, as the brick and the deceased both fell against the scaffold in the descent to the bottom of the pit. It was nearly an hour before the body of the deceased could be recovered from the water in the pit. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 29/8/1847

“Pedestrianism. Matches To Come.....

August 30. S. Partridge and J. Wardle (both of Westbromwich) – one mile, £5 a side, at the BOAT INN, Tividale.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/9/1847

“An inquest was commenced on Monday last, at the BOAT INN, Tividale, in the parish of Rowley Regis, on the bodies of William Mow and George Carter. They were employed at Mr. Batson’s coal pit, at Tividale, and went on Sunday to descend the pit to feed the horses, but before they went down the boiler exploded, and injured them so severely that one died in about three hours, and the other the next day. The inquest was adjourned till Thursday next to afford time for some person to examine the boiler and ascertain the cause of the explosion.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/10/1847

“An accident of a fatal nature took place at one of Mr. Batson’s coal pits, at Tividale, on Sunday se’nnight, whereby two men, named George Carter and William Mow, lost their lives through the explosion of a boiler. An inquest was held on the bodies on Monday, the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, and by adjournment, on Thursday, the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, and by a further adjournment to the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner at the BOOT [sic] INN, Tividale, Rowley Regis, which resulted in a verdict of Accidental Death.

From the evidence of two engineers, it appeared that the explosion was caused by the deceased William Mow putting an iron wheel, weighing 14½lbs upon the steam click of the boiler, and also bearing his own weight upon it, in order to get the steam up quicker, himself and the other deceased having gone to the pit for the purpose of descending to feed the horses before the engineer had arrived. The engineer (who was to undertake the management of the engine that morning for the first time) arrived just at this time, and tried



the buoy of the boiler, by which it appeared there was plenty of water in it; and he had scarcely entered the engine-house to set the engine on for the deceased to descend the pit, when a terrific explosion took place, and the boiler of the engine escaped from the bed of brick work which surrounded it, and ascended in the air higher than the stack of the engine and burst, the greater part of it going thirty yards from the engine-house, and two other parts to some distance. The brickwork surrounding it was scattered in every direction. The deceased William Mow was struck by the bricks, and also scalded by the boiling water which fell from the boiler, and was so much injured that he died in about an hour afterwards. The deceased George Carter was so much scalded, and was blown by the force of the explosion into an adjoining field, and so much injured he died the next day.

Mr. Chas. Henry Capper, civil engineer, of Birmingham, who was specially summoned to attend the adjourned inquiry, was of opinion that the engineer might have been mistaken as to the quantity of water in the boiler; and that the plates of the boiler, above the water in it, had become red hot, and some cold water coming in contact with them, had caused such a generation of steam as occasioned the explosion. This fearful accident caused a great sensation in the neighbourhood.”

#### Birmingham Journal 17/11/1849 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Tividale New Colliery, in the Parish of Rowley. Important Sale. To Iron and Coal Masters, Charter Masters and Others.

Mr. Solomon Powell has received instructions from the Proprietors, Messrs. Thomas and Jesse Moore, to Submit for Sale by Auction, on the Premises, on Tuesday Next, the 20<sup>th</sup> of November instant – the whole of the valuable Colliery Implements . . . . which will be set forth in catalogues, which may be had on application to Messrs. Moore; Mr. John Jones, Mine Agent, Tipton; Mr. *Stephen Timmins*, BOAT INN, Tividale; CASTLE HOTEL, Dudley; DARTMOUTH HOTEL, West Bromwich; and of the Auctioneer, Tipton.”

#### Birmingham Journal 9/3/1850 - Advert

“Robbery at Tividale. Five Pounds Reward.

Last Night (Friday) about Nine o’clock, the House of Mr. *Stephen Timmins*, the BOAT INN, Tividale, was Entered, and between £16 and £17 in Gold and Silver, and certain Writings, of no use to any one but the Owner, a Note-of-hand for £50, and a Will, Stolen therefrom.

This is to give Notice, that any Person giving such information as may lead to the Discovery and Prosecution of the Offenders, or the Recovery of the Stolen Papers, will receive the above Reward.

*Stephen Timmins*. BOAT INN, Tividale, near Dudley, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1850.”

#### Birmingham Journal 31/8/1850 - Advert

“Tividale Colliery. Wanted, a steady Workman, to Male Bricks at this place by Contract. Apply to Mr. *S. Timmins*, BOAT INN, Tividale.”

#### 1851 Census

Tividale Road – BOAT INN

[1] *Stephen Timmings* (54), publican, born Tipton;

[2] *Elizabeth Timmings* (58), wife, born Tipton;

[3] Sarah Smith (20), servant, born Tipton:

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 28/4/1852

“Birmingham Court of Bankruptcy . . . .

Mr. *Stephen Timmins*, of Tividale, innkeeper. Official assignee, Mr. Valpy.”

#### Westmorland Gazette 16/4/1853

“On Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> ult George Hinchliffe, Esq, held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Tividale, near Rowley Regis, on the body of Charles Unett, a labourer, thirty-two years of age. It appeared that the deceased and a man named Griffiths lodged together at the house of Edward Jones, and having on the previous Tuesday complained of their bedroom being damp, Mrs. Jones placed an iron bucketful of live coals in the apartment when they retired to rest at night, telling them to leave the door open to allow the smoke to escape. This

they did not do, as it turned out. About three in the morning their landlord was awakened by hearing their groans, and on going into the room he found both lying in an insensible and apparently dying state. Having thrown the window open, in order to admit some fresh air, he at once sent for a surgeon, and Mr. Underhill was soon in attendance, and administered the requisite remedies. Griffiths recovered in fourteen or sixteen hours after, but Unett remained in a state of stupor until Sunday, when he died. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

*Birmingham Journal.*”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/9/1853

“An adjourned inquest was held on Thursday evening, at the BOAT INN, Tividale, before George H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Thomas Naylor. The deceased was employed at Messrs. Caddick and Mason’s coal pit, and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, the doggy, Aston, not having come to the pit, a man named Dainty, by the direction of Mason, tried the lamp, and at the further end of the workings discovered some sulphur, which was brushed out. Deceased commenced working there, and after being in the place a short time, a quantity of coal came down, and he left the spot, but on going there again with a candle, an explosion of sulphur immediately took place, and deceased was fearfully burnt, from the effects of which he died in a few days.

One of the witnesses, who was close to the deceased in the pit, lay down and thus escaped injury, but three other men were much burnt.

It appeared from the evidence, that the air-head was only carried to within eight yards of the spot where the explosion occurred, and consequently no one could get there, but the place was considered perfectly safe after the sulphur was brushed out. The deceased had a naked candle in the place before the coal fell, and it was thought the sulphur lay in them, and that their coming down caused the sulphur to spread. The doggy, Aston, was frequently away from the pit, and in his absence one of the other men had to use the lamp.

Thomas Wynn, Esq, the government inspector, was present at the inquest, and stated that he had made an examination of the pit, and thought the ventilation very defective; he pointed out to Messrs. Caddick and Mason what should be done, and they promised to see it carried out.

The coroner and jury also expressed an opinion that the doggy was not at all a proper person for this situation, and severely reprimanded him for staying away from his duties, and trusting to others parties to try the lamp.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 22/10/1853 - Advert

“To Iron and Coal Masters, Butty Colliers, and Others.

Unreserved Sale, the BOAT INN, Tividale, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. William Green, on Monday next, the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, at Eleven o’clock in the forenoon – a large quantity of Colliery Implements; consisting of Thick Coal Skips, Rings, and Tacklers; Blowing Tools, Skip Boards, &c; excellent Chaff Cutting Machine, with fittings to work by steam; Three powerful Draught Horses, extra strong six-inch-wheel Cart, nearly new; useful 4½-inch-wheel Cart, Drink Cart, two Dog Carts, very superior Spring Trap, Pony Stanhope Gig, oak Cabin Boat, sixty yards of Chain, two-handed Chaff Cutting Machine, Brewing Vessels, &c, &c.

Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneer, District Fire Office, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 14/4/1855 - Advert

“Sale at the BOAT INN, Tividale, near Oldbury and Tipton.

To Coal Masters, Butty Colliers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Powell, on Tuesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1855, at Ten o’clock in the morning – Ten valuable and useful Pit Ponies, varying from 12 to 13½ hands high; a superior Roan Pony, 13 hands high, suitable to ride or drive; and a strong Waggon Horse, 15 hands high. The whole will be removed to the house of Mr. *Stephen Timmins*, the BOAT INN aforesaid, and will be on view early on the day of sale.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 18/7/1857

“An inquest was held yesterday (Friday) afternoon, at the BOAT INN, Tividale, on the body of Job Baker, a youth seventeen years of age, who met with his death on the previous Tuesday in the Grange Colliery, near Oldbury, belonging to Messrs. Cartwright and Hayes. Deceased was engaged steadying a skip at the top of an incline in the pit, and while the skip was in motion was crushed between it and a ‘tree’ and instantly killed. Verdict Accidental Death.”

#### Brierley Hill Advertiser 14/11/1857

“*Stephen Timmins*, licensed victualler, of the BOAT, Tividale, was indicted for having his house open at twenty minutes before ten o’clock, on the forenoon of Sunday, the 1<sup>st</sup> inst.

PC Hawthorne, on being examined, stated that he and another officer, on the morning in question, saw two men come out of the house of defendant. They afterwards went in, and asked – in their disguise – for some ale; but defendant would not give them it. No party was in the place drinking; but five navvies were at the back door in a rather suspicious state.

Defendant, in defence, denied having sold any ale. He was, however, fined 5s with costs.”

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/3/1858

“In another part of our paper we give particulars of a boiler explosion which took place on Saturday afternoon last, at the ironworks at Tividale near Dudley, belonging to Messrs. Whitehead and Haines, and by which four persons lost their lives, and others sustained serious injuries, though now likely to recover. An inquest on the bodies of Thomas Riles, Thomas Worley and Joseph Caddick, took place on Monday afternoon at the BOAT INN, Tividale, before Mr. G. H. Hinchliffe Esq, coroner. The fourth man killed was Thomas Homer, who lived at Greets Green, West Bromwich, and a second inquest will have to be held upon him.

James Leighton of Tividale, the manager of the works, said there were three high-pressure boilers in the works, placed near together, and these were under the control of Worley and Riles – the one working days and the other nights. Riles worked during Friday night, and on Saturday morning Worley took charge of the boilers at about half past six o’clock, and kept them at work until about three o’clock, when, owing to the insufficiency of steam, arising from the bad quality of the slack used in firing, the engines were stopped. In about five minutes afterwards the explosion occurred ..... Adjourned.”

[The verdict was that the deceased were killed by the explosion of the boiler, which explosion was caused by an undue pressure of steam, but that there was no evidence to show the cause of such pressure.]

#### County Advertiser 17/4/1858

“Hannah Bate, a respectable-looking young woman, was charged with stealing the sum of 15s, the moneys of her employer, *Stephen Timmins*. Mr. Burbury appeared for the defendant, and at the opening of the case stated to the Bench that the girl’s box had been forcibly opened by the prosecutor, and £10 taken therefrom, together with some silver from the defendant’s person. He now requested that the money, pending the decision on the case, should be given up either to the Clerk or Mr. Superintendent Mills. The Bench stated that they could not make such an order till they had heard the case. The prosecutor, however, gave the money up voluntarily to Mr. Mills.

*Elizabeth Timmins* was then placed in the witness box, and deposed as follows: I am the wife of *Stephen Timmins*, who keeps the BOAT INN, Tividale. Prisoner has been in our employ as servant-of-all-work for the past two years, and we have placed great confidence in her. She had been in the habit of attending to the tap, and receiving money for ale, &c. Latterly I have suspected prisoner of dishonesty, in consequence of having missed more than £20. I, therefore, on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst, marked about £4 worth of silver, with the exception of the smaller pieces – sixpences. I then placed them in a wooden bowl in the drawers in my bedroom. I saw them quite safe about three o’clock on the afternoon of that day; but when I went to bed they were gone. The money consisted of four florins, one half crown, and four shillings, which were all marked with the point of a pair of scissors. The drawer was still locked. I then went into the prisoner’s bedroom, and said to her, ‘You naughty girl, give me the key of your trunk; I think it will unlock my drawer.’ I then tried to open the drawer with the key, but could not. I then went again into the prisoner’s bedroom and asked her to let me search her pockets, when she pulled out a lot of orange peel, with a purse containing the silver I

had marked previously, and which I now identify as that produced. I then went down stairs for the purpose of getting a policeman, but while I was away the prisoner escaped out of the window. When I went into the prisoner's bedroom, I said, 'This is my money – where did you get it from?' Prisoner replied, 'Has no one any money but you?' Prisoner also said that she (witness) had marked the money since it had been taken from her; but this was said on the day following, when the prisoner came to fetch her clothes and box away. Prisoner received 11s 6d per month wages, being at the rate of £7 per year. In the prisoner's box the £10 produced was found. Mr. Burbury cross-examined this witness at some length, and elicited from her that she should not have prosecuted the charge if the prisoner had kept a civil tongue in her head; but she had been exceedingly impertinent.

PC Lucas deposed that from information he received he went to the house of the prosecutor about 11 o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> inst, and received the money produced (15s) from Mrs. *Timmins*. The prisoner gave herself up on the day following.

At the conclusion of the case for the prosecution, the Bench stated that they could not do anything but commit the prisoner for trial at the ensuing sessions. Bail was put in, and accepted."

#### Staffordshire Advertiser 22/5/1858

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Hannah Bate, on bail, was indicted for stealing fifteen shillings, the property of *Stephen Timmings*.....

Mr. Claydon, for the defence, after a spirited address, called two witnesses, who gave the prisoner a good character. The jury, after a very brief consultation, returned a verdict of not guilty, and the prisoner was discharged."

#### Birmingham Journal 28/5/1859 - Died

"On the 24<sup>th</sup> inst, after a long and painful illness, aged 66 years, Mr. *Stephen Timmings*, of the BOAT INN, Tividale; much respected and deeply lamented by his family and friends."

#### Birmingham Journal 6/8/1859 - Advert

"A First-Rate Opportunity. The BOAT INN, Tividale, near Oldbury.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of by Private Contract, the Licenses and Possession of the above capital Old-licensed Inn, in consequence of the decease of the Landlord. Immediate possession may be had. For further particulars and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Appraiser, Land Surveyor, and General Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 19/10/1859

"Wordsley Public Office, Monday, Oct. 17 ..... The following licenses were transferred..... BOAT INN, Rowley, from the late *Stephen Timmings* to *John Lees*."

#### Birmingham Journal 26/5/1860 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Properties, at Tividale, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford; comprising the BOAT INN and Premises, and Eight Dwelling Houses Adjoining; and also Eight Dwelling Houses, near the Sedgley New Turnpike Road, at Tividale aforesaid.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman (by order of the Mortgagee), on Monday, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June next, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *John Lees*, the BOAT INN, at Tividale aforesaid, and subject to conditions then to be read – the undermentioned valuable Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. All those Eight Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, situated near to the Sedgley New Turnpike Road, at Tividale aforesaid, now in the respective occupations of Mrs. Packman, James Morgan, Mrs. Timmings, Mrs. Beddow, Samuel Griffiths, and others, and producing together the aggregate annual rental of £55 9s 4d.

Lot 2. All those Seven Freehold Dwelling Houses, Yard, and Premises, situate at the back of the BOAT INN, at Tividale aforesaid, now in the several holdings of James Kelsey, John Hodgkins, Frederick Lamb, James Tranter, William Cox, Joseph Elkins, and another, the whole producing the annual rental of £47.

Lot 3. All that very desirable Old-Licensed and well-established Freehold Public House and Premises, known as the BOAT INN, situate at Tividale aforesaid, now in the occupation of Mr. *John Lees*, at the yearly

rental of £30.

The House comprises good Cellaring, Tap Room, Bar, Parlour, Kitchen, large Club Room, and three Bed Rooms, with Brewhouse, Workshop, Stabling, Gig-house, Gateway, Yard, Piggeries, and other Premises; also a newly-erected Dwelling House and Premises adjoining to, and at the rear of the BOAT INN, in the occupation of Daniel Baker, at the yearly rental of £8 9s.

For plans and further particulars, apply to Messrs. W. and Brooks Robinson, Solicitors; or the Auctioneer, Dudley.”

#### 1861 Census

Tividale – BOAT INN

- [1] *John Lees* (44), innkeeper, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Sarah Lees* (46), wife, born Stourbridge;
- [3] *Benjamin Lees* (18), son, born Brierley Hill;
- [4] *James Lees* (14), son, scholar, born Stourbridge;
- [5] *Mary Jane Lees* (9), daughter, scholar, born Stourbridge;
- [6] *Ann Lees* (6), daughter, scholar, born Stourbridge;
- [7] *Bettsey Whithouse* (21), house servant, born Darlaston:

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/11/1866 - Advert

“The BOAT INN Public House and Liquor Shop, Tividale, to be Disposed of, it having changed hands only twice in thirty years. Brewing Sixteen Strikes weekly. The Premises are large and convenient. Let on account of the Landlord's inability to attend to the business. The Coming-in will be made convenient for an immediate purchaser.

Apply to R. L. Courtney, Auctioneer, West Bromwich.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1866 - Advert

“By R. L. Courtney, This Day (Monday), at Eleven o'clock, at the BOAT INN, Tividale, two miles from Dudley.

Household Furniture, 24 Bushels of Malt, 3 Pockets of Hops, and Public House Effects.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/7/1867 - Advert

“Freehold Property for Sale by Private Contract, that well-known House, the BOAT INN, Tividale, near Oldbury. Part of the purchase money may remain.

Apply to *John Lees*, Middle Street, Stourbridge.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/10/1867 - Advert

“Clearing Out Sale, BOAT INN, Tividale.

By Mr. John Bent, This Day (Wednesday) – the whole of the excellent Fittings, Brewing Plant, Copper Boilers, well-seasoned Ale Casks, Beer Machine, Skittle and Bowling Alley, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1867 - Advert

“The BOAT INN, Tividale, near Oldbury.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the above Old-established Roadside Public House, situated in the centre of large and important Ironworks and Collieries. The Premises are replete with every convenience for the trade, to which may be profitably added the Corn Trade.

In-coming and rent moderate.

Apply upon the Premises; or to Mr. John Bent, Auctioneer and Publicans' Valuer, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley.”

*John Hubbard* = John Hubert

#### Birmingham Journal 2/11/1867 - Advert

“Unreserved Clearing Out Sale, Monday Next, November 4, the BOAT INN, Tividale.

To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Bent, on Monday Next, November 4.

The whole of the superior Public House Fixtures, excellent Brewing Plant, Mash Tub, Cooling Vats, Coolers, hogshead and half-hogshead Casks, 300-gallon Store Cask, copper and iron Boilers, Gasfittings, American Bowling and Skittle Alley (with Shedding over), four-pull Beer Machine and Piping, Cup and Glasses, rail-back Benches, pocket of prime Worcester Hops (1866), and numerous other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Hubbard*, who is declining the trade.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

NB. The House and Premises to be Let, and the Fixtures may be taken to at a valuation.”

*Edmund Staley*, beer retailer, Tividale [1868]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/6/1869

“Henry Homer, coal dealer, was yesterday charged with stealing a boat, the property of Edward [sic] *Staley*, of the BOAT INN, Tividale. On the 26<sup>th</sup> December, the prisoner went to the prosecutor and hired a boat for one month, at the rate of 24s per month. He sent for it on the following Monday, and had not since returned it.

The prisoner, in defence, said he had bought the boat, and given £10 for it.

The prisoner was committed to the Sessions, bail being refused. Mr. Travis prosecuted.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/7/1869

“Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions.....

Henry Homer, 28, coal dealer, was indicted for converting to his own use, while bailee thereof, a boat, the property of *Edmund Staley*, at Rowley Regis. Mr. Underhill conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Young the defence.

The prosecutor keeps the BOAT INN, at Tividale. Last Christmas he had a boat that he wished to lend on hire, and the prisoner hearing of it went to him and agreed to take the boat on hire for a month. The prisoner gave a card, on which was ‘Henry Homer, coal merchant, Church Lane, Tipton.’ It was arranged that the money for the hire of the boat should be paid at the month’s end. The boat was taken away on the following day. At the month’s end the prisoner did not return the boat or pay the money for its hire, and the prosecutor went to look for it and the prisoner. He found the boat at a wharf at Aston, near Birmingham, in the possession of a person to whom the prisoner had sold it for £16 10s on the day after he had it from the prosecutor’s. The prosecutor after this went to Church Lane, Tipton, to look for the prisoner. He found that he had lived there, but had left, and after three days’ search with the police he discovered him at Birmingham, in a public house.

The defence was that the prisoner purchased the boat from the prosecutor for £10, arranging to pay the purchase money afterwards; and witnesses were called to show that this was the nature of the transaction. While one of these witnesses was in the box, Mr. I. Spooner, stipendiary magistrate for Wolverhampton and district, who was sitting on the Bench with the Chairman and other justices, and who it seemed heard the case when the prisoner was sent for trial, put some questions to the witness, and also suggested to the counsel for the prosecution a question which he thought ought to be asked. On this Mr. W. Ward, solicitor, of Wolverhampton, who was instructing the counsel for the defence, rose and said he must protest against the committing magistrate cross-examining the witness. It was trying the case twice over, and was abominable. Mr. Spooner: Bailiffs – remove that man.

Mr. Bergen, Deputy Chief Constable, who was present in court, and some other officers, immediately went towards Mr. Ward.

Mr. Ward: I have a duty to perform. It’s abominable. It’s my case.

Mr. Spooner: Remove that man – it’s contrary to order. Bailiffs, remove him.

The officers escorted Mr. Ward from the Court, but he soon returned, and shortly afterwards counsel for the defence stated on his behalf that he was very sorry for what had occurred.

Mr. Spooner: I am very glad – I am very glad.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and having been previously convicted he was sentenced to seven years’

penal servitude.”

County Express 30/4/1870

“*Edmund Staley*, of the BOAT INN, Tividale, was charged with allowing drunkenness in his house. Police-constable Satchwell said at two o’clock in the morning, of the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, he visited the house, and in the club room found about thirty men, who were drinking, fighting, and making a great noise. He was fined 20s and costs.”

County Advertiser 13/8/1870

“*Edmund Staley*, of the BOAT INN, Tividale, was charged with selling porter before half-past twelve o’clock on the morning of Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Stokes defended.

The evidence of Police-constable Satchwell was to the effect that on going to defendant’s yard at 11.45 on the morning in question, he saw defendant emptying a bottle of porter into a jug held by a man living close by.

The Bench told defendant that as he had been recently convicted, they could not, under the provisions of the lately Amended Act, fine him less than £5 and costs. Fined accordingly.”

AND

County Express 13/8/1870

“*Edmund Staley*, publican, of Tividale, was charged with selling ale before half-past twelve, on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> ult, having been fined £1 and costs in August last, for a similar offence.

Police-constable Satchwell said on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, at about a quarter to twelve, in the morning, he found defendant and another man in the back yard, sitting on some steps, with a bottle of porter which they were pouring into a jug. Witness asked defendant what right he had to be drinking there at that time. He said it was his own. The officer then observed that he had no right to have that man drinking on his premises, to which he made no reply.

In cross-examination he said he knew the man; he lived nearly half a mile away.

Mr. Stokes contended that the man was a traveller, as it had been decided by Act of Parliament that a man might be said to be travelling when he took a walk for pleasure, as this man was, and that he had a right to demand a drink on a Sunday.

The Bench took a different view of the case, and as it was his second offence, fined defendant £5 and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 20/8/1870

“Thomas Jones was charged with drinking in a public house during prohibited hours, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, at Tividale. Police-constable Satchwell said he visited the BOAT INN, Tividale, at 11.45am, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July. Saw defendant there, drinking. It was in the yard.

Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

County Advertiser 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....

The license held by Edward [sic] *Staley*, BOAT INN, Tividale, was taken away altogether, as he had been twice fined for permitting misconduct in his house during the past year.”

1871 Census

Tividale – BOAT INN

[1] *Samuel Davis* (28), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Charlotte Davis* (29), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Ann Davis* (6), daughter, born Tipton;

[4] *Sarah Davis* (26), sister, born Tipton;

[5] *William Davis* (3), son, born Tipton:

County Advertiser 25/9/1875

“Amos Haden, a labourer, was charged with having committed an indecent assault upon Ann Parry on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Addison defended.

Complainant, an elderly woman and a widow, stated that on the above date the defendant asked her to accompany him to the BOAT INN, Oldbury Road, and have half a pint of beer. She consented, and they went into the house. There was no other person present, and the defendant told her he was single and had a number of men employed under him. He assaulted her in an indecent manner, and tried to push her down. She resisted him, and after crying out, assistance came. Defendant was perfectly sober.

Cross-examined: Her son had been to the defendant's house, and offered to withdraw the case for 10s, but the defendant refused to pay it. Defendant had not refused to marry her ten years ago. Other questions were put to the witness by Mr. Addison, but she refused to answer.

The Bench said the complainant had no evidence to prove that what she had stated was true, and they must, therefore, dismiss the case."

#### County Advertiser 9/10/1875

"An inquest was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst, before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner for the district, at the BOAT INN, Tividale, on the body of William Bushell, aged 37 years. Deceased was employed at Messrs. Budd and Co.'s Tin Works, and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst he had occasion to remove the 'man lid' from a Cornish boiler. He had removed all the pins but one, when the pressure of the steam inside the boiler forced the 'man lid' up, and deceased was scalded so severely that death ensued. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

#### County Advertiser 29/4/1876

"*William Barratt*, of the BOAT INN, Tividale, charged Thomas Murray with being disorderly on his premises, and refusing to quit, and also with assaulting him on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. Complainant said Murray came to his house on the day named 'quite fresh.' He was disorderly, and witness told him to leave, but he refused to do so. Witness then dragged him out, and when outside defendant struck him twice. Fined 5s and costs in each case."

#### 1881 Census

Dudley Road

- [1] *William Barret* (63), licensed victualler, born Netherton;
- [2] *Prudence Barret* (40), wife, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Hannah Marston* (9), niece, born Bilston;
- [4] *Olive Richards* (16), domestic servant, born Kates Hill:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/11/1881 - Advert

"Full-Licensed Inn. To be Let or Sold, the BOAT, Tividale. Proprietor retiring. Five bed rooms, bar, tap room, smoke room, parlour, kitchen, model brewery, large yard. Apply on the Premises."

#### Dudley and District News 25/10/1884

"Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest on Tuesday at the BOAT INN, Oldbury Road, Tividale, on the body of Robert Maunder (74), boatman, who died suddenly on Monday morning. Mary Maunder, wife of the deceased, identified the body, and stated that they were lying in a cabin boat in the Birmingham canal near the New England Colliery, and on Monday morning her husband, who had complained of shortness of breath previously, became suddenly ill, and died before medical aid could be procured. There was a burning mound near where they were lying from which a great deal of sulphur arose, and she considered that hastened his death. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, and recommended that the coroner should take some steps to get the nuisance arising from the mound abated."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1885

"An inquest was held yesterday, before Mr. E. Hooper (coroner), at the BOAT INN, Tividale, respecting the death of James Hartle (63), hardware caster, formerly residing at Bromford Lane, whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal, at Tividale, on Sunday last.

Agnes Hartle, daughter of the deceased, stated that her father left home on Friday morning for the purpose of going to his work at Messrs. Whitehouse's works, Tipton. His sight was defective. He was accustomed



sometimes to walk to his work along the canal side.

James Blackham said he and a man named Charles Morris saw deceased neat the Rattle Chain Brickworks on the canal on Friday morning. After they had proceeded about 150 yards they heard cries, but could not tell from whom they proceeded. The next day he heard that deceased was drowned in the canal, near the place where they saw him.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1886

“An inquest was held yesterday afternoon, before Mr. E. Hooper (coroner), at the BOAT INN, Tividale, respecting the death of John Orr (64), of Chapel Street, Tividale, who was found in the canal on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. Margaret Orr, wife of deceased, stated that her husband went to the Dudley Port Post Office, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, for the purpose of receiving his pension. He was found subsequently in the canal, near the Old Port Bridge, Dudley Port. It is supposed that whilst returning home deceased missed his way owing to the fog, and walked into the canal. When taken out of the water by a man named Thomas Davis deceased was not dead, but he died from the effects of the immersion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

London Gazette 10/10/1930

“*William Barratt*, Deceased. Pursuant to the Trustee Act, 1925.

All persons having claims against the estate of *William Barratt*, late of the BOAT INN, Tividale, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Inn Keeper, who died on the 7th day of August, 1886, and whose will was proved in the District Registry, at Lichfield, on the 23rd day of September, 1886, by Prudence Clapham and William Rathbone, the executors therein named, are requested to send particulars thereof to us, the undersigned, before the 13th day of December, 1930, after which date the said estate will be distributed, having regard only to the claims of which notice has been received.

Dated this 6th day of October, 1930.

Wm. Bache and Sons, Lombard House, (031) West Bromwich, Solicitors to the Trustees.”

*William Barratt* – check also SWAN, Tividale, Oldbury.

County Advertiser 12/3/1887 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Full-Licensed Public House, with Model Brewery, known as the BOAT INN, Tividale, near Dudley.

Mr. Thomas Howell, will Sell by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1887, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society.

All that Old-established, Well-accustomed Roadside Inn, with the Model Brewery, Stabling, extensive Yard, and Premises attached thereto, known as the BOAT INN, advantageously situated upon the main road at Tividale, near Dudley, in the occupation of Mrs. *Barratt*.

The Property has a frontage of eleven yards, and contains 650 square yards or thereabouts.

The Sale will include the Goodwill and Possession of the Premises; but the purchaser will be required to take to the Licenses, Public-house Fixtures, Fittings, Furniture, Stock and Effects at a valuation to be made by the Auctioneer, the amount of which will be about £200.

The Auctioneer begs to call especial attention to this House, which is one of the best known in the locality. It is now doing, and will always command, an extensive and profitable trade, and is being disposed of solely in consequence of the death of Mr. *Barratt*.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Wright, Son, and Hollins, Solicitors, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneer, 34, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, and High Street, Smethwick.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/5/1887

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Tividale, relative to the death of Samuel Millership (30), of Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, whose body was found in the canal, near the Dudley Road Bridge, Tividale, on Monday.

It appeared that on Saturday night, the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, deceased went to Dudley in company with two other men

– Samuel Woodhall and Thomas Bishop – for the purpose of redeeming his watch. The three men visited two public houses, and had two quarts and three glasses of ale amongst them. They all returned to the tram together late at night, but when Woodhall and Bishop arrived at Oldbury deceased, who was supposed to be riding in the car, was missing.

Richard Bates, boatman, stated that he found the body of deceased early on Monday morning floating in the water in an upright posture.

There being no evidence to show how deceased got into the water, a verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 11/6/1887

“Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest on Thursday morning, at the BOAT INN, touching the death of a man unknown, who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst.

Henry Felton, fitter, of Oldbury, stated that on Monday morning, about 10 o’clock, he was standing on the canal side near Gilbert’s brickworks, when he saw a boat going towards the brickworks, and when it passed Downing’s Bridge he saw something come to the top of the water, the man who was pushing the boat along with an iron rod apparently catching the body of a man with the hook, when they got it out of the water.

The Coroner: Sometimes the water near the bridge overflows on to the footpath I understand.

Witness: Yes, sir, it is a very low bridge, and when I go under I have great difficulty in doing so.

A Juror remarked that the horses always touched it when they went under.

The man was perfectly dressed, all his clothes being in order. He had a scratch on the nose, some blood coming from it after he was got out of the water. He thought he would be about 50 or 60 years of age.

Charles Ashwell confirmed the statements of the previous witness, and said if any stranger went under in the dark he would be unable to tell where the side of the water was.

A Juror said it was an arched bridge and it was impossible for a man to walk upright under it.

PC Winfield stated that he had found a plaid scarf round the neck, a strap round the body, and in his coat pocket he found papers, one being a handbill about a great reduction in bread at Edward Heelis, Rolfe Street, Smethwick.

The Coroner remarked that the place did not appear safe, and asked the opinion of the jury.

One said that if anyone made a misstep from the bank he could not possibly help from falling in the water.

The jury, after some consultation returned an open verdict of Found Drowned.

At the same place and time Mr. Hooper held an enquiry into the sudden death of a child named Priscilla Stanfield, aged two years and ten months, residing with her parents at Brades Cottage.

Sarah Stanfield, mother of deceased, stated that she saw the child standing near the door on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup>, when suddenly she missed her, and ran in every direction to try and find her, but in an hour and a half afterwards she was pulled out of the canal.

Thomas Jones, miner, of Tividale, stated that hearing a child was in the water he went to the place and pulled the body out with a boat shaft.

Lucy Torrent gave evidence to seeing the child playing near some wheelbarrows on the wharf, and five minutes afterwards she heard the mother calling her.

The Coroner remarked that no one appeared to actually see the child fall into the water, but it was a very dangerous place.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 25/6/1887

“An inquiry was held on Monday at the BOAT INN, by Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) touching the death of Mary Ellen Southam, aged 2 years and 3 months, residing with her parents at 246, Oldbury Road, Tividale. The evidence showed that whilst the mother of the little one was engaged in the yard, her daughter ran away from her side unobserved, and about five minutes afterwards she was alarmed by a little girl calling out that the child was in the tub, which was near a neighbour’s house. She instantly got her out, but it was impossible to restore animation.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

#### Gloucester Echo 14/6/1888

“At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, Nathan Price, alias Orrick, stocktaker, of Horseley Heath, Tipton, was charged with attempting to obtain by false pretences, from John Orrick, of Glasgow, the sum of 30s on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Orrick inserted an advertisement in a newspaper respecting his sons, who were in America, and it was alleged that prisoner wrote a letter to Mr. Orrick, purporting to come from his son John, and asking for 30s to be remitted, so as to enable him to return to Glasgow.

Myra Miles, servant at the BOAT INN, Tividale, said the prisoner was at the inn on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst, when he asked for writing materials, which were given him. He then remained in the bar writing, and when he left he told them to keep any letter that came from Scotland for him.

Prisoner gave the name of John Orrick. He was remanded for a week.”

[Nathan Price was committed to the Quarter Sessions.]

#### Staffordshire Chronicle 7/7/1888

“Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions.....

Nathan Price (38), stocktaker, was indicted on charges of obtaining 15s from John Gasson by false pretences on May 17, and endeavouring to obtain 30s by false pretences from John Orrock, on June 7.

Mr. Udall, who appeared to prosecute, said the case was one of a very peculiar character. The prosecutor Gasson, who was a laboring man living at Riverhead, near Sevenoaks, Kent, caused an advertisement to be inserted in *Reynolds Newspaper*, of May 13, asking for news of his son, who had not been heard of for years. Soon afterwards a letter was received from prisoner which purported to have been sent by the son, and was signed ‘George Gasson.’ The writer stated that he had come back from Australia and was now penniless, and he asked for money to enable him to get home. A postal order for 15s was sent him at the BLUE BOAR [sic] INN, Oldbury, which was the address he had given, but after that nothing more was heard of him.

The prosecutor Orrock had advertised in the same paper for two sons, John and David, who had gone abroad, but the name ‘David’ was accidentally printed ‘Daniel.’ A few days later Orrock received a letter signed ‘John Orrock’ stating that ‘me and Daniel’ had come back to England and were penniless. The letter said that ‘Daniel’ was very ill and could not write, and asked that 30s might be sent to help them home. Being suspicious through the use of the name ‘Daniel’ instead of ‘David’ Orrock informed the police. PC Winfield arrested the prisoner near the BOAT INN, Oldbury, the address he had given in the letter. Prisoner was then living at Horsley Heath, near Tipton. In his house a book was found, containing copies of the advertisements, and the paper on which the letter to Orrock had been written appeared to have been torn from the book.

Prisoner was convicted. He had been convicted of a similar offence in June, 1886, and sentenced to 12 months’ hard labour and there were other convictions recorded against him. The Assistant-Chairman remarked that this was a cruel mode of defrauding anxious parents of their money, and sentenced the prisoner to penal servitude for five years.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/9/1888

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Tividale, respecting the death of Joseph Badger (54), of the Junction, Tividale, who died suddenly on the 28th ult, whilst employed at Wilkinson’s ironworks, Tividale. From the evidence it appeared that deceased was found dead in the office of the works above mentioned. Death was caused through deceased having broken a blood vessel. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

#### Dudley Mercury 14/9/1889

“An inquest was held on Wednesday at the BOAT INN, Tividale, on the body of a fully-developed child, which was found wrapped in a brown paper parcel on a small embankment near the canal, on Monday afternoon, by a boatman, when passing in his boat under the canal bridge, near the Globe Iron Works, Tividale. It was shown that James Jones, the boatman referred to, found the parcel containing the body under the Seven Stars Bridge, to which it was impossible to get without a boat. The parcel could easily have been dropped there by a person on the highway.

Police-constable Winfield deposed that the parcel was about two feet from the water’s edge. He had made all enquiries about the affair, but had been unable to learn anything further. Part of the left foot of the child

was missing, and in his opinion was there was no doubt it had been eaten away by rats. Some of the paper in which the body was wrapped was nibbled away.

The jury adjourned the inquest for the purpose of a post mortem examination being held.”

#### County Express 5/10/1889

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire coroner) resumed his enquiry on Wednesday at the BOAT INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, on the body of a female child found on the 18<sup>th</sup> ult. Some boatmen, when engaged at work in a canal basin at Tividale, saw a parcel on a canal path, and under a bridge. Upon opening it they found that it contained the dead body of a female child. There were indications that the body had been attacked by rats, one of the feet being entirely eaten away.

Dr. Edwin Price attributed death to exposure and exhaustion.

Police-constable Winfield said every enquiry had been made with a view to ascertaining the name of the mother, but up to the present they had no clue.

The Jury returned an Open Verdict.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/11/1889 - Advert

“General, not under 20, used to a public house, and with good character from last situation.

Apply, BOAT INN, Tividale, near Tipton.”

#### County Express 17/9/1890

“Joseph Sheldon, Tividale, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *John Smallwood*, landlord of the BOAT INN, and refusing to quit; also with being drunk and disorderly on two different dates. It was stated that the defendant went into the BOAT INN drunk, created a great disturbance, and broke a number of things in the house. He was drunk and disorderly on the same date and the following day. Defendant was fined 10s and costs in each of the three cases.”

#### 1891 Census

15, Dudley Road

[1] *John Smallwood* (47), publican, born Harborne;

[2] P. Smallwood (49), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Jane Williams (19), domestic servant, born Kingswinford:

#### County Express 22/8/1891

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, on Tuesday, respecting the death of Annie Maria Ball, aged two years, who had died from injuries received through being knocked down by a brewer’s dray. It was shown that when Henry Pullen, a drayman, of Oldbury, was driving down the Tipton Road, on Saturday afternoon, the deceased suddenly ran across the road and was knocked down by the horse. The driver immediately pulled up, and a man picked the child up from under the horse’s feet. She was seriously injured internally, and died the same evening. The jury did not consider the driver in any way to blame, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 3/7/1893

“On Saturday afternoon Mr. F. W. Topham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Tividale, respecting the death of Thomas Bishop (35), labourer, of Tividale, who was drowned in a marlhole near his home on Thursday last. Deceased offered to bet a wager that he could swim across the marlhole, which contained about fifty feet of water. He jumped in, but when he got about half-way across he sank. Assistance was rendered, and deceased was got out, but he was quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 7/7/1894 - Advert

“Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Full-Licensed Public House, situate in Dudley Road, Tividale, near Oldbury.

Mr. W. Hackett has received instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. H. O. Smout, to Sell by Auction,

at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday next, July 10<sup>th</sup>, at Seven o'clock in the Evening punctually, subject to conditions incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society.

All that Spacious Double-Fronted Freehold Full-Licensed Inn and Premises known as the BOAT INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, in the parish of Rowley Regis, Staffordshire, now in the occupation of Mr. *Robert Allen*. The Premises comprise large Tap Room, Bar, Smoke Room, Private Sitting Room, large Living Kitchen, five Bed Rooms, large Club Room, Washhouse, two good dry Cellars with rolling way, Stabling for four horses, large Brick Building in the rear with two rooms over, Pig-styes and other necessary Outbuildings, large roomy Yard approached by gateway entrance.

The above is let on a repairing lease to Messrs. J. A. and A. Thompson, Maltsters, Oldbury, for a term of which 18 years will be unexpired on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of December next, at an annual rent of £35.

This is an excellent permanent investment for capitalists.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, Midland Chambers, Oldbury, and West Smethwick or to Messrs. Wright, Son, and Hollins, Solicitors, Oldbury."

#### County Express 13/8/1898

"On Saturday, Mr. H. A. Pearson (South Staffordshire coroner) held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, Rowley Regis, concerning the death of Fanny Gough (20), the wife of Thomas Gough, labourer, Brades Road, Rounds Green, who had been found drowned in the Birmingham Canal at Tividale. The husband stated that the deceased had recently complained of pains in the head, and on Monday morning she had a fainting fit. For the first eight months of the twelve months they had been married they lived happily together. During the last four months they had lived unhappily owing to the deceased getting into debt and pawning goods. He had on two occasions thrashed her for pawning the goods in a wholesale fashion. She ought not to have pledged the goods, as he had allowed her 23s a week for housekeeping. On Monday morning witness reproved deceased for not having paid for some meat, and she admitted that she had not paid for it, remarking that although she had had 23s she had not a penny. He then ascertained that all his linen had been pledged, and deceased said she was ashamed of herself for having pledged the goods. He did not strike her on that day. Deceased admitted that witness had been a good husband to her, and she had been a bad wife, as she had deceived him on many occasions. In the evening deceased left her home, and he afterwards went in search of her.

The Coroner: Had she threatened to commit suicide? – Witness: No; she has never threatened to destroy herself.

The Coroner: When did you hear of her again? – Witness: On Thursday morning, when she was found in the canal.

By the Jury: They were on most affectionate terms on the Sunday. Since his wife had been missing he had been unable to work.

Dr. Price said he had made a post mortem examination of the body, which was well nourished. There were no marks of violence. The condition of the whole of the internal organs showed that death was due to suffocation from drowning. The body had been in the water for several days.

Selina Clark, a neighbour, said she had frequently heard the deceased and her husband quarrel. On Sunday they quarrelled several times. Deceased was jealous of her husband. On Monday, witness asked deceased to repay her for money she had expended in purchasing beef and vegetables, but she was unable to do so, and Mr. Gough gave her 2s 6d towards 3s 6d. Deceased was a sober woman, but she lived beyond her income. Six weeks ago she heard her say rather than go to her father again and ask for lodgings she would sooner drown herself.

Police-constable Goodman, of the Worcestershire Constabulary, stationed at Rounds Green, said on several occasions he had heard the deceased and her husband quarrel, and on two occasions he had assaulted her.

James Guy, a toll clerk in the employ of the Birmingham Canal Company, said at half-past nine o'clock on Thursday morning he saw the body of the deceased, and Police-constable Robinson removed it to the BOAT INN.

Lucy Cowley stated that the deceased had complained to her of her husband ill-using her, and she had intimated to her that unless her husband behaved better to her she would make away with herself.

Police-constable Robinson said he had made inquiries, and the general opinion of the neighbours was that the deceased had committed suicide owing to her husband frequently ill-using her.

George Shepherd, the father of the deceased, said she had badly ill-used by her husband. The Coroner said it was a very bad case, as there had been discord and unhappiness. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane, and added that they considered that the deceased had taken her life owing to the ill-treatment of her husband. The Coroner conveyed the censure of the jury to Mr. Gough, and said his treatment of the deceased had been very bad.”

*Joseph Whild* = Joseph Wild = Joseph Wylde

#### 1901 Census

15, Dudley Road – BOAT INN

- [1] *Joseph Whild* (34), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Kate Whild (33), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Richard Whild (6), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Harold Whild (4), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [5] Norman Whild (3), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [6] Frances Whild (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Edith Mann (22), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Mary Hall (15), nurse, born Rowley Regis:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 5/10/1901

“*John Wild*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness upon his licensed premises on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Mr. J. W. Clulow appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Thompson defended.

Mr. Clulow explained that on the date named Police-constable Heatherley was in the vicinity of defendant’s house when he saw a man named Job Whitehouse leave the premises in a very drunken condition, and staggering. Later on the officer called at the house in company with Police-constable Edwards and saw the man Whitehouse sitting in the bar with some drink in front of him.

Evidence in support of this statement was given by Police-constables Heatherley and Edwards, who, however, disagreed as to the date of the offence.

For the defence Mr. Thompson drew attention to discrepancies in the police evidence, and the Bench said there was some doubt in the case, and dismissed it.”

#### County Express 12/10/1901

“Joseph Sheldon, of Tividale, appeared on three charges – of refusing to quit the licensed premises of the BOAT INN, Tividale; of using violent and threatening language against Mrs. *Wylde*, the landlord’s wife; and doing malicious injury and damage, to the amount of £1, in the bar of the inn, on the same date. Mr. Warmington prosecuted, and Mr. Billingham defended.

The case put by Mr. Warmington was that defendant came to the BOAT INN at 2.30pm, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst, and was supplied with certain drink. A quarrel arose concerning a police court case tried that day, and defendant became excited. He asked Mrs. *Wylde* for another glass of ale, but this she refused, seeing his violent state, and he then picked up some glasses and threw them through the window, broke a water bottle in the servant’s hands, and threw its body through the window. He then ran out after Mrs. *Wylde*, who had gone for the police, uttering threats against her. Three panes were broken, and the bench was damaged, besides several glasses being smashed.

Susan Jones, of Red Lion Row, Tividale, and William Cooper, of Sandwell Road, West Bromwich, gave evidence for the prosecution, and defendant made statements on his own behalf.

The Bench fined him 10s and costs for refusing to quit the premises, and ordered him to pay the amount of the damage named (£1), and costs in the third case. In the charge of using threats there would be no conviction.”

#### County Advertiser 4/1/1902

“Benjamin Baker, boatman, Lower Chapel Street, Tividale, was charged with assaulting George Henry All-

mark, on the 26<sup>th</sup> December.

Complainant stated that he was at the BOAT INN, Tividale, and was called outside by a complaint from his son. Defendant, without giving him a chance to speak, at once struck him several times on the shoulders and body, and knocked him down.

Several witnesses were called for the prosecution and the defence, and the general trend of their evidence was to the effect that there was a fight between the two men.

A further charge was preferred against the defendant of assaulting Thomas Allmark, son of the previous complainant. Allmark stated that without any provocation defendant came to him and struck him twice outside the BOAT INN. Before he could ask what it was for, defendant struck him again, and he had to go and call his father. When his father came out, defendant immediately 'slogged off' at him, and knocked him down.

The Bench considered the charges proved, and fined defendant 5s and costs in each case."

#### County Express 1/2/1902

"William Cox, of Dudley Road, Tividale, and Henry Reed, of Tipton Road, Tividale, labourers, paid a visit to the BOAT INN, Tividale, on January 17<sup>th</sup>, but as they were obviously drunk, the landlady, Mrs. *Jackson*, very properly ordered them out. They refused to go, and Mrs. *Jackson* sent for the police. Before the officers arrived, however, the men altered their minds and went.

Mr. Thompson, who appeared to prosecute, pointed out that this house was in a rough neighbourhood. Unless people were taught that they could not go into a house drunk and refuse to leave when requested, the licensee's difficulties would be increased.

The men pleaded guilty, and were fined 10s and costs."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/3/1904

"A fine of £10 and costs was imposed on *Enoch Roderick*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Tividale, at the Old Hill Police Court, on a charge of permitting gaming. Although there was no club connected with the house, *Roderick* allowed air-gun shooting to take place, and the practice was for persons to purchase the pellets from him, and shoot for ale. On two similar charges *Roderick* was ordered to pay costs."

*Enoch Roderick* – see also WONDER.

#### County Advertiser 30/4/1904

"An application was made for the temporary transfer of the license of the BOAT INN, Tividale, from *Enoch Roderick* to *Robert Hipkins*.

In reply to Inspector Hodkinson, applicant said he was aware that there was a conviction against the house. Mr. Bassano, in granting the application, said there was a cloud hanging over the house, and he warned the applicant to be very careful how he conducted the business. The house did not stand well in the eyes of the police and magistrates, whilst he understood that the privilege with regard to music and singing upon the licensed premises had been abused."

*Robert Hipkins* = Robert Hipkiss

#### Birmingham Mail 4/5/1904

"Today, at Old Hill Police Court, Charles Henry Lillington (24), cycle worker, of King Edward Road, Birmingham, was charged with stealing £1 15s from a till at the BOAT INN, Tividale, belonging to the landlord, *Robert Hipkins*, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. It was alleged that prisoner and two other young men called at the public house and were supplied with drink. The landlady left the bar for a few minutes, and upon her return she discovered that the till containing the money had been stolen, and the three men were missing. A servant girl, named Sarah Ann Sutton, gave chase, and prisoner was captured by four men, and brought back to the public house. He was then handed over to the custody of Police-constable Heatherley, and in reply to the charge said the money was all right. The other two men succeeded in getting away. Prisoner was fined £5, including costs, or a month's imprisonment."

### County Advertiser 11/2/1905

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Superintendent Johnson presented his annual report.....

During the twelve months ended January last, three licensed victuallers and two beerhouse keepers had been proceeded against and convicted for offences against the Licensing Acts. One beerhouse keeper had also been convicted for using obscene language in his own house. The whole of the licenses (except the one for using bad language) have since been transferred. Since the transfer each house has been conducted satisfactorily.....

The following is a list of the licenses objected to by Superintendent Johnson.....

*Robert Hipkiss*, BOAT INN, Tividale, fined £10, and costs on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1904, for permitting gaming.....

The justices then proceeded to hear the objections to the renewal of the licenses on the ‘black list’. These were all granted, the chairman administering a caution to each applicant.”

[The offence relates to the previous licensee.]

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/2/1908

“Great consternation was caused in the Oldbury district yesterday afternoon, by the news that a tram-car on the Birmingham and Midlands Tramways line had been overturned in Dudley Road, Tividale, not far from the Oldbury boundary. Seven men were injured, three of them seriously, and one man, the conductor, was killed.....

The accident occurred between the BOAT INN, Tividale, and the BLUE BALL INN, a few hundred yards from the latter place. It was entering a loop on the rise of a canal bridge at the time, just opposite Gipsy Lane ..... The tram was travelling from Dudley to Oldbury. Everything had gone smoothly until soon after leaving the BOAT INN at Tividale.....”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/5/1908

“Joseph Thomas Austin (12), the son of William Austin, an erector, of Cyprus Street, Oldbury, died in the Guest Hospital, Dudley, on Saturday, from injuries sustained at Tividale. The boy went with the carter in charge of a dray belonging to Messrs. Davenport Ltd, beer retailers, and just before reaching the BOAT INN, Tividale, he attempted to get on the step of the vehicle. In doing so he slipped, and at the same time the horse started, and Austin fell to the ground, and the front near wheel of the dray passed over him.”

### 1911 Census

114, Dudley Road – BOAT INN

[1] *Robert Hipkins* (38), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Ruth Hipkins* (40), wife, married 13 years, born Tipton;

[3] *Frederick William Hipkins* (11), son, born Tipton;

[4] *David Robert Hipkins* (9), son, born Tipton;

[5] *Rowland Charles Hipkins* (5), son, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Ruth Alexa Hipkins* (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Mary Ann Whitehouse* (17), house help, born Oldbury:

### Dudley Chronicle 30/3/1912

“The following licenses were granted.....

BOAT INN, Tividale, from the late *J. Hipkins* to *John Grainger*.”

### Dudley Chronicle 12/2/1921

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Thompson (Dudley) applied on behalf of the owners for sanction to carry out alterations at the BOAT INN, Tividale. Replying to Superintendent Robotham, Mr. A. T. Butler, who presented the plans, said the house was 2ft 9 inches below the road. Superintendent Robotham pointed out the alterations would improve the supervision of the house. The Bench granted the application.”



Dudley Chronicle 21/10/1926

“Thomas Vincent Reeves (30), a native of Birmingham, of no fixed abode, was at Old Hill Police Court on October 13 committed to the Quarter Sessions on a charge of house-breaking.....

*John William Tolley*, licensee of the BOAT INN, Tividale, said between 1 and 1.15 on September 20<sup>th</sup> prisoner came into his bar for some refreshment, and as he left he noticed that he had a pair of shears (produced). Harry Taft, the STEAM PACKET INN, West Bromwich, said he remembered the prisoner coming to his house on September 20<sup>th</sup>. He said he had been cutting trees and he had a pair of shears with him. Witness said he could do with a pair like those to cut the grass on the green. He said, ‘You can have them if you like for four shillings.’ Witness bought them. There were 16 or 20 people in the house at the time, and prisoner put several things up for ‘auction.’ Witness bought seven articles for 2s 6d and two half-pints of beer. He knew the prisoner because he had been in the house several times before. He did not ask prisoner where he got the things from.....

PC Hill said on September 18<sup>th</sup> he received a complaint, and as a result made enquiries. On September 22<sup>nd</sup> he received some garden shears. An impression in the woodwork of the window at the house which had been broken into was identical with the shape of the end of the shears, which were also bent. On the following day he went to the STEAM PACKET INN and took charge of some of the stolen articles which had been sold.

PC Sharratt, Blackheath, said on October 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9.45, he saw the prisoner at Smethwick Police Station, where he was in custody. He charged him, and prisoner replied, ‘I was stuck. I used a pair of shears and lifted the back kitchen window. I did not have all the things you have mentioned.’ He said he sold the inkstand, alabaster clock, silver vases, imitation silver vase, a clock and quilts.

Prisoner, who said he would not call any evidence or make a statement, was committed to the next Quarter Sessions at Stafford.”

[Thomas Vincent Reeves, who had served several terms of imprisonment, chiefly for theft and house-breaking, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years’ penal servitude.]

*John William Tolley* – see also NEW INN, Blackheath.

*John Oliver Newey* – see also PRINCE REGENT, Tipton.

1939 Register

114, Dudley Road

- [1] *Richard S. Hadley*, date of birth 2/3/1889, galvaniser, married;
- [2] *Emma B. Hadley*, dob 5/1/1883, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Arthur P. Hadley*, dob 9/10/1915, capstan tool setter, single;
- [4] *Louie Golby*, dob 23/11/1877, domestic servant, married:

Birmingham Mail 6/10/1944

“Figures have been issued which show that 30 persons were killed and 41 injured as a result of air raid incidents during 1940, 1941 and 1942 in the borough of Rowley Regis. Fourteen persons lost their lives when a land mine fell on the Grace Mary housing estate at Tividale in November, 1940, causing widespread damage to property, and there were 12 fatalities when an anti-aircraft shell fell in the smoke room of the BOAT INN, Tividale, on December 21, 1940, when a wedding party was celebrating. In this incident the bride and several members of her family and a number of guests were killed and 13 persons were injured, some of them severely, including the bridegroom, who lost a leg.....”

[This was the wedding of James Sidney Jones and Florence Lily Pottinger on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1940.]

A team from here took part in the Tividale and District Darts League. [1952]

On 5<sup>th</sup> February 1958 it was referred back to the continuation meeting for consideration of redundancy. The license was renewed on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1958.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/7/1971 - Advert

“In Liquidation, re Torian Wire Ltd.

By order of N. A. Armstrong Esq, FCA, of Messrs. Hand an Co, Chartered Accountants, Birmingham 3.

Tividale. The BOAT INN, Dudley Road East. Forced Sale by Auction. Wireworkers' Plant.

7 Holden and Hunt 15 KVA Spot Welders, 8 KVA Butt Welder, Oxy-acetylene Welder, 9 Vee Bolt Fly Presses, Drilling Machines, d/e Grinders, Bench Shears, Power Hacksaws, Surface Grinder, Crossley Wire Straightener, Benching, etc.

Stevens, Champion & Slater will Sell on Thursday Next, 29<sup>th</sup> July at 11am from catalogue.

On View at Torian Works, 56 Hainge Road, Tividale, on Wednesday Next, 28<sup>th</sup> July from 10am until 4pm, and Morning of Sale.

NB. The Sale cannot be held upon the premises due to restrictions contained in the lease, but will be held as above at the BOAT INN.

Catalogues from the Auctioneers' Offices: 48, Temple Street, Birmingham 2.”

A team from here took part in the Holts Sandwell Sunday Football League. [1986]

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/9/1988

“A Tividale licensee is running a week of money-spinning activities aimed at raising £1,000 for the hospital which saved his life. The activities, to raise cash for equipment for the intensive care unit at Sandwell District General Hospital, will be held at the BOAT INN, Dudley Road East, Tividale, to coincide with manager Mr. *Ray Smith*'s return to work on Monday.

Mr. *Smith*, aged 42, had spent much of this year seriously ill in hospital after developing complications following his admission with appendicitis. His wife, Mrs. Rita *Smith*, said the fund-raising week was by means of a ‘thank you’ to the hospital for the care he was given. She said, ‘When *Ray* was in hospital they were always having to borrow equipment. It was always very distressing to see those who were ill so we thought we would like to do something to help. We want to get as much money for the hospital as possible. We are hoping to raise £1,000.’

The fund-raising events will be launched with a skittles evening on Monday. This will be followed on consecutive days by a 60s night, a ‘free and easy,’ a disco, a talent show, a fun run with collections at local pubs, and a car boot sale.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/12/1993

“A Mini was slightly damaged when petrol poured over it was set alight at the BOAT INN, Dudley Road East, Oldbury, today.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 30/9/1994

“What's On. Gigs. Today.....

Red Tree (BOAT, Tividale).”

Closed

It was demolished c.2004

Housing was built on the site.

**BRADES TAVERN**

48, (55), (54), (28), Brades Road, (Brades Row), Rounds Green, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Henry Sturgess, Rounds Green

Joseph Bridge  
George Jerrams, Parsonage Street, Oldbury  
City Brewery Co. Ltd., Birmingham  
Holders Brewery Co. Ltd.  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1957]  
Enterprise Inns [1990s]

## LICENSEES

W H Amos [ ] – **1853**);  
Joseph Powell [1870]  
Joseph Bridge [1881] – **1887**);  
William Hadley [1885] – [1885] ?  
Mrs. Phoebe Bridge (**1887 – 1891**);  
Ann Gough [1891]  
William Gough (**1891 – 1895**);  
Charles Gough (**1895 – 1903**);  
John Nicholls (**1903**);  
William Hems (**1903 – 1906**);  
Mrs. Mary Ann Hill (**1906 – 1921**); manager  
Ann Walter (**1921 – 1932**);  
Harry Ben Hancox (**1932 – 1933**);  
Benjamin Frederick Parkes (**1933 – 1942**);  
James Molineaux (**1942 – 1948**);  
James William Maybury (**1948 – 1951**);  
Stanley Stanford (**1951 – 1953**);  
Lewis Harold Shenton (**1953 – 1956**);  
John Hall (**1956**);  
Edna May Hall (**1956 – 1957**);  
Harold Harvey Broomhall (**1957 – 1960**);  
Thomas Stevens (**1960**);  
Joseph Henry Lacey (**1960**);  
Arthur Reginald Richardson (**1960 – 1961**);  
Graham Neil Lunn (**1961 – 1962**);  
Arthur Reginald Richardson (**1962 – [ ]**)  
John Kazickas [1983]  
Rachel Louise Starrs [2000s]

## NOTES

55, Brades Road  
28, Brades Road [1881]  
54, Brades Road [1891]  
48, Brades Road [1901], [1908], [1912], [1939], [2003]

BRADES TAVERN [1885]

BRADES ROW TAVERN [1909], [1921], [1957], [1983]

It had a beerhouse license.

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/6/1853 - Advert

“Sale at the BRADES TAVERN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, near Dudley.

George Allin respectfully announces that he has received instruction from Mr. *W. H. Amos*, who has taken the Cross Pistols, Slaney Street, Birmingham, to Sell by Auction, on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1853, all the clean and superior Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, well-seasoned Casks, capital Bay Mare, capital narrow-wheel Cart, two excellent Traps, quantity of Harness, Sow and Pigs, &c, &c; comprising massive mahogany four-post, tent, and other bedsteads; straw palliasses, bedside and stair carpeting, mahogany and painted washstands and dressing tables, handsome mahogany chest of drawers, twelve Spanish mahogany dining room chairs, rush seat, Windsor, and other chairs; superior mahogany frame sofas and couches, covered in hair and chintz; handsome Spanish mahogany loo, card, Pembroke, and other tables; excellent eight-day clock, two handsome timepieces, in mahogany cases; excellent tap counter, capital five-pull beer machine, by Bromwich, Birmingham; two handsome oil paintings, in gilt frames; engravings, in gilt and other frames; capital double-barrel gun, kitchen requisites, quantity of glass and earthenware, twelve excellent ale casks, pair of vats, two coolers, two excellent iron furnaces, pocket of prime Worcester hops, excellent malt and bean mills; also a capital bay mare, six years old, fast in harness, and quiet to ride and drive; capital narrow-wheel cart, light market trap, nearly new, with patent axles, &c, by Parton, Birmingham; extra strong spring cart, sets of cart and gig harness, odd tackle, excellent yard dog and kennel, capital sow and nine pigs, and numerous other effects.

Particulars in catalogues, may be had at the place of sale, and at the Auctioneer’s Offices, Bridge Street, Walsall.

Sale to commence at ten precisely, under the usual conditions.

In consequence of the great number of lots the Auctioneer requests a punctual attendance.”

*Joseph Powell* issued tokens bearing BRADES VILLAGE TAVERN.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/10/1880 - Advert

“Oldbury (The BRADES VILLAGE TAVERN). An excellent Old-Licensed House; doing a very good business. Well fitted up and commodious premises. In-coming (exclusive of stock) £350. Apply on the premises.”

1881 Census

28, Brades Road

- [1] *Joseph Bridge* (39), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Phoebe Bridge* (43), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] John Sturges (20), step-son, pattern maker, born Oldbury;
- [4] Rosa Sturges (15), step-daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Lawrence Sturges (4), step-son, born Oldbury;
- [6] Polly Parkes (16), general servant, born West Bromwich:

Wednesbury Herald 2/9/1882

“*Joseph Bridge*, of the BRADES TAVERN, Rounds Green, was charged with opening his house during prohibited hours on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> July. Mr. Shakespeare defended. Fined 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Mail 27/8/1883

“The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held this afternoon at the Police Court..... Police Superintendent Hardman presented his report.....

Since the last meeting 12 licensed persons had been summoned and convicted for offences against their licenses ..... *Joseph Bridge*.....

The Bench decided that all the applications for renewals made by those prisoners who had been convicted during the year should be postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, with the exception of two whose conviction took place on licensing day last year and who were then called up and cautioned. The persons whose renewals were refused would be required to attend and show reasons why their licenses should be renewed.”

*Joseph Bridge*, farmer, beer retailer and butcher, Rounds Green. [1884]

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1885

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. J. E. Wilson and H. Heaton – William Bill (41), landlord of the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, was charged with using threats towards his wife on the 31<sup>st</sup> July; also with using profane language on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst, and with being drunk at the BRADES TAVERN on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. Prisoner’s wife stated that her husband frequently threatened her, and she was forced to lock herself up in a room to prevent him striking her. Prisoner, who had been convicted three times within a period of twelve months, was bound over to keep the peace for six months, or in default twenty-eight days’ imprisonment.”

AND

Smethwick Telephone 22/8/1885

“Oldbury Police Court.....

William Bill, of the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on premises belonging to *William Hadley*, the BRADES TAVERN on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, and also with using obscene language in Albion Street on 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. He was further charged with threatening his wife, on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult. Mary Ann Bill, wife of the defendant, stated that her husband repeatedly threatened to ‘do for her.’

PC Smith deposed to seeing the defendant drunk in Albion Street, and also on the premises of the BRADES TAVERN, on the days respectively named.

PS Stanton stated that the man had been previously convicted three times within twelve months.

The Magistrates inflicted a fine of 20s and costs, or 14 days, for the charge of being drunk and disorderly; 2s 6d and costs for using obscene language; and ordered the defendant to find two sureties each in £10, or one in £20, to keep the peace towards his wife for the term of six months.”

*Mrs. Phoebe Bridge*, beer retailer, Brades Road. [1888]

Birmingham Mail 30/3/1891 - Advert

“Safety Bicycle Wanted; must be good and cheap; no dealers.  
Apply, BRADES ROW TAVERN, Rounds Green, Oldbury.”

1891 Census

54, Brades Road

[1] *Ann Gough* (64), widow, publican, born Pontesbury, Shropshire;

[2] *Harriet Gough* (31), daughter, born Pontesbury, Shropshire;

[3] *Charles Gough* (28), son, fitter, born Pontesbury, Shropshire;

[4] *John Gough* (25), son, blacksmith, born Pontesbury, Shropshire;

[5] *William Gough* (23), son, clerk, born Oldbury;

[6] *Martha Gough* (21), daughter, dressmaker, born Oldbury;

[7] *Lilly F. G. Rigby* (7 months), grand-daughter, born New Ascot, Birmingham;

[8] *Julia Delaney* (16), general servant, born Oldbury:

*Charles Gough*, beer retailer, 48, Brades Road, Rounds Green. [1896]

Smethwick Telephone 5/6/1897 - In Memoriam

“In loving memory of our dear child Lily Fabatha Gough Rigby, who fell asleep April 25<sup>th</sup> 1891 at the BRADES TAVERN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, aged 8 months. Also of her dear sister, Maud Rachel May Rigby, who passed away May 31<sup>st</sup> 1896, aged 10 months.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/9/1900

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday.....

The Chairman (Mr. J. E. Wilson) said the justices had carefully inspected the licensed houses where structural alterations were proposed, and had decided to approve those of the BRADES ROAD TAVERN, GEORGE

INN, Birmingham Road, NEW INNS, Langley, and to refuse those of the WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street, and the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Halesowen Street.”

#### 1901 Census

48, Brades Road

[1] *Charles Gough* (38), married, beer retailer, pub, born Pontesbury, Shropshire;

[2] *Ann Gough* (74), mother, widow, born Pontesbury, Shropshire;

[3] *Harriett Gough* (41), sister, born Pontesbury, Shropshire:

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

#### Sporting Life 15/4/1903

“Brades Park Athletic and Football Grounds, Oldbury, near Birmingham.

Mr. *John Nicholls* and Mr. William Snape for £20. Victory of Snape.

What promised to be an interesting shooting match was set down for decision at these grounds on Monday afternoon last, the contending parties being Mr. *John Nicholls*, late of Walsall and Willenhall, now of BRADES TAVERN, Brades Park, Oldbury, near Birmingham, and Mr. W. Snape, of Harden, Bloxwich, Walsall, who were matched to shoot at 11 birds each, from five traps, five yards apart, 30 yards rise, 60 yards fall, 1¾oz shot, trap and find birds against each other, for £20. Each have won numerous matches and sweepstakes. Last Wednesday young *Nicholls* won the International £200 Sweepstakes outright, killing eighteen birds in succession off the 26 yards mark at Welsh Harp, Hendon – a wonderful performance for a novice. Snape also has a big reputation in the Black Country, and despite *Nicholls*' recent great performance, had plenty of followers. *Nicholls*, however, was installed a hot favourite at 7 to 4. The snowstorm of the early morning had disappeared, and the sun shone with great brilliance, but a strong, cold wind prevailed, and greatly helped the birds. *Nicholls* won the toss, and elected to shoot at the first six birds. His first bird was an easy one, but *Nicholls* failed to stop it, his second bird was badly hit, but it got away, and his friends looked glum. His next two birds fell easy victims, though his sixth bird got away. Snape commenced in magnificent form, and bird after bird fell before his unerring aim, and his first six birds were all grassed. With the consent of *Nicholls*, Snape went on, and, killing the next two birds outshot *Nicholls*, and won the match.”

*John Nicholls* – see also COTTAGE OF CONTENT (Darlaston), ROBIN HOOD (Willenhall) and PRINCE OF WALES (Willenhall).

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday.....

An application for a billiard licence for the BRADES ROW TAVERN was made by Mr. Jeffries on behalf of *Mary Ann Hill*, but was refused.”

#### 1911 Census

48, Brades Road

[1] *Mary Ann Hill* (55), widow, public house manager, born Pontesford, Shropshire;

[2] *Barnard Hill* (17), son, turner, iron, railway carriage, born Birmingham;

[3] *Stanley Hill* (15), son, fitter, motor, born Birmingham;

[4] *Mabel Alice Compton* (18), domestic servant, born Smethwick:

Mrs. *Mary Ann Hill*, beer retailer, 48, Brades Road, Rounds Green. [1912]

Order for the Removal of full license of SPREAD EAGLE to BRADES ROW TAVERN granted on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1921.

#### 1939 Register

48, Brades Road – BRADES TAVERN

[1] *Benjamin F. Parkes*, date of birth 27/2/1902, licensed innkeeper (manager), married;  
[2] *Jane Parkes*, dob 25/9/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married:

*Stanley Stanford* – see also RED LION, Smethwick.

Plans were approved to alter the ladies lavatory accommodation on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1955.

Tipton Herald 8/9/1956

“West Bromwich and district names appeared among the Licensed Trade Diploma winners announced on Wednesday by the National Trade Development Association, the joint organisation of brewers and retailers. To gain this diploma, candidates have to pass an examination which follows a three months’ course on all aspects of modern innkeeping. Such courses were recently held in London, Manchester, Blackburn and Birmingham.

Local winners were J. G. Taylor, DUNKIRK INN, 8, Whitehall Road, West Bromwich; and L. R. Stanton, BRADES TAVERN, Rounds Green, Oldbury.”

Plans were approved for alterations to the bar on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1960.

A team from here took part in the Ocker Hill Darts League. [1970]

London Gazette 26/5/1983

“*Kazickas, John*, residing and carrying on business at BRADES ROW TAVERN, Brades Row, Oldbury, Warley, in the metropolitan county of West Midlands as a Tenant Publican.

Date of Filing Petition - 16th May 1983.

Date of Receiving Order - 16th May 1983.

Whether Debtor’s or Creditor’s Petition - Debtor’s.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 13/12/1993 - Advert

“Fancy Running a Pub in the Birmingham Area?

Could one of the following houses be of interest to you?

BRADES ROW TAVERN, Brades Row, Oldbury, Warley.....

Enterprise Inns Limited now have a number of opportunities available for licensees to run their own business. Investment level required is between £10,000 - £20,000, dependent on the house.....”

Closed

It reopened in 2000.

London Gazette 26/2/2003

“Bankruptcy Orders.....

*Starrs, Rachel Louise*, also known as Rachel Louise Pearson, of 77, North Road, Tipton, DY4 0XL and lately carrying on business as the BRADES TAVERN, 48 Brades Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B64 1ET.

Date of Filing Petition - 20th February 2003.

Date of Bankruptcy Order - 20th February 2003.

Whether Debtor’s or Creditor’s Petition - Debtor’s.”

Bar and Indian Restaurant. [2019]

[2019]

**BRICKMAKERS ARMS**

13, (23), Churchbridge, (Church Building), (Birchfield Lane), (Halesowen Street) / Eel Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Zachariah Guest [1851]  
Mrs. Mary Ann Barton [1864]  
Richard Baker  
Herbert Downing [1898]  
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1899)

## LICENSEES

Zachariah Guest [1850] – **1851**  
Edward Thompson [1857] – **1858**  
Mrs. Mary Ann Barton [1864]  
Mrs. Mary Deville [1870]  
James Barker [ ] – **1871**;  
Joseph Rowley (**1871** – [1873])  
John Thompson [ ]  
James Downing [1876]  
Herbert Downing [1876] – **1899**;  
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (**1899** – **1908**);  
F Darby [1900] manager ?  
Joseph H. Matthews [1901] – [1905] manager  
David Baker (**1908** – **1912**);  
Sarah Horton (**1912** – **1913**);  
John Hawkes (**1913** – **1922**);  
James Richard Phillips Stanger (**1922** – **1923**);  
Samuel Baker (**1923** – **1929**);  
Albert Edward Williams (**1929** – **1937**);  
John Thomas Sowry (**1937** – **1949**);  
Enoch Thomas Lissimore (**1949** – **1953**);  
John Cope (**1953** – **1954**);  
Edward Terry (**1954** – **1956**);  
Evelyn May Terry (**1956**);  
George Thomas Banks (**1956** – [1962])

## NOTES

Birchfield Lane [1870]  
23, Churchbridge [1873], [1881]  
13, Churchbridge [1891], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939]

BRICKLAYERS ARMS [1860], [1872], [1880], [1896]

[‘Lost Landscape. Portway Road, Oldbury. A Black Country Street.’ by Alan Dodson](#)

“There were three pubs in my day in the Eel Street, Churchbridge and Portway Road ‘square’ although there had been as many as eight over the years. The BUILDERS ARMS stood at the corner of Little Eel Street and Portway Road. It was a large pub and even as a boy I remember it well, a solid cube of a building wrapping round the corner, with double bay windows, an imposing entrance facing Portway Road and



large upstairs windows overlooking both streets. Adding to the impression, the road which formed a shallow depression from the bridge began to rise into the lane quite sharply at the Little Eel Street corner. One can imagine the BUILDERS ARMS was built to be more than just a watering hole for canal labourers and had the air of the establishments which later became known as 'commercial hotels.' The large function room on the first floor was much in favour for twenty-first birthday celebrations and the like. The BRICKMAKERS ARMS was at the corner of the other end of Eel Street and Churchbridge, smaller but in many ways similar. They were simply known as 'The Top' and 'The Bottom' although my father always referred to 'The Top' as 'Beasley's' after the family whose members were licensees from 1913 until 1945.

The TRAVELLERS REST, known to all as 'Sherwood's' or 'Sammy Sherwood's' after the licensee from 1893 until 1945, which might be some sort of record, was a small pub in Churchbridge next door to 'The Bottom,' with rooms not much bigger than those of the neighbouring houses but distinguished by its own double bay windows and arched doorway."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 17/10/1849

"At the Halesowen Petty Sessions, last week, there were heard no fewer than ten informations against brickmakers of that locality for wholesale evasion of the excise duties. Dr. Bateman, the excise solicitor, appeared in support of the informations, and Mr. Thomas Harding, of Birmingham, was specially engaged to defend each case.....

Mr. *Zachariah Guest*, of Oldfield [sic], was fined £55, and condemnation of 30,904 bricks.....

It appeared that the whole of the parties had been detected through the vigilance of Mr. Coomber, Supervisor of Excise, Wednesbury. Mr. Harding urged in each of the cases different mitigatory circumstances, and the penalties, which were more than £3,000, were ultimately reduced to about £300. We are informed that the large brickmakers of Birmingham and other towns have for some time past found it impossible to compete with those of this neighbourhood, and the above proceedings may possibly afford an explanation of the principal cause of this fact, as it has really for some time past been suspected to be."

*Zachariah Guest*, brickmaker and BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Church Bridge. [1850]

#### 1851 Census

##### Church Bridge

[1] *Zachariah Guest* (46), brickmaster and beer retailer, born Gornal;

[2] Sarah Guest (41), wife, born Bloxwich;

[3] Silas Guest (5), son, born Oldbury;

[4] Elizabeth Guest (4), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Elijah Guest (2), son, born Oldbury;

[6] Ann Guest (4 months), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Journal 26/4/1851 - Advert

"Sale of Freehold House and Premises, at Oldbury, in the County of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. G. Brown, on Monday, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May next, at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then and there read.

All that substantially-built Freehold Retail Beer House and Premises, comprising two large front Rooms, Entrance Hall, Bar, and Back Kitchens, three excellent Bed Rooms, large Club Room, capital Cellaring, Brewhouse, with soft water Cistern, and small Room over; a three-stall Stable and Loft, together with Cart Shed, Piggeries, Wash Cistern, and Out-buildings, spacious Yard, with an excellent supply of Water, in the occupation of the Proprietor, Mr. *Zachariah Guest*, Retail Brewer and Brickmaker, situate at Church Bridge, Oldbury aforesaid, near the Canal Basin.

For further particulars, apply a at the Offices of Mr. Henry Holland, Solicitor, West Bromwich; to Mr. Samuel Clifton, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneer, Bilston."

#### Birmingham Journal 28/6/1851 - Advert

"Retail Brewery at Oldbury to be Let.

W. L. Turner is instructed to Let the House now in the occupation of *Zachariah Guest*. The House is very

complete, with Stabling, Coach-house, large Malt Room, Soft and Hard Water Pumps. Has been built by the Occupier but a short time. Rent £18. Nothing more than Vats and Brewing Vessels to be taken to. Satisfactory reasons can be given for the present Owner giving it up.

For particulars, apply to W. L. Turner, Appraiser and Public House Agent, PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury.

Several Public Houses Wanted.”

Birmingham Journal 18/10/1851 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, at Oldbury.

Whereas a Petition of *Zachariah Guest*, now and since the twenty-fifth day of August last residing in Eel Street, in the township of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, out of business, and working as a Labourer, and theretofore for three years and upwards residing in Eel Street aforesaid, carrying on the trades or businesses of a Brickmaker and Retail Brewer, the former business, of a Brick Maker, at Church Bridge Colliery, in Oldbury aforesaid, and the business of a Retail Brewer, in Eel Street aforesaid, 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 *Zachariah Guest*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Zachariah Guest* is hereby required to appear in the said Court, on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1851, at Two o'clock in the afternoon precisely, for his First Examination touching his Debts, Estates, 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 *Zachariah Guest*, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Joseph Heapy Watson, Esquire, the Clerk of the said Court, who is the Official Assignee of the Estate and Effects of the said Insolvent, at his Office, at the Court House, in Oldbury aforesaid.

Dated the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1851.

Henry Holland, Solicitor, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Journal 11/9/1858 - Advert

“Oldbury. Unreserved Sale at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, near the Whimsey Bridge.

To be Sold by Auction, by C. Wootton (under a deed of Assignment for the benefit of Creditors), on Monday Next, September 13<sup>th</sup>, commencing at Eleven o'clock.

All the capital Household Furniture, Fixtures, Brewing Pant, Three Pockets of Hops, &c.

Comprising four-post Tent, and other Bedsteads, Feather and Flock Beds, Palliasses, Mattresses, Bedding, Wash-stands and Tables, Chests of Drawers, Chamber Chairs, Toilet Glasses, Clocks, Drink Tables, Screen, Chairs, mahogany and other Tables, Double and Single-barrel Gun, Chimney Glasses, Hogshead and other Barrels, Mash Tub, Vats, and Piping, Gathering Tubs, set of Thiller Harness, odd Harness, Useful Brown Horse, Three Pockets of Prime Hops, and other valuable Effects.

Auctioneer's Offices and Residence, Paradise Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/9/1858 - Advert

“Furniture, Brewing Plant, &c.

By C. Wootton, at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Oldbury, This Day (Monday), commencing at Eleven o'clock.

All the capital Household Furniture, Fixtures, Brewing Plant, Hops, &c.”

Birmingham Journal 29/9/1860 - Notice

“In the County Court, of Stafford, holden at Oldbury. 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1860.

Whereas a Petition of *Edward Thompson*, residing, in October, 1853, at the HAWTHORNE COTTAGE, at Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, and carrying on business as a Publican until October, 1856, and afterwards residing at the BEEHIVE INN, near the Whimsey Bridge, in Oldbury aforesaid, carrying on business as a Publican until January, 1857, and afterwards residing at the BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury aforesaid, carrying on business as a Publican and Carter, until October, 1858, and afterwards and until March, 1859, residing at the NEW INNS Public House, in the Birmingham Road, Oldbury aforesaid, in lodgings, and out of work, but assisting my Uncle in his business as a Publican, and afterwards and

now residing at Simpsons Buildings, Smethwick aforesaid, working as a Glass Blower, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Oldbury, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said *Edward Thompson*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Edward Thompson* is hereby required to appear in the said Court, to be holden at Oldbury aforesaid, before the Judge of the said Court, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1860, 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 *Edward Thompson*, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Messrs. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, the Registrars of the said Court, who are the Official Assignees of the Estate and Effects of the said Insolvent, at their Office at the Court House, in Oldbury aforesaid.  
A. Wright, Attorney, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 9/1/1864 - Advert

“Oldbury. Valuable Freehold Property, the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, with Stabling, Out-offices, and Spare Front Building Land, situated at the corner of Eel Street, Church Bridge, on the Hales Owen Turnpike Road, close to the rapidly increasing and improving town of Oldbury.  
To be Sold by Auction, by S. Bloore, in the course of the present month of January – the above substantially-built and well-arranged House and Premises, now in the occupation of Mrs. *M. A. Barton*.  
Further particulars will be duly announced.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/1/1864 - Advert

“Oldbury. Valuable Freehold Property, the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, with Stabling, Out-offices, and Spare Front Building Land, situated at the corner of Eel Street, Church Bridge, on the Hales Owen Turnpike Road, close to the rapidly increasing and improving town of Oldbury.  
To be Sold by Auction, by S. Bloore, on Monday Next, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, at the JUNCTION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, precisely at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced – the above eligibly-situated and substantially-built Freehold Property.  
The House contains excellent Front Parlour and Tap Room, each with bay window, snug Bar Parlour, Cooking Kitchen, spacious well-lighted Club Room, two Chambers, capital dry arched Cellars, large Brewhouse, with Oven, and capacious Rainwater Cistern under, and Malt Room over; three-stalled Stable, and Loft, Carriage Shed, with slated roof; Piggery, Out-offices, Pump of good Water, large Yard, with gates at entrance, and spare Front Building Land to the main road, the whole occupying an area of 488 square yards or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of the owner, Mrs. *Barton*. Immediate possession may be had.  
Any further information may be obtained on application to Mr. Edwin Allen, Solicitor, 47, Union Passage; or the Auctioneer, 1, Cannon Street, both of Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/9/1864

“The annual meeting for the granting and renewal of licenses for the Oldbury and Hales Owen district was held yesterday.....  
Mr. Shakespeare applied for a license on behalf of Mrs. *Mary Ann Barton*, Whimsey Bridge, Church Bridge, Oldbury. The house is 120 yards from a licensed house. The applicant had conducted a beerhouse for twenty-three years in a most orderly manner. The house was precisely opposite a licensed house which had been pulled down, and of which the applicant had bought the license.  
The application was opposed by Mr. Whitehouse, of Eardisley, Herefordshire, the owner of the TIGER, a licensed house in the neighbourhood.....  
After consideration, the Magistrates decided to grant the applications of ..... *Barton*.”

*Mary Deville* issued tokens from here.

London Gazette 9/7/1875

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Warwickshire, holden, at Birmingham.  
In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by

*John Thompson*, formerly of the CART AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, afterwards of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS INN, Oldbury, aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, but now of Whitmore Road, Hockley, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Bricklayer.

Notice is hereby given, that the First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. William Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 21st day of July, 1875, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 28th day of June, 1875.

William Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Attorney for the said *John Thompson*.”

#### London Gazette 23/6/1876

“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 *John Thompson*, formerly of the CART AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, afterwards of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS INN, Oldbury aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, but now of Whitmore-street, Hockley, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Bricklayer.

The creditors of the above-named *John Thompson* who have not already proved their debts, are required, on or before the 1st day of July, 1876, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts or claims, to me, the undersigned, William Shakespeare, of Oldbury, near Birmingham, Solicitor, the Trustee under the liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.

Dated the 20th day of June, 1876.

Wm. Shakespeare, Trustee.”

#### Dudley Herald 6/5/1876

“*Herbert Downing*, owner of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house on the 18<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

From the evidence of Police-sergeant Simmonds, it seemed that on his visiting the defendant's house at six o'clock on the day mentioned he found there two men very drunk, and when the attention of the landlady was called to the fact she did not endeavour to turn them out.

For the defence, the magistrates were asked to deal leniently with the defendant, as he had hitherto kept his house in a very orderly manner, and the men had got into the place after he had ejected them.

A fine of £5 and costs was inflicted.”

#### Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

“The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Oldbury division were held on Monday, at the Police Court.....

The cases of James [sic] *Downing*, BRICKMAKERS ARMS, and Edward Fisher Markwick, SEVEN STARS, on the Black List, which had been adjourned from the General Licensing Sessions, were then considered.....

Mr. Shakespeare appeared for *Downing*, and said that there had only been one conviction against his client, and his license had not been endorsed. The offence took place on Easter Tuesday, and was caused by some men who had been drinking at a neighbouring house going there and creating a disturbance. Under the circumstances he hoped the Bench would renew the license. The license was renewed.

#### County Express 26/2/1881 - Advert

“Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, Halesowen Street, Oldbury; Leasehold Shop, Talbot Street, Oldbury; Freehold Dwelling House, Portway; and Four Copyhold Messuages, Level Street, Brierley Hill.

Messrs. Hawkins & Son will Sell by Auction (by order of the Trustees and Executors under the Will of Mr. Richard Baker), on Tuesday Next, March 1, at Mr. *Herbert Downing*'s, the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, at 6 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be produced, incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

Lot 1. All that Old-Licensed Corner Public House and Premises, situate at Halesowen Street, Oldbury, known by the sign of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, comprising front Tap Room, Smoke Room, Parlour, Bar,

Cooking Kitchen, three Bed Rooms, Club Room, two Cellars, Brewhouse, with Malt Room over; Stable, with Loft; Outbuilding, Yard, and Pair of Entrance Gates, in the occupation of *Herbert Downing*, at a rental of £40 per annum.....”

#### 1881 Census

23, Church Bridge – BRICKMAKERS ARMS

[1] *Herbert Downing* (43), publican, born Oldbury;

[2] Eliza Downing (43), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Samuel Downing (15), son, no occupation, born Oldbury;

[4] Elizabeth Downing (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Elizabeth Jones (17), general servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/12/1884

“Mr. R. Docker, coroner, held an inquest on Saturday, at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Churchbridge, respecting the death of Benjamin Bird (22), miner, formerly residing at Churchbridge, whose body was found in the Park Hall Marlhole on Thursday last, under circumstances already reported.

Joseph Parkes, engine-driver at the Speedwell Colliery, Langley, stated that on Sunday night, the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, about eleven o’clock, deceased spoke to him as he was passing the engine-house, and he was then proceeding in the direction of the marlhole, where the body was found. Witness thought deceased was the worse for beer.

A verdict of Found Drowned was returned by the jury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1885

“An inquest was held yesterday, before Mr. R. Docker, at the BRICKMAKERS AMS, Portway Road, Oldbury, relative to the death of Robert Felling (23), blacksmith, formerly residing at Rounds Green. The body of deceased was found in the canal near his residence, and it is supposed that whilst bathing he accidentally got out of his depth. A verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1886

“An inquest was held yesterday, before Mr. R. Docker, at the BRICKMAKERS AMS, Churchbridge, relative to the death of Robert Whitehouse (5), who was drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near his parents’ residence, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July. A verdict of Accidentally Drowned was returned.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 27/7/1889

“An adjourned inquest was held yesterday, at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Oldbury, by Mr. E. Docker, coroner, on the bodies of Joseph Harvey (21), blacksmith, of Titford Road, Langley, and Elizabeth Bates (20), of Eel Street, Oldbury, who committed suicide together on Monday last.

Hannah Bates identified the body of her sister, and said Harvey and her sister went to Stourbridge on Sunday, and returned at night. When witness went to bed she left them both downstairs, Harvey being asleep in a chair. Next morning her sister was missing, and her father found a note in the chest of drawers, and at once commenced to search for her. A sheet torn from a copybook was produced, the writing being on both sides of the paper. Witness, on examining the notes, said the one bearing the name of Joseph Harvey, and addressed to his father, was in the handwriting of her sister, and the one from Lizzie Bates to her father was written by Joseph Harvey.

The Coroner, who remarked that if it was so it was a curious exchange of ideas upon the part of the deceased persons, then read the letters, which were as follow.

Joseph Harvey: ‘July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1889. Dear father, I leave you for ever on earth, so now you will see what it has done by trying to keep me from Lizzie, the only one I could love, and I hope you will learn a lesson from this, and when you find my body you will find a glass pipe in my jacket pocket. Please give it to William James, my fellow workman; and I wish to be buried me and Lizzie together, and I wish for my brother James to have all that belongs to me. You will find some money in the box upstairs – give it to Jim; and that pair of braces that Lizzie made me, give them to Joseph Stanfield. So I give my best love, father and brothers, and all enquiring friends.’

Elizabeth Bates: ‘Dear father, You must not grieve over me, for I have done this with Joe, because he could not have me in life, so I thought he should have me in death. He said that he should never see me again alive when he left me, so I thought I would go with him; and, father, when you find us, please to bury us as close together as you can. Give my love to all my friends, and tell what has caused it, through having a miserable life at home, and for the one I love. So good night, and God bless you all. Be kind to the children.’

The witness further stated that her sister had always appeared contented at home, and had made no complaints. Harvey had been in the habit of staying at their house at night for some time past.

Evidence was next given to finding two hats on the canal bank at Titford, and to the canal being dragged, with the result that the bodies of Harvey and Bates were found tied together, the string being wrapped round the bodies no less than thirty times. Both Harvey’s hands were fastened with the string, and one of the girl’s hands, but her right hand was at liberty.

Dr. Lyddon said he had examined the bodies, and death was due to drowning. The young woman was not pregnant.

At the request of the jury Mr. Harvey was called, and asked if the letter purporting to be signed by his son was in his writing.

Witness said if it was written by his son it was better writing than he ever saw him write before, but he should not like to swear whether it was or was not his son’s writing. He denied having interfered in any way to prevent his son marrying the girl, and said he had only advised him to look out for someone who would do him good. The father of Bates was also called, and said he had never done anything to prevent the couple marrying each other. He recognised the letter addressed to him as being in the handwriting of his daughter. The Coroner remarked that according to the statement of the sister of the deceased girl it would appear that Bates had written the letter to Harvey’s father, and that Harvey had written the one to the father of Bates. But he considered the evidence of Mr. Bates as the most correct. In summing up, the Coroner said the evidence had disclosed, unhappily, a highly romantic and sensational case of suicide, but so far as the evidence had been disclosed to the jury it had not revealed any circumstances why those two young people should have taken upon themselves to put an end to their own lives.

After a brief consultation, the Foreman informed the coroner that the jury found that it was premeditated, and that the deceased persons were in sane minds, and in nowise insane, and that it was their own voluntary act, and that they were Found Drowned.

The Coroner said he could not understand the verdict.

The Foreman said they were in no doubt in a depressed state of mind, and it appeared to him they were under the power of temptation.

The Coroner: But, as I understand it, you return a verdict of Found Drowned. Do you mean that you do not determine the condition of their minds?

Several Jurors: Decidedly not.

The Coroner said he thought the jury had better consider their verdict in private, and the room was cleared. After a brief interval, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the couple were in a sound state of mind when they wrote the letters, and that the suicide was premeditated, but that they were temporarily insane when they put themselves into the water.

This verdict was accepted.

The remains of the girl were interred yesterday afternoon at Oldbury Cemetery.”

### 1891 Census

13, Churchbridge – BRICKMAKERS ARMS

[1] *Herbert Downing* (53), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Eliza Downing* (53), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Samuel Downing* (25), son, brewer, born Oldbury;

[4] *Elizabeth Downing* (22), daughter, barmaid, born Oldbury;

[5] *Albert Heaton* (9), adopted, born Oldbury;

[6] *Kate Cleaver* (16), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

### Dudley Herald 22/10/1898 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, and Premises, Church Bridge Road, Oldbury.

To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Messrs. Hawkins & Son have received instructions from the Owner, Mr. *Herbert Downing*, to Sell by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1898, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

All that well-known Freehold Old-Licensed House and Premises, known as the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, situate on the corner of Eel Street and Church Bridge Road, Oldbury, having front Tap Room, Smoke Room, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Bar, Club Room, Three Chambers, Excellent Cellaring, Stabling for five Horses, Cart Shed, Coach-house, Brewhouse, Malt Room, enclosed Yard, with Gateway Entrance to Eel Street.

The Auctioneer begs to call the attention of Brewers and others to this genuine Old-Licensed House, the present owner having occupied it for upwards of 23 years.

Further particulars from Messrs. Shakespeare and Co., Solicitors, Colmore Row, Birmingham and Oldbury; and the Auctioneers, 20, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 7/4/1900

“On Saturday last the first quarterly meeting of the members of the Sick and Dividend Society held at the house of Mr. *F. Darby*, BRICKMAKERS ARMS, took place. The club is in a very flourishing condition, there being about 40 members on the books. A concert was afterwards held and a pleasant evening spent.”

#### 1901 Census

Churchbridge – BRICK MAKERS ARMS

- [1] *Joseph H. Mathews* (45), public house manager, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Maria Mathews* (43), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *Mary E. Mathews* (15), daughter, apprentice to dressmaking, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Emma J. Mathews* (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Beatrice Mathews* (5), daughter, born Oldbury;

#### Smethwick Telephone 23/2/1905

“Persons are not allowed to enter public houses the worse for beer and create a disturbance. John Lowe did this on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst, at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, of which Mr. *Joseph Matthews* is the manager, and he was requested to go. As he refused to do so, PC Bryan was sent for, when the officer's uniform caused him to think better of it.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe explained these facts to the Bench, and formal evidence being given a fine of 5s and costs was imposed.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/7/1909

“James Debney (38), of Church Bridge, Oldbury, was brought up at Oldbury yesterday for being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Church Bridge, on July 20, and also for doing wilful damage to a plate-glass window.

Defendant entered the house the worse for drink, created a disturbance, and the landlord had to put him outside. He then threw several pieces of coal and stones through the window, the damage amounting to £3 10s. Debney was fined 20s and costs or one month for being drunk and refusing to quit, and two months with hard labour, without the option of a fine, for the wilful damage.”

#### 1911 Census

Churchbridge – BRICKMAKERS ARMS

- [1] *David Baker* (65), widower, licensed victualler, born Old Hill;
- [2] *William Henry Such* (32), son-in-law, labourer at anvil works, born Tat Bank;
- [3] *Sophia Such* (32), daughter, married 7 years, assisting in business, born Brades Village;
- [4] *William Henry Such* (6), grand-son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Albert Edward Such* (3), grand-son, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Harry Such* (8 months), grand-son, born Oldbury;

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/4/1913

“Long Pull Fine. Oldbury Landlady’s Generous Measure.

A sequel to the remarks made by the chairman at Oldbury Licensing Sessions with regard to the ‘long pull,’ was heard at the local police court yesterday, when *Sarah Horton*, licensee of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Oldbury, was summoned for selling liquor not of imperial standard.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe, who prosecuted on behalf of the chief constable, said there were two charges. On 19 March, a girl, instructed by a police officer, went into the public house and asked for half-a-pint of beer. Mr. *Horton*, husband of the licensee, served her and drew the beer straight into the bottle which she presented. Upon examination the beer was found to be 40 per cent over the half-pint. In the second case she received 50 per cent over the half-pint.

Mr. Waldron, for the defence, called Mrs. *Horton* who said she always used a measure. She did not remember either of the girls coming, and believed their evidence false.

The magistrates fined defendant 40s and costs for the offence on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and she was ordered to pay 10s costs in the second.”

### 1939 Register

13, Churchbridge

[1] *John T. Sowry*, date of birth 3/3/1887, manager public house, married;

[2] *Mary E. Sowry*, dob 10/5/1889, domestic duties, married;

[3] *Mary F. (Sowry) Fletcher*, dob 16/11/1916, library assistant, single:

### Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1965

“Oldbury General Purposes Committee was told last night that the Women’s Voluntary Service will inspect the BRICKMAKERS ARMS in Church Bridge on Monday and consider it for a new headquarters for the meals-on-wheels service. At present the WVS uses the old BIRD IN HAND public house, Simpson Street, which is due to be demolished.”

## **BRICKMAKERS ARMS**

48, Tipton Road, (New Road), (Sedgley Road), (Tippity Green), (Groveland), TIVIDALE

### OWNERS

Plant’s Brewery Ltd., Netherton [1910], [1919]

Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1937)

### LICENSEES

Joseph Gilbert [1850] – **1869**);

William Henry Gilbert (**1869 – 1881**);

Sarah Mole (**1881** – [ ]

Edward Walden [1888]

William Marklew [1891] – **1904**);

Luke Fletcher (**1904 – 1905**);

John Winter Collins (**1905** – [1906]

Joseph Goode [1909] – **1911**);

John Henry Silcox (**1911** – [ ]

Frederick Pugh [1919] – **1921**);

Isaac Fisher (**1921 – 1923**);

Hannah Fisher (**1923 – 1933**);



Joseph Hubert Jones (1933 – 1942);  
Ivy Dene Jones [1939]  
Bertie Shenton (1942 – 1944);  
Joseph George Oakley (1944 – 1959):

## NOTES

Sedgley Road [1872]  
Tipton Road [1881]  
New Road [1884]  
48, Tipton Road [1901], [1939], [1940]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/10/1849

“James Parker of Tividale is ready to walk Thomas Cherrington of Dudley Port, any distance from one mile to seven, for £5 a side. The money is ready at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/3/1850

“Joseph Wall of Tividale will run Man Henley of Oldbury two or three miles, of William Wood of Toll End the same distance, for £5 a side. The money will be ready at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale, on Monday night.”

### The Era 28/7/1850

“Joseph Wall, the Tividale novice, will run John Wardell, of West Bromwich, if the latter will give 100 yards start in 6 and 200 yards in 10 miles, for £10 or £20. Cash at Mr. *Gilbert's*, BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale, Tipton.”

### The Era 25/8/1850

“Samuel Cartwright, of Dudley, and Joseph Davis, of Tividale, ran six score yards, for £10 a side, near Tipton, on Monday last. From a scratch start at three o'clock, they ran level to nearly 100 yards, when Cartwright drew upon his man, and ran home a good winner by a couple of yards. The stakes were given up on the same evening at Mr. *Joseph Gilbert's*, BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale.”

### The Era 26/1/1851

“The £20 Dudley Match. Joseph Wyatt, of Cradley, and Joseph Wall, of Tividale, ran their ten mile race at Cradley, near Dudley, on Monday last, Wall giving Wyatt two minutes and a half start. The latter got full 700 yards in the time allowed him, ere Wall began to foot it. The Tividale man gained a little ground, and continued doing so up to the ninth mile, when seeing his chance out, he wisely gave up, as at that time he was full as far behind as at the commencement of the race. Wyatt did not slacken his pace, and completed the distance in sixty-seven minutes. The betting was at evens. The money was given up at Mr. *J. Gilbert's*, BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale, the same evening.”

## 1851 Census

### Tividale

- [1] *Joseph Gilbert* (51), beerhouse keeper, born Lichfield;
- [2] *Mary Gilbert* (45), wife, born Penkridge, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Margaret Ann Gilbert* (9), daughter, born Lichfield;
- [4] *William Henry Gilbert* (5), son, born Tipton;
- [5] *Alfred Gilbert* (2), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Amelia Massey* (17), general servant, born Handsworth:

### County Advertiser 29/10/1859

“At the Petty Sessions, held on Wednesday last, the undermentioned persons, residing in the parish of Rowley Regis, were summoned at the instance of Mr. William Tullett, of Wolverhampton, the inspector of weights and measures, for having illegal and unfair weights and measures in their possession, and were dealt with as follows.....

*Joseph Gilbert*, provision dealer and beerhouse keeper, six deficient weights, unjust scales, three quart and seven pint deficient measures, 7s 6d and costs in each case.”

*Joseph Gilbert*, beer retailer, Tividale. [1860], [1861], [1868], [1870]

*Joseph Gilbert* was also a grocer. [1861]

### 1861 Census

Tividale – BRICKMAKERS ARMS

[1] *Joseph Gilbert* (61), beerseller and grocer, born Lichfield;

[2] *Mary Gilbert* (56), wife, born Penkridge, Staffordshire;

[3] *Margaret A. Gilbert* (19), daughter, dressmaker, born Lichfield;

[4] *William H. Gilbert* (15), son, plumber and glazier’s apprentice, born Tipton;

[5] *Alfred Gilbert* (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *William Fletcher* (22), nephew, carter, born Penkridge, Staffordshire:

*Joseph Gilbert*, retailer of beer, Tividale. [1862]

### Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/4/1866 - Deaths

“On the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, of bronchitis, in the 61<sup>st</sup> year of her age, *Mary*, the beloved wife of Mr. *Joseph Gilbert*, of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale.”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 13/11/1869 - Deaths

“On the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst, of bronchitis, in the 71<sup>st</sup> year of his age, *Joseph Gilbert*, late of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS INN, Tividale; deeply regretted.”

### County Advertiser 18/12/1869

“On Wednesday, at the Police Court, the following transfers were allowed.....

BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale, from *Joseph Gilbert*, deceased, to *William Henry Gilbert*.”

### 1871 Census

Sedgley Road

[1] *William Henry Gilbert* (25), Manchester dealer and beer seller, born Tipton;

[2] *Ann Gilbert* (26), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Charles Henry Cockin* (7), nephew, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Annie Brookes* (15), domestic servant, born Darlaston:

### Dudley Herald 26/10/1872

“Sale by auction ..... occupation of *William Gilbert* ..... annual rent £19.”

### County Express 23/12/1876

“On Thursday an inquest was held before Mr. Hooper at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS INN, Tividale upon the body of *Thomas Derricotte*, aged 23, who was killed at the Hall Bridge (Butterfly) Colliery on Monday afternoon. Messrs. Downing and Priest, the proprietors of the pit were present.

An absent juryman named *Joseph Millsom*, colliery manager, Dudley Road, was fined forty shillings. After the body had been viewed, *Milsom* appeared and hoped the Coroner would excuse his absence, as he had been down his pit, and he could not get out in time. Mr. Hooper said that he should not have gone down having been summoned. The fine had been imposed, and he could not alter it. It would now take its course. *Mrs. Derricotte*, widow of the deceased, said her late husband gave the owners of the colliery the best of

characters. She did not believe there had been any neglect or cause for complaint.

John Homer said the accident took place on the surface. Deceased, in getting out the 'liners,' had to put a pin through one of the 'curbes,' and whilst he was doing so the glands gave away, and the rope slipped, caught him and pulled him into the nitch ring. His head was smashed in and his left arm broken. He died without a groan.

The Coroner, in summing up, said there did not appear to be any neglect, and he had that morning received a letter from the Government Inspector stating that the case was one of pure accident, and he, therefore, did not think it necessary to attend the inquest.

The jury at once returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

#### Wednesbury Herald 26/2/1881

"Re *William Henry Gilbert*, of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Groveland, Tipton, beer retailer.

A liquidation petition was filed in the Dudley County Court on Saturday last on behalf of this debtor; liabilities £220.

Mr. S. H. Forrest of Oldbury is the solicitor in this matter."

#### 1881 Census

48, Tipton Road – BRICKMAKERS ARMS public house

Unoccupied

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 17/12/1881

"Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest on Tuesday at the RED LION INN, Tividale, upon the body of Edward Nunnerley (31), boatman, formerly residing at Broad Lane, Bilston, who was found in the canal near the Tividale Tunnel on Saturday morning last. It appears deceased left Bilston on Friday morning for the purpose of going to Tividale for a boatload of coal for Messrs. Hickman, his employers. When he came out of the tunnel he found it impossible to proceed owing to the fog. He tied the boat to the side of the canal, and leaving a boy in charge of it went to stable the horse. He was last seen alive about eleven o'clock on Friday night, when he left the BRICKLAYERS [sic] ARMS, Tividale.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 19/4/1884

"Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest yesterday at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS INN, Tividale, respecting the death of Mary Ellen Law, aged four years. On the 10<sup>th</sup> inst several children assembled in the New Road and formed a procession, headed by a captain, to imitate the Salvation Army. The deceased officiated as the 'captain' and walked backwards, and fell into a bucket containing boiling water – which had been placed in the middle of the road by a woman named Jane Wilkes – and sustained such severe scalds as to cause her death. The Coroner severely censured Mrs. Wilkes for leaving the water in the road. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

#### Dudley and District News 7/6/1884

"Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, New Road, Tividale, respecting the death of John Bagley (23), boatman, Greets Green, West Bromwich.

The mother of the deceased identified the body, and stated that he left home on Sunday, and she heard nothing more of him until he was drowned.

Joseph Rhodes, miner, New Road, Tividale, stated that he first saw the deceased standing in the road opposite the Grove Land Marlhole on Monday evening, about 6.30, and he was the worse for beer. In the course of a conversation he said he should like to swim in the marlhole, and asked witness to try and do so, but he refused; and he and deceased's sweetheart endeavored to persuade deceased not to attempt to swim it. Witness walked into the house, and deceased came to the door and said, 'Come on; I am going to do it.' When witness got to the door deceased was just in the act of jumping into the water with his clothes on. At first he struck out as though he was swimming, but when he got about seven yards he went down and did not come up again. Two young men jumped in after him, but could not find him. The police came, and the body was got out in about 10 minutes, and a doctor, who was passing, was called and examined the body, but found

that he was quite dead.

The Coroner: Had you heard him quarrelling with his young woman? – Witness: No, sir.

The Coroner: What was there to make you think that he had had beer? – Witness: Well, sir, he looked beerish.

The Coroner: Was he able to stand? – Witness: He could not stand well.

The Coroner: Did you think he had made any bet about swimming across the hole? – Witness: I do not think he had.

A juror said the marlhole was a very unfit place to be left unprotected.

The Coroner: Well, it is not the first death that has occurred there; there have been a good many.

Several jurors expressed a wish that something should be done to protect the public, as it was very dangerous.

The Coroner said he would see the marlhole, and communicate with the owner.

The Coroner said the man seemed to have been foolish enough to have jumped into the water entirely on his own account.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned by the jury.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 29/2/1887

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest on Wednesday, at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS INN, on the body of a man unknown, found in the Birmingham Canal, and apparently sixty years of age. There was in his pockets nothing to lead to identification. The jury returned an Open Verdict.”

#### County Advertiser 12/5/1888 - Advert

“Notice of Sale by Auction of a Freehold Beerhouse, at Lower Tividale.

Alfred W. Dando has received instructions from the Mortgagees to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mrs. Clifton, COTTAGE SPRING INN, Dudley Port, on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1888, at Six o'clock in the Evening for Seven, precisely, subject to conditions of sale to be then produced.

The Capital Beerhouse known as the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tipton Road, Lower Tividale, containing Tap and Smoke Rooms, Bar, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Club Room, &c, with Brewhouse, Scullery, WC, and other Outbuildings in the rear, Good Cellarage in the basement. The foregoing well-known Property is situated within easy distance of several works, and contains in the whole 300 square yards or thereabouts. It is now in the occupation of Mr. *Edward Walden* at the moderate rental of £18 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained of Messrs. Warmington and Thompson, Solicitors, Castle Street, or of the Auctioneer, Priory Street, all of Dudley.”

#### 1891 Census

48, Tipton Road – BRICKMAKERS ARMS

[1] *William Marklew* (40), brickyard labourer, born Tipton;

[2] *Emma Marklew* (36), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Mary Marklew* (17), daughter, born Barrow in Furness;

[4] *Lilli Marklew* (13), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *William Marklew* (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Sarah Marklew* (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Joseph Marklew* (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[8] *Emilia Marklew* (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[9] *Ann T. Marklew* (68), mother-in-law, widow, born Rowley Regis:

#### County Express 9/2/1901

“Mr. A. W. Barradale applied to the magistrates on behalf of Messrs. Plant, brewers, for their sanction to the restoration of the BRICKLAYERS [sic] ARMS INN, Tividale. The sanitary authorities had condemned the building, and had served the necessary notices for the building to be closed. His clients were willing to take the building down, and, subject to the approval of the magistrates, to erect another on the site, but there was no intention to increase the licensing area.

The Chairman said the question raised was one of considerable difficulty. The magistrates had not power to

sanction the application, and in the near future it was proposed that the Tipton justices should have jurisdiction over public houses in the Tividale district.

Mr. Barradale: To use the colloquial form of expression, my clients are ‘between the devil and the deep blue sea.’ The sanitary authorities call upon us to remove the building, and the magistrates have not the power to authorise us to build another house in its stead.

Mr. Bassano: We cannot bind the licensing justices; but from what we can see from the plans we do not see that there can be any objection raised. Your clients must, however, take the risk of erecting the building.

Mr. Barradale thanked the magistrates for having reduced the difficulty somewhat.”

#### 1901 Census

48, Tipton Road – BRICKMAKERS ARMS

[1] *William Marklew* (50), brickworks labourer and innkeeper, born Tipton;

[2] Emma Marklew (46), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] William Marklew (22), son, brickworks labourer, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Joseph Marklew (13), son, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Emily Marklew (11), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Gertrude Marklew (9), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[7] James Marklew (6), son, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Harry Marklew (6 months), son, born Rowley Regis;

[9] Ann Towie (77), mother-in-law, widow, born Claverley, Shropshire;

[10] Mary Marklew (24), niece, born Rowley Regis:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/8/1901

“Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The magistrates sanctioned the reconstruction of the BRICKLAYERS [sic] ARMS INN, Tividale.

In reply to counsel, Mr. W. Bassano said there was no probability of the licensing business at Tividale being transferred to Tipton.”

#### County Advertiser 17/9/1904

“Henry Deakin, labourer, of Tipton Road, Tividale, was charged with being drunk upon licensed premises on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August. Police-constables Heatherley and Walton stated that they saw defendant drunk at the BRICKMAKERS ARMS INN, Tipton Road, Tividale. He was staggering about the room. Defendant denied that he was drunk, but the Bench considered the case proved, and fined him 10s, including costs.”

AND

“*William Marklow*, landlord of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS INN, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness upon his premises on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August.

Mr. J. W. Clulow prosecuted, and explained that on the night in question Police-constables Heatherley and Walton visited the defendant’s house, where they found in the tap room a man named Henry Deakin. He was very drunk and staggering about the room. The officers drew the landlady’s attention to the man’s condition, but she stated that her husband was in charge of the house. Defendant was spoken to by Heatherley, and he replied that the man had been in the house for two hours, and that he had requested him to leave three quarters of an hour previously. He also stated that the man had not been served during the latter period. If Deakin had refused to leave the premises, it was an easy matter for defendant to have called in the police, as the station was only a little distance away.

Police-constables Heatherley and Walton gave evidence in support of the charge.

Defendant denied that the man was drunk. He called a man named Albert Salt to confirm his statement.

The Bench, however, considered the case proved, and imposed a fine of £5, including costs.”

#### County Advertiser 11/2/1905

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday..... Superintendent Johnson presented his annual report.....

During the twelve months ended January last, three licensed victuallers and two beerhouse keepers had been proceeded against and convicted for offences against the Licensing Acts. One beerhouse keeper had also

been convicted for using obscene language in his own house. The whole of the licenses (except the one for using bad language) have since been transferred. Since the transfer each house has been conducted satisfactorily.....

The following is a list of the licenses objected to by Superintendent Johnson.....

*Luke Fletcher*, BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale, fined £5, and costs on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1904, for permitting drunkenness.....

The justices then proceeded to hear the objections to the renewal of the licenses on the 'black list'. These were all granted, the chairman administering a caution to each applicant."

[The offence relates to the previous licensee.]

#### Birmingham Mail 23/8/1905

"At Old Hill Police Court today, *Luke Fletcher*, landlord of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS INN, Tipton Road, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness upon his licensed premises, and also with supplying drunken persons.

Mr. J. W. Clulow, who prosecuted, explained that on the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst Police-constables Heatherley and Walton visited defendant's house, and in the tap-room discovered a man named Alfred Smith in a drunken condition. Smith was standing close to the counter, and was in the act of drinking out of a cup. Upon looking round Heatherley discovered that Walter Smith, a brother, was also in a drunken state.

Mr. W. Waldron, who defended, urged that the neighbourhood in which the house was situated was a rough one, and that it was a difficult matter to manage it.

Defendant was fined £5, including costs."

#### Smethwick Telephone 23/9/1905

"John Price, agent, of White Road, was charged on a summons with having obtained by false pretences the sum of 20s from *John Winter Collins*, with intent to defraud him. Mr. H. Jefferies appeared for the prosecutor, and Mr. Clarke had been instructed to defend.

Mr. Jefferies said that the amount involved was somewhat larger than that named in the present charge.

Defendant was said to have advertised for sale a public house, the BRICKMAKERS ARMS at Tividale.

Mr. *Collins* replied to the advertisement, and entered into an agreement with Price, who received a deposit.

However, they alleged that he had no authority from the owners of the house to dispose of the license.

On the application of Mr. Jefferies the case was adjourned for a week."

#### Smethwick Telephone 30/9/1905

"The Magistrates granted a warrant for the apprehension of John Price, agent, who failed to appear in answer to an adjourned summons charging him with obtaining money by false pretences. Mr. H. Jefferies appeared for the prosecution, Mr. James Clark defended."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1906

"The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

The Superintendent objected to the renewal of the licenses of.....

BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale."

#### County Advertiser 10/3/1906

"The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

Mr. Bassano said the bench had under consideration the nine houses, five of which were objected to on the ground of conviction and four others on the ground of redundancy. It had raised a very large question, and the magistrates had before them the consideration of the parish as a whole. He threw out the suggestion to the trade and owners that the matter should be considered from their point of view during the next twelve months.

The magistrates would be prepared to consider any counter proposition that might come from the brewers which could be laid before them next year. In order to simplify the proceedings that day the following licenses would be renewed.....

BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale."

#### County Advertiser 14/4/1906

“Oliver Davies, ironworker, of Sheepwash Lane, Great Bridge, West Bromwich, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale, kept by *John Winter Collins*, on the 14<sup>th</sup> ult. Prosecutor alleged that on the date named defendant visited his house in a drunken state and demanded to be served. He was refused drink, however, and afterwards he became disorderly and declined to leave until a policeman was sent for. Defendant had 49 previous convictions against him and a fine of 20s and costs, or a month’s imprisonment was imposed.”

*Joseph Goode* was married to Louisa.

*Joseph Goode* was summoned for permitting drunkenness and selling to drunken persons on 6th February 1909.

#### County Express 12/2/1910

“On Wednesday the annual general licensing sessions for the Old Hill petty sessional division were held at the Police Court, Old Hill.....

Supt. Johnson had served notices of objection to the renewal of the licenses in cases where convictions were recorded.....

Mr. Thompson (Dudley) applied for the renewal of the license of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale, to *Joseph Goode*. He explained that the owners, Messrs. Plant and Co., departed from their usual custom, and gave *Goode* another chance. Since the conviction he had conducted the house in a very good manner. The Bench decided to renew the license, but warned the applicant to be more careful in future.”

#### County Express 7/1/1911

“At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, the license of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Tividale was transferred from *Joseph Goode* to *John Henry Silcox*. The outgoing tenant was not present, it being stated that he had gone to America.”

#### 1911 Census

##### Tipton Road

- [1] *John Henry Silcox* (37), coal miner, hewer, born Oldbury;
- [2] Rosanna Silcox (34), wife, married 15 years, born Oldbury;
- [3] William Silcox (15), son, labourer, edge tool works, born Oldbury;
- [4] John Silcox (11), son, school, born Oldbury;
- [5] Doris May Silcox (4), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] William Franks (42), brother-in-law, brickworks labourer, born Oldbury:

#### Dudley Chronicle 24/9/1921

“The smart work of two constables, both of whom were complimented by the Bench, resulted in the appearance before the Old Hill Court on Wednesday, of John Hunt, of Upper Chappel Street, Tividale; Samuel Williams and Robert Everett, of Lower Chappel Street, Tividale, on a charge of breaking and entering the offices of the Vono Company, Duport Foundry, Tipton Road, Tividale, and stealing the sum of £51 8s 11d, on the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst.

PC Gregory said on Thursday last he received a complaint and he went to the Vono Company’s works. He found that a door leading into the works had been damaged near the lock. There were marks three quarters of an inch broad. The door leading into the office had been forced. He made enquiries about some Treasury note numbers. At 9.25pm he went to the BRICK MAKERS ARMS INN, Tipton Road, Tividale, and there saw Mrs. *Fisher*. She showed him a note and in consequence of what she said he arrested John Hunt. He charged him with the offence and he said, ‘I know nothing about it.’ Witness and PC Warrington searched him and they found in his pockets 12 one pound notes, comparing with the numbers he had secured. After the search defendant said, ‘The game is up. I admit it. I have burnt all the cheques.’ Later the same day (Friday) they arrested Everitt and in answer to the charge he said, ‘I know nothing about it.’ When searched they found a farthing and he said, ‘That is out of the safe. I have got £14, but you are not going to have it.

I am not going to do time and have nothing when I come out.' At 7.45pm they arrested Williams, and he said when charged, 'You have no proof.' At 9am the same date (Saturday) they conveyed prisoners to Old Hill. Whilst in the station Everitt said, 'I should like to speak to PC Gregory.' Prisoner said, 'I will tell you all about it. You will find £14 hidden in the mattress of my bed at home, and the boots I was wearing are under the kitchen table.' Williams said, 'You will find my share of the money, down the cellar on a ledge, at home.' He then charged them jointly and they each said, 'I am sorry.' At 1.15pm on Saturday they went to Hunt's home and found the chisels produced on the pantry shelf. They each bore paint marks, similar to that on the safe at the works. At 1.30 they went to the home of Williams, and found buried under some slack in the cellar 13 £1 notes. At 1.43 they went to the home of Everitt and found hidden in the mattress 14 £1 notes.

PC Warrington, Tipton, said he was present with PC Gregory at the interview and the recovery of the notes, and he corroborated in every detail all his evidence.

Mrs. Fisher, the wife of Isaac Fisher, of the BRICK MAKERS ARMS, Tividale, said Hunt went into their house. He had three pints of beer and some cigarettes. He tendered a £1 note (produced).

Mrs. S. Gregg, employed as cashier, gave evidence as to the notes and money left in the safe.

Hunt and Williams said, 'I am sorry. It is unemployment that has made me do it. I have been out of work for 18 months through no fault of my own.' Everitt said, 'I am sorry and hope it don't occur again. I have been out of work ten months and had nothing from the Labour for five weeks. I applied to the Guardians, and Mr. Taft, the member for Tividale, told me a single man had a better chance of getting work than a married man. He said I ought to be ashamed of myself for appealing.'

Defendants were committed for trial to the Quarter Sessions.

At the close of the case, the chairman (Mr. Dallow) addressing PCs Gregory and Warrington, said the Bench desired to express their appreciation of the excellent manner in which they had got up the case and given their evidence. It was no easy task for an officer to get into the box and give such detailed evidence without referring to notes and they were surprised at the way in which PC Gregory did it. No one could doubt that every word the officer had uttered was true and it was very commendable to put the case before the court in the way they had.

Both officers expressed the thanks for the compliments."

#### Staffordshire Advertiser 22/10/1921

"County Quarter Sessions.....

John Hunt, 28, tool grinder, Samuel Williams, 26, roller, and Robert Everett, 20, nail caster, pleaded guilty to having broken into the office of Ernest Vaughan at Tividale on September 14 and stolen £51.

Hunt said he had been out of employment for some time and could not get any work, but the Chairman said that was no excuse for office breaking.

Hunt was sentenced to two months, Everett to three months, and Williams, who said he had been out of work through failing eyesight, to one month's imprisonment.

Upon the application of Mr. Wylie, who prosecuted, the Court ordered the sum of £39 17s found upon the prisoners to be paid over to prosecutor."

#### 1939 Register

48, Tipton Road (2 of 3)

[1] Joseph H. Jones, date of birth 12/7/1906, haulage contractor, married;

[2] Ivy Dene (Jones) Barnes, dob 23/5/1907, public house manageress, married;

Joseph Oakley was married to May.

See also VILLAGE TAVERN.

License surrendered in February 1959 in favour of a new license for the HANGMANS TREE, Oakham Road.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/3/1959

"Rowley Regis magistrates yesterday granted a license for the erection of a new public house at the corner



of Oakham Road and Regent Road, Oakham. Ansells Brewery, who will build it, are to surrender the license of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, at Tippity Green, Rowley Regis.”

## **BRIDGE**

91, (93), (20), Station Road, (93, (20), Hobicus Lane), Langley Green, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Anthony Baker, Langley

Walter Showell and Sons (Showells Brewery Ltd.) [1891], [1900]

Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired c.1935)

Ansells Ltd. (acquired in 1960)

Holt, Plant and Deakin **(1984 – 1996)**

Firkin Brewery, Allied Domecq, Burton on Trent (acquired in 1997) [1999]

## **LICENSEES**

William Baker [1861] – [1878]

John Nickless [1880]

Joseph Nickless [1881] – **1891**);

Arthur Bradley **(1891 – 1902)**;

Frederick Richards **(1902 – 1904)**;

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. **(1904 – 1914)**;

Bradley [1909] manager?

Mrs. Hannah Bradley [1911] – **(1914)**; manager

Frederick Ralph Sturges **(1914 – 1921)**;

William George Westbury **(1921 – 1923)**;

Harry Stevenson Wood **(1923)**;

Tabitha Horton **(1923 – 1924)**;

William Harley Francies **(1924 – 1934)**;

Alfred King **(1934 – 1941)**;

Arthur Sykes Waller **(1941 – 1943)**;

Thomas Frederick Brooks **(1943 – 1945)**;

Dorothy Aucott **(1945 – 1946)**;

Arthur Aucott **(1946 – 1948)**;

Jean Walters **(1948 – 1949)**;

Michael Joseph Ryan **(1949 – 1950)**;

Thomas Joseph Gibbons **(1950 – 1953)**;

Ronald Stanley Andrews **(1953 – 1954)**;

Cyril Thomas Pagett **(1954 – 1956)**;

Sidney F Strange **(1956 – 1957)**;

Edward John Fishlock **(1957)**;

Wilfred Payne **(1957 – 1958)**;

William Raymond Bonham **(1958 – 1959)**;

John William Jenkins **(1959 – 1961)**;

Albert Edward Lewis George **(1961 – 1962)**;

Ernest Rogers **(1962)**;

Norman John Betts **(1962 – [ ]**

S Singh [1976] – [1983]  
Vic Norton (1984 – [1989]  
Tony Stanton [1990] – [1993]  
William McIldowie [1998] – [1999]

## NOTES

20, Hobicus Lane [1873]  
93, Hobicus Lane [1891], [1896]  
93, Station Road [1892], [1901]  
91, Station Road [1911], [1912], [1916], [1990], [1999]

It was originally the NEW INN.

[1857]

### 1861 Census

Hobicus Lane – NEW INN

- [1] *William Baker* (51), victualler, born Langley Green;
- [2] *Mary Baker* (48), wife, born Langley Green;
- [3] *Eliza Baker* (19), daughter, born Langley Green;
- [4] *Harriet Baker* (17), daughter, born Langley Green;
- [5] *Samuel Baker* (15), son, printer, born Langley Green:

### County Express 29/5/1869

“*William Baker*, NEW INN, Langley Green, was charged with having his public house open before half-past twelve on Sunday, the 16<sup>th</sup> inst.

Police-constable Jones proved having called at the house at ten minutes past twelve and found seven men in. Defendant pleaded that they were neighbours who had just called in, and that the chapels and church had left some time.

The officer remarked that service was not over at the church until some timer after.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs, and told that if were not very careful he would soon lose his license.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 2/2/1870 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, for public business. Age from 20.

Apply, Mr. *Baker*, NEW INN, Langley Green.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 16/2/1870

“Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, held an inquest yesterday, at the NEW INN, Langley, concerning the death of a boy, nine years old, named Thomas Waterhouse, son of a collier living at Langley. On Friday deceased was sent upon an errand, and in returning he went upon a pool near to Messrs. Allbright and Wilson’s works, to slide, the water being frozen over. A man passing in a cart saw the boy immersed in the water about two yards from the side, and taking off the horse’s reins, threw them to him, but failed to reach him. Some minutes elapsed before a boat could be procured to get him out, and deceased sank under the ice. When recovered, he appeared to be quite dead, and various means resorted to in order to restore animation proved fruitless. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 27/2/1871 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable Young Woman, as general Servant for Public Business.

Apply, *William Baker*, NEW INN, Langley Green.”

### 1871 Census

Hobicus Lane

- [1] *William Baker* (61), whitesmith and publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Baker* (58), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Samuel Baker* (25), son, puddler, born Oldbury;
- [4] *William Baker* (18), son, joiner, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Edward Baker* (16), son, whitesmith, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Henry Baker* (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] *John Lewis* (3), grand-son, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Mary A. Wilkins* (22), domestic servant, born Lutterworth, Leicestershire:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/5/1871 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant; one used to Public Business.  
Apply, *William Baker*, NEW INN, Langley Green.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/1/1873 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted; one used to public business preferred.  
Apply, Mr. *William Baker*, NEW INN, Langley Green.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1873 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted, used to Public-house. Age from 19 to 21.  
Apply, *W. Baker*, NEW INN, Langley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/1/1876 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted, for Public-house; age 20 or over. Good character.  
Apply, *W. Baker*, NEW INN, Langley Green.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1878

“The annual licensing sessions for the Oldbury division were held yesterday, before Messrs. Avery, Cartland, Wiggin, and Adkins.....  
Since the last meeting two licensed victuallers – Robert Chance, SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green, and *William Baker*, NEW INN, Langley – had been summoned and convicted for offences against their licenses.....  
The applications for renewals were then granted, with the exception of the two persons included in the ‘black list’ – Robert Chance, SPREAD EAGLE, and *William Baker*, NEW INN, Langley. These cases were, however, afterwards considered separately, and, after being reprimanded by the Bench, and promising not to offend again, their licenses were also renewed.”

1881 Census

Hobicus Lane – NEW INN

- [1] *Joseph Nickless* (28), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Jane Nickless* (27), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Benjamin Nickless* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Polly Sheldon* (14), domestic servant, born Wales:

West Bromwich Weekly News 12/2/1887

“Pride of the Queen Lodge of the National United Order of Free Gardeners has lately gained a well-merited distinction in the neighbourhood of Langley by its continued prosperity. Presentations to its officials seem to be the order of the day. At its first club night this year the Past Master (Brother E. Field) was presented with a Past Master’s Certificate. On Saturday last another presentation was made, on that occasion to the present Treasurer (Brother *J. Nickless*), in the shape of a very richly framed Past Master’s Certificate. Brother J. J. Taylor, in making the presentation, complimented the lodge on the great success it had experienced since the present treasurer had been appointed. He had acted in that capacity for six years, and during that time the lodge had increased from 20 to 108 financial members and from 2 to 17 honorary members; and this was, to a great extent, due to having a good treasurer.

Brother G. Satchwell, DDM, followed, and then Brother J. Fox, secretary.

Brother Fox dwelt on the prosperity the lodge had had since its existence. It was opened at the QUEENS HEAD INN, but a few months afterwards it was removed to its present quarters, NEW INN, Station Road, and they never had cause to regret moving their lodge to the NEW INN. Their landlord and treasurer had always treated them with great respect, and had done his best to make them comfortable. He only hoped their members would be increased more in the future than they had in the past.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 30/7/1887

“Mr. E. Docker (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the NEW INN, Langley, on Monday evening, touching the death of Thomas Baker, aged 63, who was shot with a gun by George W. Manning, on Saturday evening last.

Thomas Baker, son of deceased, chemist, of Langley Green, was the first witness.

The Coroner: This poor man was your father? – Witness: Yes.

The Coroner: Was he in good health up to Saturday last? – Witness: Very good.

The Coroner: When did you last see him alive? – Witness: On Saturday week.

The Coroner: Did you see him after the injury? – Witness: Yes sir, about ten minutes past seven. When I left I think he was dead.

The Coroner: Then you know nothing as to the cause of death? – Witness: No, sir, only what others told me. Annie King, wife of Charles King, of Crosswells Road, was next sworn.

The Coroner: Will you tell us what happened on Saturday last? – Witness: I was in the garden a few minutes to seven gathering a few peas.

The Coroner: How far were you from deceased? – Witness: About three or four yards, but he was over the wall in Mr. Smith’s garden.

The Coroner: Did you speak to anyone? – Witness: Yes, I was speaking to George Manning.

The Coroner: How far was Manning away? – Witness: Only a few yards on the other side of the wall.

The Coroner: How high do you suppose the wall was? – Witness: About 4 feet 6 inches.

The Coroner: And how far is the residence of Mr. Baker away? – Witness: Half a mile.

The Coroner: Did you speak to Manning? – Witness: Yes, I had a conversation with him.

The Coroner: Was he carrying anything with him? – Witness: Yes, he had a gun in his hands.

The Coroner: And how was he carrying it? – Witness: In his hands, in front of him.

The Coroner: Now tell me exactly what happened. – Witness: He held the gun in both hands at about the middle.

The Coroner: Did he use the gun at all? – Witness: No, he did not. I spoke to him, and he put the rifle on the wall, leaning on it, the butt being one side of the wall, and the barrel the other.

The Coroner: Yes, and what happened? – Witness: We had been talking about a minute or two when Miss Smith came up her own garden in which Baker was standing, and she turned round and spoke to Mr. Manning, who shouted back. She then turned round to speak to Mr. Baker, and as she was walking out of the garden the gun went off, and I saw him fall.

The Coroner: Had Manning moved with the gun all this time? – Witness: No sir, he was leaning on it across the wall.

The Coroner: And what happened after Baker fell? – Witness: Manning then got over the wall and went at once to Mr. Baker.

The Coroner: Did you see that he was shot? – Witness: I did not know as I was stooping to get the peas. If I had not been it might have caught me.

The Coroner: Did Manning say anything to you about the rifle? – Witness: Yes, he said, ‘Oh dear, there must have been a bullet in the rifle and I did not know it.’

The Coroner: When did he say that? – Witness: Just as he was getting over the wall.

The Coroner: Had Manning attempted to present the gun at Miss Smith? – Witness: I think not.

The Coroner: Have you ever seen witness with a rifle before? – Witness: Yes, I have, repeatedly.

The Foreman thought it would greatly help the jury if they went and had a look at the position of the gardens, as there were three or four of them. The Jury then visited the spot where the catastrophe occurred. It appeared that the shot must have caught deceased in the head and afterwards struck the greenhouse, which diverted the course of the bullet through the opposite window and out into the field.

Mrs. King was further examined.

The Coroner: Could you see Manning at the time the rifle went off? – Witness: I could not.

Mr. King: When the rifle went off you were stooping to gather some peas? – Witness: I was.

Mr. King: And the first thing you saw was Mr. Baker fall? – Witness: That is so.

Mr. King: And after that Manning fell over the wall, bleeding at the nose? – Witness: Yes.

The Coroner: Then as far as you could see, in your judgement, did the rifle go off accidentally? – Witness: I think it did.

The Coroner: Did you think it at all unusual for Manning to be there with the rifle? – Witness: No, I have seen him before with it walking about the garden.

The Coroner: But have you ever seen him fire it? – Witness: I have not.

Mr. King: Have you ever seen him in the same position with the rifle? – Witness: No, I have not.

Amy Maud Smith stated that she went into the garden on Saturday last and Mr. Baker was walking along the wall. She was conversing with him when the rifle went off.

The Coroner: Could you see the rifle? – Witness: Yes, at the end of Mr. Brunn's garden. Mr. Manning was standing with it.

The Coroner: Did you notice the position of the rifle? – Witness: No sir.

The Coroner: How long were you there before it went off? – Witness: About five minutes. It struck Mr. Baker, who fell in the garden.

The Coroner: Then as far as you could judge the rifle went off accidentally? – Witness: Yes.

The Coroner: What did you do afterwards? – Witness: I ran up the garden to mother and told her.

The Coroner: Did you notice if Manning was hurt? – Witness: He was bleeding at the nose.

Mr. King: Did you notice that the report of the rifle was a very loud one? – Witness: I did.

Mr. King: And could you say the rifle had lifted? – Witness: I could not.

Mr. W. H. Pass: I suppose Baker went up the garden but was not doing anything? – Witness: He was not at work.

Mr. Pass: You simply know he was shot? – Witness: Yes sir.

Mr. C. Dawes: Did Manning come to give any assistance? – Witness: I cannot say.

Mr. White: Have you ever seen Manning with the rifle before? – Witness: I have.

James Hughes, of Bloxidge Street, stated that he saw Manning before the occurrence took place. He heard him snap the gun and walk to the wall. He saw him leaning over the wall talking to someone. He could not say who it was.

Superintendent Hardman stated that he received information that there had been a gun accident, and he went to Langley at once, and found deceased lying in a pool of blood. He was then gasping for breath. Dr. Lyddon then appeared, but gave no hopes, and when the man was quite dead he had him removed to his home.

PS Stanton stated that he had measured the distance from where Manning was standing to where Baker lay, and it was 22 yards. He afterwards went and saw Manning, who made a statement to him. He had a Martini rifle that would kill over a mile away. Manning told him that he had been cleaning the rifle, and walked down the garden and put a cartridge in to see that it was quite clear, as sometimes the rust got into the barrel. While he was down at the wall he spoke to Mrs. King, and must have forgotten that the cartridge was still in the rifle, and it was purely accidental. He received a bad blow in the face, which made him bleed.

Dr. C. Lyddon stated that on receiving the information he immediately went to the place and found deceased lying on his back in the walk. There was a large pool of blood beside him, although the bleeding had stopped. He was almost pulseless, and knew he could not live many minutes, so he thought it best not to disturb him. After he was dead he examined the body and found the skull fractured and a large wound. He searched for the bullet but was unable to find it.

The Coroner asked the Jury if they would like Manning to give evidence. They stated that they would, but he was advised by Mr. Instone, who represented him, not to do so, as he could only tell them what he had told PS Stanton.

The Coroner, in summing up, said it was a very unhappy and unfortunate case, not only as it affected the deceased, but also for the young man Thomas Manning. They must all recognise the fact that the evidence placed him in a very unfortunate position. One could not help but feel he had been guilty of very considerable carelessness in the use of the rifle. From the evidence altogether he thought they might say at once

that the explosion of the gun was one of pure accident. They would also remember that Manning said, 'The bullet must have been in and I forgot to take it out.' With regard to Manning, he seemed to have been out in the garden and handling the rifle in a very careless manner by holding it in his hands, and particularly when they remembered it was loaded. As far as the law was concerned it was within the power of anyone to have a rifle in his possession, but if they did they must take proper charge of them, and use them in such a manner that no harm could come to other people with them. In that case that had not been so, and it would be for the Jury to say whether or not Manning had been guilty of such an amount of gross negligence as to consider him liable to the law for what had occurred. There was one thing that struck him as very peculiar, and that was how it came about that Manning had the rifle in his possession with a bullet in at all. One could not but consider it in the most solemn manner as a very serious offence, to be walking about in a garden with a most dangerous rifle that they were told would kill a man a mile away, and if no notice was taken of such conduct no one's life would be safe for one moment. What they had to consider was whether Manning exercised that ordinary care and prudence he should have done with a very dangerous weapon.

The room was then cleared of all except the jury and coroner, who were in consultation for about 20 minutes. On being called into the room the Coroner then said the jury had very carefully considered the verdict, and agreed that Thomas Baker came to his death accidentally. They were further of opinion that Manning's conduct deserved the strongest censure for the careless manner in which he used the rifle. They hoped and trusted that all that had transpired would be a lesson to him for the end of his days.

Mr. W. H. Pass stated that the jury were further of opinion that although it was an accident Manning should make some compensation to the widow who had lost her husband. The poor man was dead and gone, and the least he could do would be to bear the cost of the funeral expenses.

Mr. Brunn stated that although he had no authority for saying so, he believed this would be done."

#### 1891 Census

93, Hobicus Lane – NEW INN

[1] *Joseph Nickless* (39), publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Jane Nickless* (38), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Sarah J. Nickless* (8), daughter, born Langley;

[4] *Angelina Fisher* (20), domestic servant, born Langley:

#### Birmingham Mail 21/11/1891

"Last night the annual meeting of the Langley Cricket Club was held at the NEW INN, Langley, Mr. W. Davies presiding. The secretary presented his annual report, which showed that the first eleven had played 22 matches, of which six were won, eight drawn, and eight lost, and they had scored 1,719 runs for the loss of 170 wickets to 1,847 runs made by opponents, for the loss of 172 wickets. The balance-sheet showed a balance in hand of 8s 3d."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/1/1893

"Yesterday, at the Police Court – before Messrs. H. Heaton and S. Bennett – *Arthur Bradley*, landlord of the NEW INN, Station Road, Langley, was charged with keeping his house open on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, during illegal hours. Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

Police-constable Davies said on the night named he saw a number of men leaving defendant's house at about eleven o'clock. At 11.40 he visited the house in company with Police-constable Sherwood, and found between sixty and seventy men there drinking and singing. He also saw persons leaving the house at 12.50. Superintendent Speke said Mr. *Bradley* called upon him prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, and intimated that he was about to provide a dinner for a few friends connected with Showell's Brewery. Witness told defendant that he ought to have applied for an extension of time. Mr. *Bradley*, however, stated that the dinner having to be provided at short notice he had not the opportunity of doing so, and added that the persons who were invited would not pay for anything.

Mr. Shakespeare contended that the defendant was not liable. All the persons present were in the employ of Messrs. Showell and Sons (Limited). They had been to inspect the brewery, and afterwards dined together, the cost of which was defrayed by the firm. It was a private party, and there was not a single customer present, and not one of them had been a customer to defendant during the day. Moreover, he urged that all the

persons found in the house resided more than three miles away, and were bona-fide travellers. Evidence was given corroborating these statements, and showing that the persons present came from Stockport, London, Walsall, Kidderminster and Birmingham, and other places, and all were in the employ of the firm.

Ultimately the case was withdrawn on payment of the costs, 7s 6d.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1893

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. A. H. Hibbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the NEW INN, Langley, concerning the death of Martha Cowley (24), wife of Albert Cowley, of Mill House, who died on Tuesday last. The husband stated that his wife, who was enceinte, told him three weeks ago that a Mrs. Jackson was going to get her some stuff, and witness told her that if she brought any stuff there he should burn it. Last Saturday week one of the children told him that deceased had taken something out of a bottle, and it had made her sick. He threw a bottle away which he afterwards found upon the table. Deceased got better, and witness did not think any more about it. Deceased was seized with an illness on Monday night last, but appeared to be all right again on Tuesday morning. However, shortly before breakfast, she became ill again, and she was sick when he returned home to breakfast. About 9.30 he was sent for from his work, and then found that his wife was dead.

Lucy Williams, sister of the deceased, gave similar evidence, and said deceased told her she was going to pay 1s for the stuff.

Emma Jackson, a widow, residing in Park Lane, said deceased asked her to fetch three pennyworth of a certain herb; but witness did not enquire what she wanted it for, and she did not know anything about its properties. She bought the herb from Mrs. Jackson, a herbalist, of Talbot Street, Oldbury, and deceased gave her 3d for fetching it. She denied having told the deceased the herb would put her all right.

Charlotte Jackson deposed to selling the herb to the last witness, and said she told her to use it cautiously. Mrs. Jackson replied that she knew how to use it, as she had used it before.

Dr. Cunningham, who had made a post-mortem examination, said he found the effects of an irritant poison. The cause of death was sickness, purging and collapse. The sickness was caused by deceased taking the herb.

A juror asked what the law was on the subject.

The Coroner said if Mrs. Jackson had administered the herb, then it would have been their duty, as a jury, to commit for manslaughter; but, according to the evidence, deceased took it herself.

Dr. Cunningham explained that the herb was not scheduled as a poison.

The jury returned a verdict of Death by Misadventure.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1893

“Worcestershire Quarter Sessions.....

Emma Jackson, a widow, on bail, was indicted for procuring a certain noxious herb, with intent to procure the miscarriage of a woman named Martha Cowley, and thereby causing her death on July 10. Mr. Harrington prosecuted; Mr. Vachell defended.

Martha Cowley was a married woman with several children, and living happily with her husband, and was pregnant. She appeared to have consulted the prisoner, who obtained a certain drug. Deceased appeared to have taken some of this, but after the second dose she was taken ill, and died.

The medical evidence showed that deceased died from vegetable poisoning, and it was stated that two-thirds of the drug supplied were sufficient to cause death.

The defence was that prisoner was unaware of the deceased's condition.

The Jury acquitted the prisoner, and the Chairman, in discharging her, said that had she been charged with manslaughter she would in all probability have been found guilty. He cautioned her not to do anything of the kind again.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1893

“A dinner in connection with the Langley District of the Free Gardeners was held last night, at the NEW INNS, Langley. Mr. W. T. Davies presided; and among those present were Messrs. H. T. Finch (grand secretary), J. Clarke (past grand master), E. G. Dickinson (deputy master elect), &c.

The chairman gave the grand officers a hearty welcome, and Mr. J. Skidmore proposed success to the order, and welcome to the grand secretary.

In response, Mr. Finch referred to the progress made by their society, and hoped that in the future they would be recognised as one of the largest societies in the country. He believed that friendly societies generally would suffer to a great extent through the strike in the coal trade. It would leave its mark in some of the towns, and it behoved them to make every effort to fill the gaps up which would result through the strike. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the scheme for proving old-age pensions, he said before long they would have to face the question, and would also have to dispose of it. (Hear, hear.)

The toast of 'Success to the Langley District' was acknowledged by Mr. Butler."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 4/1/1894

"Last evening, Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the NEW INNS, Langley, upon the body of Fanny Hughes (65), widow, of Mill Lane, who died suddenly on Tuesday night. It appeared that deceased, who was apparently in good health, retired to bed about nine o'clock in company with a grandson about nine years of age. She knelt by the bedside, and, whilst engaged in prayer, the boy observed her fall on her side. A neighbour was called in, and Dr. Cunningham was also summoned, but life was found to be extinct. The evidence of Dr. Cunningham showed that deceased died from an attack of apoplexy. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/4/1895

"On Monday night the annual dinner in connection with Langley Cricket Club took place at the NEW INNS, Langley. Mr. E. Ludlow occupied the chair ..... The Secretary (Mr. J. Butler) presented the annual report, which showed that during the past year the first team had played twenty-one matches, of which four had been won, four drawn, and thirteen lost."

#### Dudley Herald 19/2/1898

"The annual dinner in connection with Pride of the Queen Lodge, No.1478, of the National United Order of Free Gardeners, Langley District, took place at the NEW INNS, Langley, on Saturday night, Bro. W. T. Davies presiding. Bro. W. Smith proposed the toast of 'The Order,' and advocated the establishment of a Widows and Orphans Fund.

Replying to the toast of 'The Langley District,' Bro. W. Butler said they had about £300 as district funds and 550 members in the five lodges which comprised the district.

During the evening the Chairman presented a past master's certificate to Bro. J. Matthews, certificates to Bros. G. Harvey and C. Green, for services rendered as trustees, and medals to Bros. H. Baker and A. Bradley for services rendered as past trustee and treasurer to the lodge."

#### Smethwick Telephone 26/3/1898

"On Monday night a smoking concert in connection with the Langley Cricket Club was held at the NEW INN, Langley. Mr. F. Richards (president) being in the chair....."

#### Smethwick Telephone 17/12/1898

"At Oldbury Police Court, on Tuesday, David Davis Taylor (26), pattern maker, residing in Waterloo Road, Smethwick, was charged with using threats towards his wife, Florence Taylor.

It appears that in consequence of her husband's ill-treatment the complainant left him, and went to reside with her parents at the BRIDGE INN, Station Road, Langley. On Tuesday night, about 10.30, Taylor asked her to live with him again, and when she refused he produced a pistol. Complainant rushed away, and defendant fired in her direction.

Defendant, who pleaded that it was only a toy pistol, was bound over to keep the peace of six months."

#### Dudley Herald 20/1/1900

"At a meeting of the district officers and deputies of the Independent Order of Oddfellows Friendly Society, Manchester Unity, West Bromwich District Branch, held at the NEW INNS, Langley Green, on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, with Prov. GM C. W. Holden, of West Bromwich, in the chair, PGM Mark Allen, of the Loyal Earl of Dud-



ley Lodge, held at the CASTLE AND FALCON HOTEL, Dudley, had the honour of being appointed Prov. DGM of the district for the ensuing year, a position that can only be attained by those members who take an interest in such a good society. It is the first time since the lodge was established in January 1895 that any member has had such qualifications to obtain such a proud position. PGM Walter Wilden, another member of the lodge, was re-elected on the Sub-Management and Arbitration Committee.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 7/7/1900

“The anniversary dinner of Pride of the Queen Lodge, No.1478, of the National United Order of Free Gardeners (Langley District) took place on Saturday evening at the NEW INNS, Langley. The Grand Master elect of the Order (Bro. Thomas Harper, Wolverhampton) presided.....”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 17/3/1900

“The annual meeting of the members of the Langley Cricket Club was held at the NEW INNS, Langley, on Monday night.....”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 12/5/1900

“The fourth annual dinner in connection with the Langley Bowling Club was held on Tuesday night at the NEW INNS, Langley, when about 30 members and friends sat down to dinner.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 8/9/1900

“The alterations proposed by *Arthur Bradley*, at the NEW INNS, Langley, would be approved, but the license was to be in the name of Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 23/3/1901

“The annual general meeting of the Langley Green Cycling Club was held at the NEW INNS, Langley, on Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. B. Hadley occupied the chair, and in opening the meeting proceeded to read a letter of apology from Mr. S. T. Round (captain), who unfortunately was too ill to attend.....”

#### 1901 Census

93, Station Road

- [1] *Arthur Bradley* (64), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Hannah Bradley (58), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] May Bradley (32), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Annie Bradley (30), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Florence Taylor (28), daughter, married, born Oldbury;
- [6] Frank Bradley (20), son, commercial clerk, born Oldbury;
- [7] Frank B. Taylor (4), grand-son, born Oldbury;
- [8] Mary A. Pace (24), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/9/1901

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The following licence holders presented plans for alterations to their premises.....

*Arthur Bradley*, NEW INNS, Langley.....

The magistrates examined the plans, and Mr. Wilson stated that several of them had personally examined the premises.....

With regard to the NEW INNS, the alterations asked for a year ago had not been carried out, and these would be continued for another year; but the application for further alterations would be refused.”

#### Birmingham Mail 27/10/1901 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted, over 20.

Apply, Mrs. *Bradley*, NEW INNS, Langley Green.”

#### Birmingham Mail 2/11/1901 - Advert

“General (good strong) Wanted, about 25.  
Apply, Mrs. *Bradley*, NEW INNS, Langley Green.”

*Arthur Bradley* – see also ALBION, Freeth Street.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/1/1905

“The question of compensation attached some importance to the inquest held on Saturday by Mr. A. H. Hebbert, at the NEW INNS, Langley, with reference to the death of Joseph Wylde, aged 57, residing in Station Road, Langley, which occurred on Wednesday last. Mr. Sidney Vernon appeared on behalf of Messrs. Chance and Hunt, at whose works deceased met with an accident in October last, and Mr. J. J. Jackson, inspector of factories, was also present.

It appeared on October 29 deceased was engaged with three other men in loading a wagon at the works at Tat Bank with carboys of sulphuric acid, each carboy weighing about 2cwt. It was explained that the carboys were bottles packed with hay in baskets. Two men were on the wagon hauling them up, while deceased and another man named Bradley were lifting them up from below. When they had about half the load on, one of the bottles caught against the crutch of the wagon, breaking the bottle, and the liquid ran over the deceased, burning him rather severely.

He was removed to the District Hospital, where he was detained for about three weeks, and on December 12 he recommenced work. During the Christmas holidays he complained of pains in his head, and died after a week's illness on Wednesday.

The widow and a man named Riddley gave evidence, and a foreman at the works named George Birch stated that he did not remember a similar accident to that during the 30 years he had been employed there.

Dr. Broughton stated that he was called to see deceased a week before his death, when he complained of intense headache, and was suffering from influenza. He gradually grew worse, and was unconscious for several days before his death. He attributed death to apoplexy, caused by pressure on the brain, due to the clotting of blood in one of the blood vessels of the brain, and in his opinion death was accelerated by the accident.

Dr. M. B. Buttery and Dr. H. S. Browne disagreed with this, considering that the process of degeneration was long antecedent to the accident, and in their opinion death was not accelerated by the accident.

As there was no evidence as to the extent of the injuries inflicted by the acid, the inquiry was adjourned till tomorrow afternoon, when the hospital doctor, who treated the burns, might attend.”

#### Birmingham Mail 10/1/1905

“Mr. A. H. Hibbert (Deputy Coroner) resumed the inquest at the NEW INNS, Langley, this afternoon, respecting the death of Joseph Wilde (57), labourer, of Station Road, Langley, who died on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, under singular circumstances, reported in Saturday's *Mail*. Dr. Stanley Barnes, of Birmingham, for whose evidence the enquiry was adjourned, stated that in his opinion death was accelerated by the accident sustained by the deceased at the Oldbury Alkali Works on October 29<sup>th</sup>. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/6/1907

“Mr. W. R. Champion, JP, the prospective Unionist candidate for the Northern Division of Worcestershire, is about to pay another flying visit to the constituency . . . . On Thursday he will take part in a novel cricket match, which has been arranged by the North Worcestershire Joint Unionist Association. This is a contest between the Unionists of North Worcestershire and those of Mid-Worcestershire to be played at the Langley ground . . . . The match will be followed by a smoking concert at the NEW INNS, Langley, at which Mr. Champion and Captain Eric Knight will speak, and Mr. E. H. Ludlow (chairman of the Langley Committee of the North Worcestershire Association) will take the chair.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/3/1908

“The annual meeting of the Langley Ward, North Worcestershire Unionist Association was held last night at the NEW INNS, Langley, Mr. E. H. Ludlow presiding. . . .”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 7/12/1909

“The fourth Annual Dinner of the Langley Green Cycling Club took place on Tuesday night at headquarters, the NEW INNS, Langley Green, and proved to be a great success. The members turned up in strong force, and the good things which host *Bradley* placed upon the tables were thoroughly appreciated.....”

#### 1911 Census

91, Station Road – NEW INNS

[1] *Hannah Bradley* (70), widow, manageress of licensed house, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Ann Bradley* (45), daughter, assistant in business, born Oldbury;

[3] *Lucy Guest* (20), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Mail 1/9/1915 - Advert

“General, used to bar and kitchen.

*F. Sturges*, NEW INN, Langley, near Birmingham.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/4/1917

“At a meeting of the Langley and District Bowling League held on Saturday night, it was reported that the QUEENS HEAD (Londonderry) and PLOUGH INN, West Smethwick had retired from the League. The NEW INNS (Langley) and DUKE WILLIAM (Cradley) were elected to fill the vacancies. Mr. W. G. Holland was re-elected president and Mr. J. Haines secretary. It was decided to commence the competition on the 28<sup>th</sup> inst.”

#### Birmingham Mail 26/9/1917 - Advert

“Bar-General Wanted; also good Cook-General; good wages, short hours.

*Sturges*, NEW INNS, Langley.”

*Frederick Ralph Sturges* – see also LEWISHAM ARMS, West Bromwich.

Admiral Lodge (No.4532) of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes met here. [1935]

#### 1939 Register

Station Road – NEW INNS

[1] *Alfred King*, date of birth 4/5/1878, public house manager, married;

[2] *Amy D. King*, dob 25/2/1882, public house manageress, married;

[3] *Annie E. (Lucy) Rowley*, dob 21/8/1892, barmaid, single:

#### Birmingham Mail 26/11/1943 - Advert

“Pin Tables non-electric 2 need slight attention. Suit café or as toys. 35/-.

NEW INNS, Station Road, Langley.”

*Arthur Aucott* – see also HEN AND CHICKENS.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/5/1960

“Bottles and glasses were smashed and tables overturned in an affray at a Langley public house on Friday night, a special magistrates’ court at Oldbury was told on Saturday

A police-constable giving evidence against five Scotsmen, said, ‘I can’t describe in words the condition of the room. It was in absolute disorder and a complete shambles.’

Accused of causing damage valued at £30 at the NEW INNS, Langley, and with being drunk and disorderly were: *Leslie Alexander Fettes* (aged 21), of 45, Cummings Park Crescent; *Robert Thomson* (aged 23), of 34, Tollohill Place; *Ronald Andrew Thomson* (aged 19) and *George McKay Thomson* (aged 21), both of 3, Balnagark Road; and *John McGregor* (aged 21), of 82, Eday Road, all of Aberdeen.

*McGregor* was also charged with assaulting Police-constable *Ivor Parkes*.

Opposing bail, Inspector *Stanley Stevens* said, ‘While in custody these five men have made further threats of violence. If they are allowed to go there may be further trouble. One man especially has made serious

threats to the police. I think they will abscond if allowed bail.’

Police-constable M. Kendall said he went to the NEW INNS with other officers at 10.15pm. The five accused were in the assembly room drunk and fighting. Four of them were arrested and three had to receive hospital treatment.

Inspector Stevens said that when Police-constable Parkes went to SYCAMORE HOSTEL, Oldbury, where he knew McGregor was lodging, McGregor struck him in the face.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 2/6/1960

“Five scots were cleared yesterday of a joint charge of causing £30 worth of damage to a Langley public house during a fight in which chairs, stools, bottles and glasses were said to have been used. Mr. A. Smith, presiding magistrate at Oldbury, said there were other people at the public house and the prosecution should have called them to give evidence.

The five are: Leslie Alexander Fettes (21), Robert Thomson (23), and Ronald Andrew Thomson (19), all lodging in Bristnall Hall Road, Langley; George Fyfe McKay Thomson (21), lodging in Joinings Bank, Langley; and John McGregor (21), of SYCAMORE HOSTEL, Clay Lane. Each was fined £2 for being drunk and disorderly.

The magistrates dismissed a separate charge against George Thomson of wounding Mr. *John William Jenkins*, licensee of the NEW INNS, Langley.

John McGregor, who admitted assaulting a policeman and having broken a shop window five weeks before the public house incident, was sent to prison for three months.

Mr. M. Coley, prosecuting, said McGregor was involved in some sort of struggle with another man at the NEW INNS on May 20. When Mr. *Jenkins* went to separate them everybody near got up and a general fight started. During this George Thomson tried to hit Mr. *Jenkins* in the face with a pint glass. The licensee warded off the blow, but his hand was cut. A policeman was called but realised he could not do much and called for reinforcements. When these arrived four of the Scots were arrested, but McGregor escaped. He was later arrested at SYCAMORE HOSTEL, where he hit a policeman on the chin during a struggle.

Mr. J. Silk, defending, said the damage was done by the crowd during the fight. ‘It is remarkable no one else has come forward to give evidence against these boys,’ he said. ‘That is because other people started the fight. I am surprised this case has been brought.’”

A team from here took part in the Smethwick and District Charity Darts League. [1981/2]

Closed

It reopened as a Holt, Plant and Deakin pub in 1984, as the BREWERY INN.

The Holt, Plant and Deakin Brewery was at the rear.

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 1/11/1991 - Advert

“Early Evening Pint Savers. Holts Bitter 99p per pint. Holts Entire 105p per pint.

Special offer prices for the month of November only.

Available Mon-Sat evenings 5.30-8pm.

Only from these Holts pubs ..... Holts BREWERY INN, 91 Station Road, Oldbury.”

*Birmingham Evening Mail* Black Country Pub of the Year in 1993.

It was renamed the FININGS AND FIRKIN in 1997.

The brewery produced Firkin beers.

[2000]

It was renamed BRIDGE. [2005]

[2009]

Closed [2011]  
It was demolished in 2013.

## **BRIDGE**

69, (12), Stone Street, Oldbury Green, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

William Stevens, Church Street, West Smethwick  
William Butler & Co. [1885], [1900]

## **LICENSEES**

William Bridge [1850] – [1862]  
Edwin Kay [1864] – [1870]  
William Stevens [1871] – [1884]  
William John Yeomans (1883 – 1885);  
Samuel Fellows (1885 – 1886);  
William Stevens (1886 – 1887);  
Henry Cooper (1887 – 1888);  
Edward Stansfield (1888 – 1894);  
John Thompson (1894 – 1900);  
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (1900 – 1908);  
Walter Scott [1901] manager

## **NOTES**

Stony Lane [1855]  
12, Stone Street [1873], [1881], [1884]  
69, Stone Street [1891], [1896], [1901]

*William Bridge*, beer retailer and carpenter, Oldbury Green. [1850]

## **1851 Census**

Stone Street

- [1] *William Bridge* (63), carpenter and retail brewer, born Kings Norton;
- [2] Ann Bridge (63), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Sarah Bridge (22), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] William Bridge (9), grand-son, scholar, born Oldbury:

*William Bridge*, beer retailer, BRIDGE TAVERN, Stony Lane. [1855]

## **Worcestershire Chronicle 16/7/1856**

“Midsummer Assizes for the County and City of Worcester.....

Charles Bennett, 35, builder, surrendered to his bail charged with having in his possession two forged £5 Bank of England notes, at Oldbury, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April.

Mr. Huddleston stated the facts of the case on behalf of the prosecution at some length, and then called:

Elizabeth Nock: I am the wife of Philip Nock who keeps the CROSS GUNS, at Oldbury. Prisoner came to the house on the 16<sup>th</sup> April, and called for a glass of ale. I borrowed six-pence of him to make up some change for a gentleman. He said he could lend me one, but it was the only one he had. He then asked me to change a £5 note for him, and produced what I thought was a note. I went up stairs for change, but finding that I had not enough, I gave the note to Ann Dudley to return to the prisoner. I afterwards said I would endeavour to get it changed for him elsewhere, and he again gave me the note. I asked him to put his name upon it, as there was some difficulty in getting a note changed in that neighbourhood without a name upon it. He wrote 'Charles Holland' upon it. My little boy went for the change, but could not get it, and the note was again returned to the prisoner. (The note was here produced and identified by the witness as the note upon which the prisoner had written.)

Cross-examined: I am perfectly sure he wrote Charles Holland upon it. I did not see any samples of hops with him. I can't say whether he was tipsy or not.

By the Court: If there are any other initials on the note the prisoner did not write them.

Ann Dudley deposed to receiving the note from Mrs. Nock, and giving it back to prisoner.

*William Bridge* keeps a public house at Oldbury. On the 16<sup>th</sup> April the prisoner came to my house and wanted me to buy some hops. He had two glasses of ale and some bread and cheese, and tendered in payment what seemed to be a £5 note. I could not change it, and took it to a grocer named Lines, who thought it was a bad one, and went back with me. Prisoner afterwards tendered a good sovereign in payment for his bread and cheese. Lines had some conversation with the prisoner, and presently a policeman and Mr. Lee came in.

Cross-examined: Prisoner seemed perfectly sober.

Mr. Samuel Lines, grocer, deposed to the last witness bringing the note to him for change. He saw it was spurious, and went back with Mr. *Bridge*, and asked the prisoner if he knew the note was bad. He replied that he did not, and in answer to a question said he had it from Messrs. Stroud and Co., hop merchants, for whom he travelled, a very respectable firm, having warehouses in Birmingham, Liverpool, and Burton-upon-Trent. Witness then asked him where their warehouses in Liverpool were, and he could not tell. Witness asked to be allowed to see the samples of hops he had, and upon their being produced he detected at once that the prisoner had been speaking falsely, and was not in the trade. PC Simmonds then came in, and the prisoner put the note in a port monnaie.

In cross examination the witness prevaricated considerably from his statement when before the magistrates; and Mr. Powell asked that the depositions should be read. Upon that being done, the witness admitted that he had made a mistake today – instead of saying that he had received the note from Messrs. Stroud, he said 'he had received it from a man whom he should know again if he saw him.'

PC Samuel Simmonds took the prisoner into custody, and found the two notes upon him. He said he had received them from a Mr. Stevenson, a hop merchant in the Moseley Road, Birmingham, and gave £10 in hard cash for them at the New Street Station. Upon searching him I found upon his person four sovereigns and some silver and copper moneys, all good. He gave his name as Charles Bennett, of Spon Lane. I found that correct, but upon inquiry for Mr. Stevenson, I could not find any such person.

Mr. Whitehouse, the postmaster of Burton-upon-Trent, deposed that there was no such firm as Stroud and Co. in that town.

Mr. Rhodes, hop merchant, of the Bull Ring, Birmingham, stated that there was no firm of Stroud and Co. in that town

Inspector Glossop, of the Birmingham police, stated that there was no Mr. Stevenson, a hop merchant, in the Moseley Road.

Mr. Bumstead, the inspector of notes to the Bank of England, proved that the notes found upon the prisoner were forgeries, and from the same plate.

Mr. Powell then addressed the jury for the defence, and after a lengthy appeal to their feelings, contending that the transaction was more a mistake than anything else, called John James, who, amidst other improbabilities, said that he saw the prisoner give sovereigns for the notes to two men at the Birmingham railway station, whom he (witness) thought the prisoner knew. He gave the prisoner a good character for eleven years.

Another witness named Houston spoke to the prisoner as being an 'honest and respectable' builder and contractor, whom he had known a long time.

Both these witnesses were closely cross-examined by Mr. Huddleston as to their own respectability; and it

seemed also clear that they were anything but correct in their statements regarding the prisoner. His lordship summed up at great length, recapitulating the greater portion of the evidence. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to six years' penal servitude."

#### 1861 Census

Stone Street – BRIDGE INN

- [1] *William Bridge* (73), widower, victualler, born Kings Norton;
- [2] Sarah Bridge (32), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [3] William Bridge (19), grand-son, carpenter's apprentice, born Oldbury;
- [4] Timothy Bridge (14), grand-son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] Eliza Equinton (23), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Edwin Kay* was also a leather cutter. [1865]

*William Stevens* issued tokens from here.

#### 1871 Census

Stone Street – BRIDGE INN

- [1] *William Stevens* (45), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Mary Ann Stevens (44), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Jane Nickless (22), general servant, born Oldbury:

#### 1881 Census

12, Stone Street

- [1] *William Stevens* (55), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Mary A. Stevens (55), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Clara Holloway (21), general servant, born Staffordshire;
- [4] Sarah A. Davis (19), general servant, born Leamoor, Derbyshire:

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 25/3/1882 - Marriages

"March 13, at Langley Church (by the Rev. W. T. Taylor), *William John Yeomans*, boat builder, &c, Oldbury, to Sarah Ann, widow of W. H. Bundy, Upton-on-Severn, and daughter of the late Richard Sankey, of Woodland Cottage, Bearwood Road, Smethwick."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/6/1884 - Advert

"Boat-Builders. Wanted steady, practical Man at Once. Apply, *William John Yeomans*, Boat-builder, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Mail 11/8/1884

"Bankruptcy at Oldbury. This morning the public examination of *William John Yeomans*, of the BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, Oldbury, licensed victualler and also carrying on business as a boat builder, at Tat Bank, took place at the County Court Offices, before Mr. G. S. Watson, Registrar. Mr. Charles Woollett, deputy-official receiver, conducted the examination. The debtor said he commenced business about ten years ago with a capital of about £400. Some years ago he lost about £800 owing to the death of 14 horses, and being short of capital his hauling business fell off. In October last year he took to the public house he now occupied. He attributed his present position to being short of capital caused by the loss of the horses mentioned. On the application of Mr. Shakespeare, the debtor's solicitor, the examination was passed. The first meeting of creditors was also fixed to take place at the same time and place. The debtor not being in a position to offer a composition he was adjudicated a bankrupt. The total liabilities amounted to £259 14s 4d and the assets to £192 14s 9d leaving a deficiency of £66 19s 7d."

#### Birmingham Mail 16/12/1884

"At the Oldbury Police Court today, before Messrs. H. Chance and H. Heaton, magistrates, John Grigg Tay-

lor, licensed victualler, of Birmingham Street, Oldbury, and Clinton Hill Bailey, traveller, Smethwick, were charged with being on licensed premises of George Bonser, of the BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst; and George Bonser was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours, and permitting gambling on his licensed premises on the same date. Mr. Wm Shakespeare was for the defendant.

Police-constable Rivers stated that on the night named he and Police-constable Peart were on duty near the BRIDGE INN, and they heard a conversation going on inside and saw the defendants and a man named Hadley through a glass door 'toss' for beer and cigars. When he went into the house Bonser said, 'Come in and have a glass of beer. I know you are all right, and will not say anything about this,' and Mrs. Bonser asked her husband to give him one of the cigars they had been tossing for.

Mr. Shakespeare urged for the defendant that Bailey was a representative of a firm of brewers who supplied the house with beer, and that he and Taylor were there for the purpose of taking stock, as Bonser had only recently taken to the premises. Bonser was fined 38s 6d, and the other defendants were fined 13s each. An application was made by Mr. Shakespeare for the license of the house in question to be transferred from *William John Yeomans* to George Bonser, the above named defendant. The magistrates said that in the face of the above offence they must decline to grant him the license. Mr. Shakespeare respectfully asked the Bench to reconsider their decision, pointing out that Bonser had held a license in the town for many years, and had never been previously convicted, and that the business was his only means of getting his livelihood. After some consideration the Bench granted Bonser a temporary authority until the 10<sup>th</sup> of March next, in order that he might in the mean time get some suitable person to take the house."

#### Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/3/1885

"Mr. Jackson made a renewed application for the transfer of the license of the BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, from a man named *Yeomans*, to George Bonser.

It appears that Mr. Bonser formerly kept the VICTORIA STORES, in Birmingham Street, and left that place to go to the BRIDGE INN. An application was made for the transfer at the time, but as he had just previously been summoned for two infringements of his license at the STORES, the Bench refused the application, but agreed to grant a temporary authority till 10<sup>th</sup> March, in order to facilitate Mr. Bonser's getting another tenant. The premises at the BRIDGE INN are owned by Messrs. Butler and Co., Wolverhampton.

The Bench now refused to grant the application on the ground that no new facts were stated, but agreed to grant a further temporary authority to one of the employes of Messrs. Butler and Co. until transfer day."

AND

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1885

"Mr. H. Jackson applied on behalf of George Bonser for a transfer of the license of the BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, from *William John Yeomans*. Superintendent Hardman objected to the application, on the ground that the applicant had been convicted for keeping open during prohibited hours, and for permitting gambling on the 16<sup>th</sup> December last. The Bench declined to grant the application. A temporary transfer was subsequently granted to Mr. *Samuel Fellows*, the agent of Messrs. Butler and Company, of Wolverhampton."

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 17/9/1887 - Advert

"BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, Oldbury.

To be let, this noted Old-Licensed House. Low Rental to a good tenant. Present occupier declining business.

For particulars apply at Springfield Brewery, Wolverhampton."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/12/1889

"Last night a meeting was held at the BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, Oldbury, in connection with the Amalgamated Society of Canal Boatmen, Carmen, &c, for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a local lodge for the Oldbury district. Mr. G. J. Pearson (secretary) remarked that they were desirous of enrolling both open and cabin boatmen in their society. The object of the association was to regain those privileges which boatmen had lost. The Amalgamated Society of Canal Boatmen of England and Wales mustered 150,000 members. For a trip to Brentford £3 2s 6d was paid to boatmen, and 7s 6d was deducted from that amount on back freight. This was 30s less per voyage than was formerly paid. For every 2s 3d the men earned the employers got 4s 6d. It was decided to form a branch of the society, and Mr. Garner was



appointed chairman of the society, other officers being also elected.”

#### London Gazette 18/3/1890

“Notice is hereby given, that the Friendly Brothers Lodge of Odd Fellows Society, Register No.411, held at the BRIDGE INN, Stone-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, is dissolved by instrument, registered at this office, the 14th day of March, 1890, 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.

J. M. Ludlow, Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

28, Abingdon-street, Westminster, the 14th day of March, 1890.”

#### 1891 Census

69, Stone Street – BRIDGE INN

[1] *Edward Stansfield* (37), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Sarah Stansfield (36), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Kate Harris (8), niece, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[4] Sarah Holloway (16), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

William Butler and Company Limited, brewers, of Wolverhampton, were fined 40s and 59s 6d costs on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1900 for permitting drunkenness on their licensed premises, the BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, Oldbury, and supplying drink to a drunken person.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1900

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

The annual report stated that the number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness was 277 males and 30 females, 258 males and 25 females being convicted.

The Superintendent had given notices to oppose the licenses of the BRIDGE INN and the SPREAD EAGLE INN on the grounds that there was no necessity for them.....

The Bench retired to consider their decision ..... The licenses of the BRIDGE INN and SPREAD EAGLE INN would be renewed, providing that the license of the latter was taken out in the name of Messrs. J. Jordan and Company, the owners of the house.”

AND

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 25/8/1900

“Superintendent Chare objected to the renewal of this license on account of a conviction taking place in that Court, but he said since that time the house has been well-conducted, and there had been no complaint.

Mr. Wright (instructed by Fowler, Langley and Co., Wolverhampton), who appeared for the owners, Butler and Co., Wolverhampton, said they regretted the conviction, which was owing to the negligence of their manager. Immediately after the conviction, he left, and the present manager had conducted the house well. Butler and Co. would take care that as far as lay in their power no such offence should occur again.”

#### 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.....

*W. Scott*, BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, Oldbury.”

#### 1901 Census

69, Stone Street

[1] *Walter Scott* (33), tavern manager, born Acocks Green;

[2] Ada E. Scott (26), wife, born Cannock;

[3] Maudie Scott (1), daughter, born Wednesbury:

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.  
It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

Birmingham Mail 24/6/1905

“The adjourned meeting of the Worcester County Licensing Committee was held today at the Shirehall, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, for the consideration of licenses of houses in Oldbury which had been reported by the local justices as not being necessary for the requirements of the district.....

In the case of the BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, Mr. Matthews said Mitchells and Butlers gave £1,850 for the property.....

After deliberating half an hour, the justices decided that all the houses brought before them were unnecessary, but not being certain how far compensation money would suffice to meet the claims to be paid, drew up an order of precedence in which houses are to be dealt with, houses not paid for keeping open provisionally till they are dealt with.”

Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

7. BRIDGE INN, Stone Street.”

Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years' purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years' purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

BRIDGE INN, £220.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division.....

The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, £600.

The committee made awards as follows.....

BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, £600 to W. Butler and Co. Limited, owners and licensee.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1908.

## **BRITANNIA**

83, (85), (60), Dudley Road / Britannia Street, TIVIDALE

## **OWNERS**

William Whitehouse  
Samuel Brookes  
North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd.  
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

## **LICENSEES**

William Whitehouse [1845] – [1851]  
Thomas Butler [1854] – [1873]  
Samuel Brookes [1880] – [1882]  
Thomas Ellis [1891] – [1896]  
Eli Doody [1899] – [1900]  
John Harris [1901]  
Nathaniel Hadley [ ] – **1903**;  
Thomas Ellis (**1903** – [1916]  
Alfred Burns [1919] – **1922**);  
Samuel Baker (**1922** – **1924**):

## **NOTES**

[1834]

60, Dudley Road [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1900], [1901], [1904]  
83, Dudley Road [1908], [1911], [1916], [1921]  
85, Dudley Road [1912]

## **Birmingham Journal 20/1/1849**

“On Saturday last, an inquest was held at the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, on the body of Thomas Bratt, twelve years of age, who was employed as a boat-boy by Thomas Stevens, of Oldbury. It appeared that on the previous day he was with the boat, near Tividale, and on stepping into it from the towing path he missed his footing, and clung to the side. Another boat, however, was passing at the moment, and he was crushed between the two so badly that he died in less than an hour afterwards. The occurrence appeared to be purely accidental, and the Jury returned a verdict to that effect.”

## **1851 Census**

Tividale

- [1] *William Whitehouse* (58), victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Elizabeth Whitehouse (54), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Eliza Stackhouse (8), visitor, born Tipton:

Coventry Times 23/1/1861

“On Friday, at the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, an inquest was held upon the body of a child five months old, named John Shenton, who came to his death by falling upon a toasting fork, thus inflicting a fatal wound upon the forehead. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned; but the Jury censured a man named Boulton, because he was the cause of the accident, inasmuch as he attempted to kiss the girl nursing the child, and in her resistance she dropped it.”

1861 Census

Dudley Road – BRITANNIA INN

- [1] *Thomas Butler* (44), innkeeper, born Tipton;
- [2] *Harriet Butler* (43), wife, born Kingswinford;
- [3] *Ruth Knowles* (21), servant, born Dudley;
- [4] *Hannah Frost* (16), servant, born West Bromwich:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/3/1864

“Ash Tree Grounds, Tividale. J. Andrews and J. Parkes (both of Tividale).

These district men must make their final deposit of £2 10s a side good this evening, to Mr. *Butler*, the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, who is final stakeholder and referee, for their 100 yards match, for £5 a side, which stands to come off at these grounds on Monday, March 7; the men to toe the scratch at two o'clock punctually.”

County Advertiser 30/9/1865

“On Wednesday, at the Police Court, William Griffiths and William Guest, colliers, were charged with refusing to leave the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst, when requested to do so by the landlord. The defendants, it appeared, went to the inn drunk, and, when refused liquor, which they called for, abused the landlord, and threatened to break his jugs. Griffiths was the most violent, and he was fined 5s and costs, while Guest was fined 2s 6d and costs, in default fourteen days.”

Stourbridge Observer 28/10/1865

“Tividale. On Saturday last an inquest was held at the BRITANNIA INN, on the body of a man named Daniel Thomas. The deceased was a mill-furnaceman, at the Groveland Iron Works, Tividale, and on Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup> inst, was pulling a cinder waggon when the hook came out and flung him into the rolls. His right arm was pulled from his body, and his right jaw and ribs were broken. The accident occurred at 9am, and he died at 4pm. Dr. Underhill and his assistant were quickly in attendance.

After hearing the above evidence, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

On Sunday deceased was interred at the Parish Church, Rowley, a large number of his fellow workmen following him to his grave. The funeral expenses were all defrayed by Mr. Hickman, the proprietor of the works at which deceased was injured.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/7/1866

“An inquest as held yesterday afternoon at the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner, concerning the death of George Piggott, aged 37, an engineer, late in the employ of Messrs. Haines and Whitehouse, Tividale Sheet Ironworks. The deceased on Monday evening last, was engaged in a workshop at the above works in replacing a wheel and shaft, and whilst so doing part of the roof fell in, and buried the deceased and other workmen. Mr. Haines was in the shop at the time, but was not injured. The deceased was extricated as soon as possible, but was found to be dead.

Mr. Haines was of opinion that the roof fell in from a pin giving way, and did not think the work they were engaged in had anything to do with the fall of the roof.

Mrs. Piggott, the wife of deceased, was examined, and stated that she did not consider there was any neglect on the part of any person. She thought the death of the deceased was purely accidental.

The jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

London Gazette 12/6/1868

“*Thomas Butler*, now and for three weeks last past at lodgings, at the city Rowley Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, out of business, and for fifteen years previously thereto residing and carrying on business, at the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, in the said parish of Rowley Regis, Licensed Victualler and Beer Seller, adjudicated bankrupt on the 18th day of April, 1868. An Order of Discharge was granted by the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley, on the 5th day of June, 1868.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1869 - Advert

“Important Freehold Properties, Tividale and Dudley Port, near Dudley.

Thomas Howell is instructed by the Executors of the late Mr. *William Whitehouse*, to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. W. [sic] *Butler*, the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, on Monday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March inst, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read – the undermentioned desirable Properties.....  
Dudley Road and Queen Street, Tividale.

Lot 2. All that well-built and conveniently arranged Old-Licensed House and Premises, known as the BRITANNIA INN, for the last sixteen years in the occupation of Mr. William [sic] *Butler*. Also, the adjoining House, with Retail Shop, and Two other Dwelling Houses, fronting to Queen Street, in the respective occupations of Messrs. Andrews, Wall, and Richards, the whole producing £58 12s per annum.....”

Stourbridge Observer 22/10/1870

“On Sunday morning about four o'clock a man named Thomas Blunston met with a horrible death, at Messrs. Round's blast furnaces.

It appears that the poor fellow took ten waggons to the furnaces. He emptied them, and was about to descend, when the waggon ran back, knocked his head completely in, and broke his ribs and leg. The D link must have broken.

An inquest was held at the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, on Monday, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1871 Census

Dudley Road

- [1] *Thomas Buttler* (53), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Harriet Buttler* (53), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] *Hannah Porter* (19), domestic servant, born Tipton:

County Advertiser 4/12/1880

“*John Marsden*, puddler, Tividale, was charged with assaulting *William Henry Smith* on the 15<sup>th</sup> ult. Complainant said he went into the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, to have a pint of ale. Two men were quarrelling, and complainant, attempting to part them, defendant struck him three times.  
Defendant was fined 1s and costs.”

1881 Census

60, Dudley Road

- [1] *Samuel Brooks* (28), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Fanny Brooks* (28), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Fanny E. Brooks* (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Eliza Mills* (15), domestic servant, born Dudley Port:

Evening Star 3/2/1882

“*Samuel Brookes*, landlord of the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, was charged with driving a horse and carriage in the Market Place, Dudley, on Wednesday night last, so as to endanger the lives of passengers.

Inspector Wigley stated that about eight o'clock on Wednesday night the defendant was driving through the Market Place, just as the Salvation Army were marching through it. The Army turned to march up Hall Street, and defendant then whipped the horse several times, and endeavoured to drive right through the Army.

Defendant was then charged with assault and beating Elizabeth Mayfield.

Complainant, a member of the Army, stated that the defendant tried to drive through them, although they made way for him to pass. The 'Lieutenant' caught hold of the horse, and the defendant slashed him with the whip. He then tried to drive through the young woman, and imperiled the life of one sister, but witness caught hold of the horse's head and stopped him. Defendant then slashed her across the shoulders.

The evidence having been corroborated, the Bench said the defendant's conduct had been very culpable.

The Salvation Army, so long as they conducted themselves peaceably, must be protected. Defendant would be fined 15s and costs or 14 days' imprisonment for the furious driving, and 10s and costs or 14 days' imprisonment for assault."

*Samuel Brookes* – see also PLOUGH, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

#### 1891 Census

60, Dudley Road – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *Thomas Ellis* (56), widower, licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] James Ellis (19), son, labourer in iron works, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Elizabeth Ellis (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] George H. Ellis (14), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Sarah A. Oreston (19), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

#### Bridgnorth Journal 23/11/1895

"On Tuesday afternoon a young man named Joseph Leech, when walking on the towing-path of the Birmingham Canal, at Tividale, Rowley, found a girl's hat and cape on an embankment. Information was given to Police-constable Robinson, who immediately commenced to drag the canal, and in few minutes brought to land the body of a girl. The body was removed to the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, and subsequently it was identified as that of Harriett Fisher, a domestic servant, in the employ of Mr. T. H. Millington, pawn-broker, of Burnt Tree. The deceased on Sunday went to her home in the Tipton Road, and left at about eight o'clock, apparently in the best of spirits, remarking that she had got to meet her sweetheart. Nothing further was heard of her until her lifeless body was found. Inquiries made showed that the deceased had received notice to leave her situation. A letter has also been discovered addressed to the deceased, in which the writer – a female companion – states that in the event of anything happening to her, she must inquire for a watch and ring. She is also advised to have nothing to do with a young man named. It is thought by the deceased's friends that the letter caused her to be depressed and to take her life. The deceased has the appearance of being at least 18 years of age, but her parents state that she was only 15."

[The inquest, at the BRITANNIA INN, which lasted 3 hours, returned a verdict of Suicide when in a state of Temporary Insanity.]

#### County Advertiser 19/8/1899

"Enoch Shutt, labourer, of Upper Chapel Street, Tividale, was charged with being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the BRITANNIA INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, belonging to *Eli Doody*, and also with using obscene language on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst.

Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and explained that on the morning in question defendant visited the public house in company with three other men. He ordered four glasses of whiskey, but refused to pay for it, and upon applying to be supplied with another one he was refused. He then used most abusive language towards the landlord. He refused to leave when requested to do so, and had to be ejected, when he used most violent language.

Complainant and Police-constable Nicol gave evidence.

Defendant was fined 10s and costs each for refusing to quit and using violent language, and 10s including costs for drunkenness."

#### 1901 Census

60, Dudley Road – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *John Harris* (45), ironwork's puddler, born Coseley;

- [2] Emily Harris (37), wife, born Tividale;
- [3] William Harris (13), son, ironwork's galvaniser, born Tividale;
- [4] John H. Harris (5), son, born Tividale;
- [5] Harry Harris (5 months), son, born Tividale;
- [6] Emily Addison (17), domestic servant, born Tividale:

Nottingham Journal 5/10/1901

"Bankruptcy Act 1883 and 1890.....

*John Harris*, of BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, Staffordshire, licensed victualler and ironworker."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/10/1901

"Bankruptcy Proceedings. Examinations at Dudley.....

The statement of affairs of *John Harris*, of the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, formerly of the WELLINGTON INN, Tividale, showed liabilities £114 4s 8d, and a deficiency of £103 4s 8d. The examination was closed."

Wednesbury Leader 28/9/1906

"Mr. W. L. Lewis (Deputy Coroner for South Staffordshire) held an inquest at the BRITANNIA INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, Rowley Regis, on Thursday, with respect to the death of Edward Chambers (55), labourer, Burnt Tree, Tipton, who had been found drowned in the Birmingham Canal on the 25<sup>th</sup> instant.

The evidence of Florence Chambers showed that the deceased had grieved over the death of his wife, which took place twelve months ago, and had been depressed recently owing to being thrown out of employment in consequence of the closing of galvanising works. On Monday night he was left by the members of his family in the kitchen, and on the following morning he was missing.

When James Treadwell, an excavator in the employ of the Birmingham Canal Company, was walking by the Groveland Bridge Canal he saw the deceased's body in an upright position in the water, and with a boat shaft recovered the body. At the back of the head he found a wound, which had evidently been caused by a boat striking it.

Police-constable Heatherley said he had made inquiries with respect to the deceased, and there was no doubt the injury to the deceased's head was caused by a boat. As to how the deceased got into the water he had been unable to ascertain.

The Deputy Coroner said there was no doubt the deceased's mind had been unhinged through his troubles. A verdict of Found Drowned was returned."

1911 Census

83, Dudley Road

- [1] *Thomas Ellis* (75), widower, publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Roger Hillman (16), grand-son, edge tool labourer, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley Chronicle 22/7/1911

"An inquest was held on Wednesday afternoon by Mr. G. C. Lewis (County Coroner), at the BRITANNIA INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, concerning the death of James Bristow (54), a stoker, of Constitution Hill, Dudley, who had been found drowned in the Barbers Rest Pool, which is situated at the bottom of one of the Rowley hills.

James Bristow, a son, gave evidence to the effect that his father had recently been having his summer holiday. When he returned he complained of the heat and was depressed in consequence of the serious illness of another son, respecting whom he remarked, 'I hope he will be buried before I am.' On Sunday morning his father was missing from home, and during the day information was received that some of his clothing had been found on the Barbers Rest Pool embankment. The pool (which is of great depth) was dragged by Police-constable Heatherley and others, and the body was recovered on Monday.

In reply to the Coroner, one witness stated his father had domestic worries, and further that he would have to walk at least two miles to get to the pool.

The Coroner said it appeared to be a case of suicide, but there was an entire absence as to the state of the unfortunate man's mind at the time he took his life.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide.

Bristow had been employed at the Dudley Gas Works for 37 years.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 22/7/1911

“An inquiry was held last Friday evening at the BRITANNIA INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, Rowley Regis, by Mr. G. C. Lewis (County Coroner) relative to the death of George Oliver (51), miner, Brades Road, Rounds Green, Rowley, which occurred at the Lye Cross Colliery, Oakham, Rowley. Mr. Felton, Government Inspector, attended as representative of the Home Office.

John Allen, of Kates Hill, Dudley, and employed as a horse driver at the Lye Cross Colliery, stated he was employed on the night shift on Wednesday night, and left off work at about midnight. Shortly afterwards Oliver and seven others ascended the shaft in a cage, which was properly fenced. Just before the cage arrived half-way up the shaft he noticed Oliver loose his hold of a bar and fall in a heap on the cage, and afterwards into the shaft. In reply to Mr. Felton, witness stated that Oliver was the last of eight to get on to the cage at the bottom of the shaft, and he appeared to be properly dressed. He was unable to state whether his clothes got entangled. The cage did not sway. Oliver toppled over instantly, and witness shouted out ‘Hold,’ and the signal was given to the engine-winder to stop. He was unable to state as to whether anything caught Oliver.

Thomas Fletcher, who was also in the cage when the accident occurred, said there was an ample clearance between the side of the shaft and the cage. He could not say that the man’s clothing was disarranged, or that any portion of the clothing became in any way entangled. He could not state the cause of the accident.

William Matthews stated he was at the bottom of the shaft when Oliver fell out of the cage. His shirt was not properly arranged when he fell to the bottom.

Police-constable Heatherley stated that the body was terribly mutilated.

The Coroner said unfortunately there was no evidence to show the cause of the unfortunate man falling out of the cage, and the only conclusion they could reasonably arrive at was that he fell out of the cage when in the act of adjusting his clothing after leaving his work. Possibly the heat was responsible for his losing his hold of the bar in the cage.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/8/1911

“Mr. G. C. Lewis (County Coroner) held an inquest last evening at the BRITANNIA INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, Rowley Regis, concerning the death of John George Ford (13), of Brampton Road, Smethwick, who was drowned under tragic circumstances in the Tividale Canal Tunnel on August 22.

The mother, Fanny Ford, stated that she was a widow, and had no idea that her son had accompanied boatmen on a barge until she received information that he had been drowned in the Tividale Canal Tunnel.

Joseph Law, a boatman, residing at Smethwick, stated that he was on Tuesday in charge of two boats travelling from Smethwick to the Saltwell Collieries, and when starting on the journey the boy asked permission to accompany him in one of the boats. He advised him to remain at Smethwick. The boy, however, persisted in travelling in one of the boats. Just before entering the Tividale Tunnel witness gave Ford a chop for his dinner, and sat near to him. While he held the tiller in his hand, a barge belonging to the Shropshire Canal Company passed, and caused a large volume of water to splash against his boat with such force as to knock the tiller out of his hand and to cause Ford to fall between the two boats into the water. Witness did his best to rescue the lad, but was unable to do so owing to the darkness of the tunnel, and also that it was not advisable for him to jump into the water as he was unable to swim. He and Police-constable Simkin, however, dragged the canal for over an hour, and eventually succeeded in recovering the body. In reply to a jurymen witness stated there was not a front light on the Shropshire Union Canal Company’s boat, which there ought to have been when it entered the tunnel.

Several jurymen contended boatmen ought to obey strictly the regulations, especially when they had to travel through tunnels. The coroner concurred.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 16/10/1920

“Hospital Helping. The Tipton and district friendly societies’ propaganda campaign was resumed at Tividale



on Friday night. The propaganda since it was started last January has already resulted in the allocation to the several hospitals and kindred institutions in Dudley, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, and Birmingham of over £550, or £300 more than has ever been collected by the committee's efforts during the last 30 years. It is a continuation of the public house 'stunt.' The men are approached in their social moments, their sympathies appealed to and their efforts invited to help the cause from which they – when occasion offers – are the very first to receive the benefit. At Tividale on Friday night the project of putting a collection box into the houses was received with acclamation. The meetings were held at the BRITANNIA and the MINERS ARMS, Mr. *Burns* (the landlord of the former) and Mr. Cheall (the landlord of the latter) – with the help of Mr. E. Hall – making every arrangement for the holding of the meetings. Both the audiences were enthusiastic, and declared that every effort would be made to win the shield from the present holders, the PRINCE REGENT. At each meeting, which was well attended, the speakers were Messrs. T. J. Stinson (chairman), L. Lawrence (secretary), J. H. Wright (originator) and Councillor T. Rogers, JP, all of the Propaganda Committee.

At the BRITANNIA there was a decided feeling to ear-mark all subscriptions for the Guest Hospital – which each house has a perfect right to do. Mr. Webb, a three weeks' inmate of the Guest Hospital, made a good plea for it, based on the excellent treatment he had received there. So did Mr. John Godfrey, basing his observations on the fact that the hospital was 'our own' and deserved support. Eventually Mr. Godfrey and Mr. J. Workman were appointed to represent the house on the committee.

At the MINERS ARMS Messrs. W. Richards and Arthur Jones were appointed as delegates, Mr. Hall (the acting landlord) warmly supporting and promising assistance to the movement on the ground that the Guest Hospital was the 'only institution the workers could call their own.' The landlord (Mr. Cheall) also promised every assistance.

At both houses the propagandists were warmly thanked, the spokesman at the BRITANNIA saying the company felt a bit aggrieved that though boxes had been sent to other houses near, they had not had a look in. This it was explained was due to no fault on the part of the committee, the intention being to take every house in its turn. Judging from what was done at both meetings, and the enthusiasm displayed, the hospitals have got another couple of bands of men who are determined not to be left."

#### Dudley Chronicle 12/2/1921

"The annual Licensing Sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday..... Mr. Thompson (Dudley) applied for the sanction of the Bench to plans for alterations at the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale. The application was refused."

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on the grounds of redundancy.

#### Dudley Chronicle 13/3/1924

"The Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill Petty Session Division was held at the Police Court on March 5.....

Objection was raised by the police to the renewal of the license of the BRITANNIA INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, kept by *Samuel Baker* and belonging to the Dudley and Wolverhampton Breweries Company, on the ground of redundancy.

PS Sharratt stated that the weekly sale at the house was about 2 barrels of beer. The structural condition of the house was bad. Within a distance of 500 yards there were six fully licensed houses and three beerhouses (on).

Mr. W. H. Thompson (Dudley), appearing for the licensee and the owners, said he did not accept the statement with reference to the weekly sales as he had no information upon that point. He offered no objection to the license going for compensation, but asked for the renewal of it.....

The Bench retired and after deliberating in private for some time, the Chairman said that the four houses of which the Bench had taken details would be scheduled for compensation at Stafford."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/7/1924

"At a meeting under the Licensing Consolidation Act the Staffordshire Compensation Authority refused yesterday to renew the licences of fifteen houses on the ground of redundancy.....

BRITANNIA INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, full licence.”

AND

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.....

BRITANNIA INN, a full license, Dudley Road, Tividale.”

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.....

BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, £1,400.”

The house closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1924.

## **BRITISH LION**

45, (25), Talbot Street / Inkermann Street, Littlefields, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Elizabeth Nickless

Mrs. Harley, Talbot Street, Oldbury

Holt Brewery Co. Ltd.

Ansells Ltd.

## **LICENSEES**

James Hurley [1851] – [1862]

Thomas Nickless [1864] – [1873]

J Lambert [1876]

Edward Jones [1880] – [1881]

Frederick Downing [1882]

Mrs. Elizabeth Nickless [1884] – **1885**);

William Kettle (**1885 – 1888**);

George David Welding (**1888 – 1898**);

William Hadley [1888] manager?

James Nickless\* [1891] manager?

William Nickless\* [1892] manager?

Harry Hadley\*\* [1896] manager?

Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1898 – 1906**);

William Henry Hadley\*\* [1901] (**1906 – 1925**);

Samuel Dovey (**1925 – 1926**);

Thomas Harris (**1926 – 1931**);

Thomas Somers (**1931 – 1932**);

Frank Horace Stockley (**1932 – 1933**);

Stephen Haley (**1933 – 1936**);

John Clement Cowdell (1936 – 1957);  
Amelia Ann Cowdell (1957 – 1961);  
Frederick Abel (1961 – 1962);  
Ernest Rogers (1962);  
Kathleen Yorke (1962 – [ ]  
Bill Price [ ]

## NOTES

25, Talbot Street [1871], [1873], [1881], [1884]  
45, Talbot Street [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921]

It was known locally as “Pop Hadley’s.”

### 1851 Census

Talbot Street

- [1] *James Hurley* (36), cokeman and beerseller, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Louisa Hurley* (30), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Anna Hurley* (6), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Mary Ann Hurley* (2), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

### 1861 Census

Talbot Street – BRITISH LION

- [1] *James Hurley* (46), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Louisa Hurley* (40), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Hannah Hurley* (17), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Mary Ann Hurley* (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Eliza Hurley* (10), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Lucy Hurley* (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Samuel Hurley* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Sarah Jane Hurley* (3 months), daughter, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Journal 26/7/1862 - Advert

“Oldbury, Worcestershire. An Important Opportunity.

The BRITISH LION, Old Licensed Inn, at the junction of, and fronting Talbot Street and Inkermann Street, Oldbury; and fronting the main turnpike road from Oldbury to Rounds Green, near the important Ironworks, Furnaces, and Works of Captain Bennitt, an important Brickworks, and in a populous neighbourhood.

By Joseph Parkes. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, that most important, well situated, and capital House of Business, which has been conducted for many years by the present Proprietor with great advantage. The House consists of Hall Entrance, large front Club Room, 40ft by 14ft; four good Bed Rooms, capital front Smoke and Tap Rooms, Bar, Larder, Servants’ and Cooking Kitchens, three excellent Ale and one Wine Cellar; most compact Brewery, Malt and Hop Rooms; walled-in Marble and Skittle Alley, Piggeries, Stabling for nine horses, soft-water Cistern, large and entire Yard, with front entrance and folding doors; and a never-failing supply of both hard and soft Water.

Any parties wishing to go into the Public Retail Business, or conduct both Wholesale and Retail Trades, or carrying on a Family Brewery Trade, will find this an opportunity for so doing which seldom presents itself. The present occupier is retiring from business. Stock can be reduced to suit the Purchaser. Rent low. For further particulars, apply to Mr. J. S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/7/1869

“On Saturday last an inquest was held at the BRITISH LION INN, Talbot Street, before Mr. Ralph Docker, coroner, upon the body of a child, 17 months old, named Thomas Marson, the son of a labourer, residing in

Union Street. From the evidence adduced it appeared that on the Thursday previous a man named Matthew Sillitoe was leading a horse attached to a cart, containing about a ton of coals, along Union Street, when the child dropped a stick which it had in its hand in the horse road, and stooping to pick up the same, failed to do so before one of the wheels passed over its neck. The poor little sufferer was at once removed to its home, Dr. Dempsey, of Church Square, was immediately sent for. The child died, however, in the course of an hour.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

*Thomas Nickless* issued tokens from here.

#### 1871 Census

25, Talbot Street – BRITISH LION

- [1] *Thomas Nickless* (51), coal master, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Nickless* (51), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Richard Nickless* (22), son, engine fitter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Joseph Nickless* (20), son, saddler, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Thomas Nickless* (17), son, clerk, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Ezra Nickless* (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Phoebe Cooksey* (20), general servant, born Oldbury:

#### Sporting Life 8/4/1876

“Alexandra Park, Rood End, Oldbury. Easter Holidays.

Mr. John Gumbley will give £13 to be run for in a 200 yards all-England dog handicap on Saturday and Monday, April 15 and 17 – first prize £10, second £2, third £1. Entrance 1s each, no acceptance. All entries to be made at the ground, or at.....

Mr. *J. Lambert's*, BRITISH LION INN, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/1/1878 - Advert

“Oldbury. To Let, the BRITISH LION, Talbot Street; a very good old-licensed corner house, doing a large business.

For particulars, apply *J. Pardoe*, 2, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 25/2/1878 - Advert

“To Let, with immediate possession, the BRITISH LION INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury. A lease will be given to respectable tenant. In-coming very moderate.

For all particulars apply to *W. Hickman*, Auctioneer, West Bromwich.”

#### 1881 Census

25, Talbot Street

- [1] *Edward Jones* (40), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Alice Jones* (25), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Thomas J. Jones* (20), son, coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [4] *John E. Jones* (18), son, coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth Jones* (15), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Mary A. Jones* (7), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Albert Jones* (5), son, born Oldbury:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 24/9/1881

“BRITISH LION INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, Full-Licensed, To Let, and Coal Yard. Apply on the premises.”

#### London Gazette 5/12/1882

“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 *Frederick Downing*, formerly of the BRITISH LION INN, Talbot-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, but now in lodgings at the IVY BUSH INN, St Pauls-road, West Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, out of business.

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. Jackson and Sharpe, Solicitors, situate in High-street, West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, on the 19th day of December, 1882, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 30th day of November, 1882.

Jackson and Sharpe, Heath-chambers, West Bromwich, Solicitors for the said Debtor.”

#### County Express 26/5/1883

“On Saturday last an inquest was held at the BRITISH LION INN, Littlefields, Oldbury, relative to the death of Aaron Taylor (22), boatman, of Rowley, who was drowned in the canal on the previous day while drawing a boat along the canal.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1889

“Last evening Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH LION INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, touching the death of William James (30), striker, of Talbot Street, who died suddenly at his residence on Saturday last.

The evidence of Dr. Lyddon showed that death was due to heart disease, and the jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1889

“Yesterday Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest, at the BRITISH LION INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, touching the death of Fanny Smith, an infant, whose parents reside in Inkerman Street, who was found dead in bed on Wednesday morning.

Dr. Torbitt said death resulted from suffocation.

The jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

#### 1891 Census

Talbot Street – BROWN [sic] LION

[1] *James Nickless* (35), blacksmith, born Oldbury;

[2] *Lucy Nickless* (36), wife, born Ledbury, Herefordshire;

[3] *Richard Nickless* (8), son, scholar, born Lye;

[4] *James Nickless* (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury:

*James Nickless* – check NEW INN, Ault Street, West Bromwich.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 28/1/1892

“Last night a well-attended meeting of miners in connection with the Miners’ Federation of Great Britain was held at the BRITISH LION INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury.

Mr. B. Marston presided, and explained that their association was making headway, and they had already started sixteen lodges in the South Staffordshire district. ....”

\* possibly the same person

#### Fishing Gazette 18/2/1899

“The Oldbury Angling Association held their first annual dinner on Wednesday evening last, at their clubhouse, the BRITISH LION INN, Talbot Street. The members turned up in full force, and a very pleasant evening was passed. Councillor Hollyhead, the president of the society, occupied the chair, and did his best to put the members on good terms with themselves.”

### Sports Argus 14/1/1961

“In a fast car along clear dark roads at barely cock crow, I can be at the riverside in Oxfordshire, 70 miles from home in less than two hours. That’s the angler of the sixties. But for the enthusiast of 1900 it was a different kettle of fish. With home-made tackle and not much money jingling in their pockets, they walked to their venues, even if it took all day. And the anglers in the picture did walk all day. They were members of the Oldbury Piscatorials, and their journey took them to Pershore, Worcestershire, a 35-mile trudge. They set out on Saturday morning and came home on Sunday after sleeping the night on the river’s banks. Their rods, horse-hair lines, hooks and bait (chewed bread) they made themselves, but they were wonderfully skilful anglers.

George Richards, secretary of the Black Country’s Provincial A. A., was a pupil of Joe Parkes, fourth from the right on the back row. ‘Joe was the finest angler I have ever known,’ says George, and he has seen most of today’s top-notchers.

Fifth from the left on the front row is ‘Pop’ *Hadley*, whose daughter unearthed the picture. ‘Pop’ kept the BRITISH LION, Oldbury, which the Piscatorials used as their HQ. But even in 1900 the club was well-established. Their annual cup, still sparkling like new, is dated 1880. Earliest reference to the club is 1860. I wonder if the youngster in the front row is still alive. I would be interested to hear from him – and anyone who can help write another page in Oldbury’s lively angling history.

Up-to-Date Footnote: With only 25 members these days, the club had both the men’s and women’s winner – Harry Wormington and Beryl Wood – in this season’s giant B. A. A. annual contest.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 10/11/1900

“On Tuesday evening the annual dinner and prize distribution, in connection with the Oldbury Piscatorial Society, was held at the BRITISH LION, Talbot Street. Mr. H. Wright presiding over a numerous company.....”

### 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.....

*W. H. Hadley*, BRITISH LION, Oldbury.”

### 1901 Census

45, Talbot Street – BRITISH LION INN

[1] *William H. Hadley* (39), publican, born Canning Town, Essex;

[2] *Jane Hadley* (41), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Martha Jukes* (28), sister-in-law, unmarried, barmaid, born Oldbury;

[4] *Jennie Stevens* (8), niece, born Oldbury;

[5] *Rebecca Bates* (14), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/8/1901

“Angling Notes and News. The BRITISH LION Club, Oldbury, fished their annual contest on Monday last in the Avon at Pershore Wyre. The catches were good, as will be seen from the fact that thirteen prizes were taken. H. Fellows secured first prize with a nice bream scaling 2lb, Mr. J. Hale was second with another bream 1lb 5oz in weight, and Mr. J. L. Hadley was third.”

### Smethwick Weekly News 26/10/1901

“The Oldbury Piscatorial Society held their annual dinner at their headquarters (the BRITISH LION) on Wednesday last, when about sixty members, including Councillor Hollyhead (chairman), Mr. Cole (chairman of the Anglers’ Association), Mr. Miller (general secretary), and Mr. Rabone (secretary of the Anglers’ Association) sat down to an excellent spread, provided by the host (Mr. *W. Hadley*).....”

### Smethwick Weekly News 5/4/1902

“The balance sheet and statement of accounts for the quarter ending March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1902, in connection with the Piscatorial Society, which meets at the BRITISH LION, Talbot Street, was issued yesterday. The income amounts to £16 7s 2d, including £4 18s 6d, the balance brought forward. The expenditure amounted to £5 15s, leaving cash in the treasurer’s hands £10 12s 2d.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/9/1903

“The Oldbury Piscatorial had their annual dinner at the BRITISH LION INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, on Wednesday. There was a good attendance of members, and the affair passed off very pleasantly.”

#### 1911 Census

45, Talbot Street – BRITISH LION

[1] *William Henry Hadley* (49), widower, publican, born Canning Town, Essex;

[2] *Martha Jukes* (38), sister-in-law, born Oldbury;

[3] *Rebecca Bates* (24), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[4] *Jenny Stevens* (18), niece, born Oldbury:

*William Henry Hadley* issued tokens from here.

#### Dudley Chronicle 17/12/1931

“Harold Vincent Lane (18), who belongs to Rugby, but whose address was given as the BRITISH LION INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, did not appear in answer to a charge of careless driving at Amblecote on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

The allegation against Lane was that he tried to cut between a stationary cart and a horse and dray, with the result that the horse was knocked down and the lorry collided with the front off wheel of the dray.

After evidence had been given, Lane was fined 15s and ordered to pay 25s witnesses’ fees.”

#### Sports Argus 23/3/1935

“Dog Show Notices.....

Tonight, 7.15, BRITISH LION, Talbot Street, Oldbury. Special Cup, All-sporting Also Cup Best in Show,”

#### 1939 Register

Talbot Street – BRITISH LION

[1] *John C. Cowdell*, date of birth 4/2/1898, publican manager, married;

[2] *Amelia A. Cowdell*, dob 12/7/1905, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *John F. Bill*, dob 24/2/1915, steel tubes, single:

#### Evening Despatch 23/2/1944

“Pleading guilty at Oldbury today to being in possession of Army property comprising a pullover, three towels, and a pair of socks, *Amelia Cowdell*, wife of the licensee of the BRITISH LION, Talbot Street, Oldbury, was fined £5.”

*Bill Price* was married to Jean.

[1978]

Closed

It was demolished to make way for the Savacentre.

### **BRITISH QUEEN**

1, (133), (44), (49), Birmingham Road, (Birmingham Street) / Popes Lane, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

John Jordan, Langley

John. Jordan and Co. [1891], [1896]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired c.1920) [1983]

Enterprise Inns

Sukhdev Singh Sidhu (acquired in 2005) [2018]

## LICENSEES

Edward Green [1851] – [1867]

John Jordan [1867] – [1886]

Joseph Archer [1891]

Samuel Allen [1894]

John Jordan [1896] – **1913**);

Charles Underhill [1901] manager

Edward Carpenter (**1913 – 1915**);

David Round (**1915 – 1923**);

Alfred Ernest Beasley (**1923 – 1924**);

Isaac Hulse (**1924 – 1926**);

Bert Adrian Slim (**1926 – 1928**);

Leslie Howard Suckling (**1928 – 1933**);

Harry Griffiths (**1933 – 1939**);

Evelyn Griffiths (**1939 – 1952**);

Thomas Arthur Dunn (**1952 – 1957**);

Arthur Hoult (**1957**);

John Thomas Pratt (**1957 – 1958**);

George Henry Insley (**1958 – 1960**);

John William Geobey (**1960 – 1962**);

Oliver Edward O’Gorman (**1962 – 1963**);

Cyril Frank Morrall (**1963 – 1964**);

Herbert Tarbet (**1964 – 1968**);

Arthur Stephen Pratt (**1968 – 1969**);

Michael Arthur Alfred Hampton (**1969 – 1970**);

Charles Webb (**1970**);

John Carlton Adams (**1970 – 1971**);

Malcolm Ernest Minshull (**1971 – 1972**);

Raymond Harry Swinson (**1972 – 1973**);

Gerard Desmond Foden (**1973 – 1985**);

Lawrence Albert Seymour (**1985 – 1986**);

Jacqueline ‘Jackie’ Meades (**1986 – [1990]**)

Angela Branigan [2002] – [2003]

Chris Foote [2003]

## NOTES

49, Birmingham Road [1871], [1873], [1880]

44, Birmingham Road [1880], [1884], [1888]

133, Birmingham Road [1891], [1896], [1901], [1912],[1916], [1921], [1996]



1, Birmingham Road [1990]

*Edward Green*, retailer of beer, Birmingham Road. [1851]

#### 1851 Census

##### Birmingham Road

- [1] *Edward Green* (47), victualler and grocer, born Warley Wigorn;
- [2] Elizabeth Green (42), wife, born Leeds;
- [3] Mary Ann Green (16), daughter, employed at home, born Smethwick;
- [4] Samuel Green (13), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] William Green (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Elizabeth Green (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Pheobe Green (8), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Edward Green (4), son, born Oldbury;
- [9] George Green (6 months), born Oldbury:

*Edward Green*, beer retailer and shopkeeper, BRITISH QUEEN, Birmingham Street. [1855]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/7/1860

“The General Hospital. At the Weekly Board held on Friday last.....

The Secretary reported the following new annual subscriptions.....

The Reformed Order of Modern Masons, per Mr. *Edward Green*, BRITISH QUEEN, Oldbury, £3 3s.”

#### 1861 Census

##### Birmingham Road – QUEENS HEAD [sic]

- [1] *Edward Green* (52), publican and provision dealer;
- [2] Elizabeth Green (51), wife;
- [3] Marrian Green (26), daughter;
- [4] Samuel Green (23), son, carpenter;
- [5] Elizabeth Green (18), daughter, scholar;
- [6] Pheaby Green (15), daughter, scholar;
- [7] George Green (10), son, scholar:

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/6/1866

“T. Adams and J. Weston (both of Tat Bank, Oldbury) are matched to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, at Aston Cross Grounds, on Monday, July 9. Mr. Darby, MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, stakeholder. A further deposit for the same has to be made at *Green's*, BRITISH QUEEN, Oldbury Road, on Monday.”

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/4/1867 - Advert

“The BRITISH QUEEN INN, Paper Lane, Oldbury.

Unreserved Sale. To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Tuesday Next, April 30<sup>th</sup>, on the Premises as above, at Eleven o'clock in the morning – the whole of the Brewing Plant, Household Furniture, Stock-in-Trade, and Effects, consisting Hogshead, Half-Hogsheads, and other Ale Casks, Drinking and other Tables, Benches, Forms, Cups, Jugs, Glasses, Screens, Fenders and Fire-irons, Cup and Glass Shelving, Boilers, Coolers, and Fittings; together with the whole of the Household Furniture, consisting of Feather and Flock Beds, Wood and Iron Bedsteads, Chamber Ware, Washstands and Dressing Table, Bed Clothing, and numerous other effects, particulars of which will appear in Catalogues.

Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Hotel Valuer's Offices, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/5/1867 - Advert

“Oldbury. Valuable Leasehold Public House, called the BRITISH QUEEN, and Seven Messuages, situate at the corner Popes Lane, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Tuesday Next, the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, at Seven o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. J. Green, JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury, by order of the Mortgagee, and subject to such conditions as will be then produced.

The Property consists of a capital Public House; containing Bar, Smoke Room, Parlour, and Kitchen, four Bed Rooms, and large Club Room; and capital Cellaring, Brewhouse, Stabling, and other conveniences, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Edward Green*, and at the estimated value of £20 per annum.

Two Messuages and Premises, fronting the Birmingham Turnpike Road, and producing a rental of £15 12s per annum; also five other Dwelling Houses and Premises, fronting Popes Lane, and producing £36 16s 6d, or thereabouts, per annum, making a total rental of £72 8s 6d.

The Property will be offered in one or more lots, as may be determined at the time of Sale.

The Premises are held under a 99 years' Lease, granted on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1853, at the yearly rent of £30 per annum, payable half-yearly.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Luke Pope, Solicitor, Oldbury Road, Smethwick; or to the Auctioneer, Wesley Street, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/6/1867 - Notice

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire holden at Oldbury.

In the Matter of *Edward Green*, of the Birmingham Road, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Retail Brewer, Provision Dealer, Grocer, and Dealer in Tobacco, adjudged Bankrupt on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 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 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 1867.

W. H. Steward, High Bailiff."

#### County Advertiser 14/9/1867

"The annual licensing meeting of the magistrates was held at the close of the Petty Sessional business.

There were four application for spirit licenses, as follows ..... *John Jordan*, BRITISH QUEEN, beerhouse, Rood End, Oldbury, supported by Mr. Shakespeare, and opposed by Mr. J. Collins, maltster, granted."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/11/1868 - Advert

"For Sale, a strong Gray Mare. Good worker, 15½ hands high, quiet in harness, suitable for a carriage; price £16. Also, a Whitechapel Trap, price £12, cost £25 building.

Apply at the BRITISH QUEEN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury."

*John Jordan* issued tokens from here.

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 1/3/1871

"Worcestershire Adjourned Sessions.....

The trial of prisoners commenced at ten o'clock yesterday (Tuesday) morning, before Mr. R. P. Amphlett, MP, Chairman, and Sir Henry Lambert, Bart, when the following were sworn on the Grand Jury.....

*John Jordan*, Oldbury, victualler."

#### 1871 Census

Birmingham Road – BRITISH QUEEN INN

[1] *John Jordan* (37), publican, born Oldbury;

[2] Ann Jordan (38), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] William Jordan (16), son, carpenter, born Oldbury;

[4] Sarah Jordan (14), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Mary Jordan (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] Annie Jordan (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] Eliza Jordan (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[8] George Elwell (14), step-son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[9] Benjamin Elwell (12), step-son, scholar, born Oldbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/10/1871 - Advert

“For Sale, a Gray Mare, 15 hands, sound, quiet to ride, drive, and suitable for a carriage. Price £22. Apply No.49, BRITISH QUEEN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/12/1871 - Advert

“Spring Trap, suitable for a Fruiterer. Price £5. Apply at the BRITISH QUEEN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/1/1877 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady Man as Drayman. Apply, BRITISH QUEEN Brewery, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/3/1877 - Advert

“Horse for Sale, 15-2; good worker, and sound. Price £22. Sole reason for selling no further use for same. Apply, BRITISH QUEEN Brewery, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1879

“Supposed Death from Starvation at Oldbury.

An inquest was held yesterday, at the BRITISH QUEEN INN, Oldbury, before Mr. R. Docker, coroner, touching the death of William Robert Reed, the illegitimate child of Sarah Reed, a domestic servant, residing in Fraser Street.

Jemima Thomas said that Sarah Reed, mother of the infant, had been residing until lately at Dr. King’s, Smethwick. Reed was confined on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. She saw the child on the 9<sup>th</sup> ult, and it then appeared to be in a healthy condition. She was afterwards informed that the child was dying, and went to see it. She found the child dirty, and looking as though it had not enough to eat. It continued to waste away until it died. Witness, in reply to the Coroner, said she believed the child was ‘clammed’ to death. Witness said the mother of the child was dependent on her brother for support, both for herself and the child. She could not say that Reed showed any affection for the child, but she never heard her express any wish to get rid of it. Mary Ann Lowe, midwife, stated that the child when born was healthy. She heard afterwards that it had wasted away, and that medicine had been obtained for it.

William Henry Hayward, surgeon, said he saw the deceased on the 2nd inst. The child seemed to be several weeks old. It was extremely emaciated, and he considered it a clear case of starvation. The child weighed only 4lbs, and measured but eighteen inches. A child five weeks old should weigh from 15lbs to 20lbs. The Coroner remarked that the case involved was a very serious charge against the persons who had had the care of the child, and the result would depend very much upon the medical evidence. He suggested that additional medical testimony should be obtained. The enquiry was then adjourned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1879

“At a special Petty Sessions, held yesterday, before Mr. H. Chance, Sarah Reed (20), domestic servant, residing in Fraser Street, was brought up in custody, charged with having caused the death of William Robert Reed, aged five weeks, her illegitimate child.

William Henry Hayward, surgeon, deposed that, having made a post mortem examination of the body, he was of opinion that the child died from starvation and want of proper attention.

The prisoner was remanded.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1879

“Yesterday the adjourned enquiry was resumed before Mr. R. Docker, at the BRITISH QUEEN, touching the death of William Robert Reed, an infant five weeks old, the illegitimate child of Sarah Reed, a domestic servant. At the former inquest Mr. Hayward, surgeon, stated that he considered it a clear case of starvation, and an adjournment took place, in order that additional medical evidence might be obtained with regard to the cause of the child’s death

Mr. Jackson, surgeon, of Smethwick, now stated that, with one or two slight exceptions, he concurred with

the evidence of Mr. Hayward. He was of opinion that the child's death was caused by insufficient or improper food.

The jury found that the child's death was caused by neglect, which, in their opinion, arose from inexperience rather than from any criminal intention."

*John Jordan*, brewer, Queens Brewery, 44, Birmingham Road [1880]

West Bromwich Weekly News 1/1/1881 - Advert

"*John Jordan*, the BRITISH QUEEN Brewery, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

*J. J.* begs to return thanks to his numerous friends for past favours, and although he has not been able to supply all orders, now solicits a continuance of their patronage, and begs to inform them and the public generally, that after twenty-one years practical experience in the Brewing trade, he has now completed an entire new Brewing Plant, one that there is nothing like in this country, whereby he will be enabled to execute promptly all orders with which he may be hereafter favoured. All customers are solicited to expect the same. Prompt attention in every case may be relied upon in future."

1881 Census

Langley Road, Warley Wigorn

[1] *John Jordan* (47), brewer, born Oldbury;

[2] Ann Jordan (48), wife, born Rowley;

[3] James Jordan (75), father, widower, born Kinver;

[4] Sarah Jordan (41), sister, dairy maid, born Oldbury;

[5] Elize Jordan (19), daughter, housemaid, born Oldbury:

West Bromwich Weekly News 1/10/1881

"Wanted, good General Servant, one used to a Public House preferred, with good character.

Apply, BRITISH QUEEN Brewery."

*John Jordan*, brewer, Queens Brewery, 44, Birmingham Road, and maltster, Simpson Street. [1884]

Advert 1887

"*John Jordan*, Brewer of Strong and Mild Ales, Bitter Beers and Stouts.

Families supplied with pale ale at one shilling per gallon.

All orders will receive prompt attention.

Address – BRITISH QUEEN Brewery, Birmingham Road, Oldbury."

*John Jordan*, ale and porter brewer, BRITISH QUEEN Brewery No.1, 44, Birmingham Road, BRITISH QUEEN Brewery No.2, Langley Green, and maltster, Simpson Street. [1888]

Birmingham Daily Post 22/10/1888

"An inquest was held on Saturday, before Mr. Ralph Docker, coroner, at the BRITISH QUEEN INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, touching the death of Benjamin Rushton (25), of Rood End Road, glass-grinder, who died on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst.

The wife of deceased stated that her husband had complained of pains in his head since the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May last. About that time deceased and his brother quarrelled and fought in the garden. She did not see what took place during the quarrel. On the day following the fight deceased went to his work, but was compelled to return home, and had complained of being ill since. He consulted two doctors, and also visited a hospital. Sarah Lapworth said that on a day about the middle of May she saw deceased and his brother quarrelling in the garden. Deceased struck his brother twice, and the latter retaliated by striking deceased on the face. In reply to questions witness said that deceased did not fall down; but it was stated that the witness had, on the previous day, told Police-constable Bull that the deceased did fall down from the blow. Witness, continuing, said it was more like a scuffle than a fight which took place between the two brothers.

Dr. Pitt said deceased came to him about the middle of May, and complained of pains in the head. Deceased

did not say anything to witness about the fight. There were no external marks of injury upon deceased's head. Witness had treated deceased occasionally from that date up to the time of his death. Last Wednesday he was called to see the deceased, when he found him in a stupefied condition, and he died on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. Death was caused by congestion of the brain, but he could not say what had produced it without a post mortem examination.

It was further stated in evidence that deceased made nor complaint that his brother had injured him, and on the other hand it was admitted that he was in good health pervious to the fight.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased died from congestion of the brain, but there was no evidence to show how it was brought about.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/10/1889

“Mr. Docker held an inquest at the BRITISH QUEEN INN, Birmingham Road, touching the death of a female child, the daughter of Mary Ann and Thomas Jelley, who died on the 21<sup>st</sup> October. From the evidence it appeared that the child died on the way to Dr. Pitt's surgery. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

#### 1891 Census

133, Birmingham Road

- [1] *Joseph Archer* (36), widower, publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Annie Davies* (11), step-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [3] *James Davies* (10), step-son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Archer* (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Florence M. Archer* (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Annie Smith* (23), barmaid, born Rowley;
- [7] *Enoch Cash* (40), visitor, labourer copper works, born Oldbury:

*John Jordan & Co.*, BRITISH QUEEN Breweries, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, and Langley Green. [1892]

#### Evesham Journal 12/3/1892

“County Council Elections. Worcestershire.

There were no contests in the following divisions.....

Oldbury, Rounds Green and Brades Division, Mr. *John Jordan*, retired brewer.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 17/2/1894

“Ancient Order of Foresters, Court Heart of Oak (No.3562) held its anniversary dinner on Saturday last at the BRITISH QUEEN INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury. The dinner was served up in splendid style by the host (Bro. *Samuel Allen*) and was greatly enjoyed by the members and friends.....

Bro. Underhill remarked that court Heart of Oak had been established 32 years, and, he was proud to tell them, for nearly five years he had had the honour of acting as its secretary. In the past five years the Court had distributed the benefits of Forestry – in funeral allowance, the sum of £280, in sick allowance £1,582, and to benevolent purposes the sum of £78. At the end of the year 1893 there was a capital of £1,018 and a roll call of 244 members.....”

#### 1901 Census

133, Birmingham Road

- [1] *Charles Underhill* (57), public house manager, born Smethwick;
- [2] *Emma Underhill* (55), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Matilda Underhill* (21), daughter, dressmaker, born Smethwick;
- [4] *Arthur Underhill* (19), son, boiler maker's rivetter, born Smethwick;
- [5] *George Underhill* (34), son, imbecile, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Florence Underhill* (17), daughter, born Smethwick;
- [7] *Lilly Underhill* (16), daughter, born Smethwick;
- [8] *Edith Underhill* (14), daughter, schoolgirl, born Smethwick;

[9] Sarah Underhill (97), mother, widow, born Oldbury:

Court Heart of Oak (AOF) met here. [1903]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1912

“At Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

The only new application was for an off-licence for the BRITISH QUEEN Brewery, Birmingham Road, which was deferred until March 5.”

The Scotsman 18/7/1913

“Scottish and Other Wills.....

Mr. *John Jordan*, aged seventy-nine, of Oldbury, Worcestershire, and of 15, Frederick Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, founder of the firm of Messrs. John Jordan and Company, brewers, of Oldbury, director of the Hughes-Johnson Stampings Limited, left bequests to servants. Net personalty, £38,148; gross, £56,570.”

*Edward Carpenter* – see also NEW INN, West Bromwich, and CROWN AND ANCHOR, West Bromwich.

*John Jordan and Co.*, ale and porter brewers and bottlers, spirit merchants and maltsters, BRITISH QUEEN Brewery, Birmingham Road and Simpson Street. [1916]

Smethwick Telephone 21/2/1920 - Advert

“Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1920.

Important Sale by Auction by Messrs. Jones, Son, and Vernon (FAI) of the Whole of the Brewing Plant and Machinery, Horses, Large Stock of Prime Hay and Clover, etc, at the BRITISH QUEEN Brewery, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.

Catalogues on application to the Auctioneers.

Sale to commence at 11am sharp.”

Smethwick Telephone 13/3/1920 - Advert

“BRITISH QUEEN Brewery (Messrs. J. Jordan & Co.), Birmingham Road, Oldbury.

Unreserved Sale of the Whole of the Up-to-date Brewing Plant and Effects, as now at work, on Tuesday, March 23, 1920, by Messrs. Jones, Son, and Vernon (FAI).

Comprising a 60-Barrel Capacity Copper Boiler, 18-Barrel ditto, 30-Barrel Steam Jacketed ditto, large quantity of Copper Piping Unions, Connections, Parachutes, Attemporators, Refrigerators, etc, Steam Plunger Pumps, Wort Pumps, Masher and Sparger, Wrought and Cast-Iron Sectional and other Tanks, Cornish Boilers, Boiler Injectors and Fittings, Yeast and Hop Presses, Yeast Boxes, Racking Squares, Coolers, Fermenting Vessels, 10-Quarter Mash Tun, Hoppers, Hoists, 6-HP Vertical Engine, Syphon Bottling Machine, Sack and Platform Weighing Machines, Ryder’s Stamped Patent Barrel and Hogshead Measurer, Tubs, Casks, Vats, Corks, Brass and Gun Metal Taps, Quantity of Hay and Clover, Mangers, Hay Racks, Stall Divisions, Sets of Dray, Cart and Float Harness, Ash Barrel Skids, Several Capital Brewery Spring Floats, Block Carts, Spring Malt Carts, and other Vehicles, Two Brown Horses, 15 and 15½ hands respectively, both quiet and good workers.

Detailed in Catalogues on application.

Sale to commence at 11am sharp.”

*David Round* – see also KINGS ARMS.

*Bert Adrian Slim* was born in Great Bridge, c.1891.

He was injured during the First World War, whilst serving in the Coldstream Guards.

*Bert Adrian Slim* – see also QUEENS HEAD, HOLLY BUSH, and WAGGON AND HORSES, Cradley Heath, SPRING MEADOW, Old Hill, and OLD TALBOT, Smethwick.

Birmingham Mail 17/1/1939 - Advert

“Bar-General (age 25), live in; no washing, no children.  
Apply, BRITISH QUEEN, Oldbury.”

*Harry Griffiths* died on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1939, leaving £701 4s.

1939 Register

Birmingham Road – BRITISH QUEEN Public House

- [1] *Evelyn Griffiths*, date of birth 29/1/1884, licensee, widowed;
- [2] Kathleen (Pyne) Whatley, dob 10/7/1913, bar general, single;
- [3] Lavina O. Andrews, dob 12/10/1918, bar general, single:

*Thomas Arthur Dunn* – see also PERRY HILL TAVERN.

*Gerard Desmond Foden* – see also COTTAGE.

A team from here took part in the Smethwick and District Charity Darts League. [1981/2], [1986/7]

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/12/1990

“Big Pete Hulse received close backing from other regulars as he cued off at the start of a 12-hour indoor sports marathon at an Oldbury public house which raised £1,000 for a children’s charity. Regulars at the BRITISH QUEEN in Birmingham Road, Oldbury, raised the cash for MASCOT (Make A Sick Child’s Dream Come True), the charity which provides trips to such places as Disneyland for seriously ill youngsters. They spent 12 hours playing each other at pool, darts, dominoes and other sports at 50p a time and ended the effort with a disco.

Licensee Miss *Jackie Meades* said the pub was also sponsored in its efforts and had a collection bottle. She said, ‘The people are very generous and recognise this as a worthwhile charity. We raised just under £900 for MASCOT last year but this time the final proceeds will be about £1,000.’”

It was renamed HILLBILLIES in 1995.

A breach of a noise abatement notice was served on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2002.

*Angela Branigan* was fined £1,500 and £5,036 costs on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2003.

The entertainment license was not renewed on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2003.

It was renamed BRITISH QUEEN in 2004.

Express & Star 10/3/2010

“Police officers tasered a berserk drunk father in Oldbury to calm him down after he had armed himself with a pool cue when an argument broke out over pictures taken on a mobile telephone. The disorder spilled into the street outside the BRITISH QUEEN, Birmingham Road ..... ordered to carry out 140 hours unpaid work in the community and to pay £300 costs.”

Express & Star 31/7/2018

“Bottoms up! The winner of the *Express & Star*’s most popular pub of the year for Sandwell has been announced. The BRITISH QUEEN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, won the award after fierce competition. Sukhdev Singh Sidhu, who has owned the pub for 13 years, said it was wonderful to win the title. He said, ‘It was amazing. Last week someone mentioned that we’re on the top so it was amazing. We’re very grateful for the customers for choosing us and we’re thankful for them. It will be good to get more business and we’ll try our best to give customers what they require as we’re already doing.

Mr. Sidhu, who previously ran a wholesale milk business from 1990 to 2012, purchased the BRITISH QUEEN pub in 2005. He said, ‘Someone bought it in 2004 and he ran it for five or six months, then I bought it. It was only a small business so I ended up abiding my time, spending a lot of money on refurb-

bishments and the beer garden to build it up and slowly it comes to this.' He added, 'You have to do the hard work. All the staff and myself, we try to do hard work to keep our customers and give them what they require so that we do our best.'”

[2021]

## **BROMFORD TAVERN**

Bromford Lane, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

Thomas Hughes [1866]

### NOTES

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1865 - Advert

“BROMFORD TAVERN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury.

By E. H. Barton. To be Disposed Of, the above important, well-situated Beerhouse, with commodious Premises adapted for the business. There are several extensive Works in the immediate vicinity. A good trade is done. Satisfactory reasons for leaving. Coming-in about £100.

Apply upon Premises, or to the Auctioneer, 47, Union Passage, Birmingham.”

#### London Gazette 24/4/1866

“*Thomas Hughes*, now and for eight months last past residing at the BROMFORD TAVERN INN, in the township of Oldbury, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, adjudicated bankrupt on the 8th day of March, 1866. An Order of Discharge was granted by the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, on the 20th day of April, 1866.”

#### London Gazette 15/3/1867

“*Thomas Hughes*, of the BROMFORD TAVERN INN, in the township of Oldbury, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, Retail Brewer, and previously thereto of the WHITE SWAN INN, Brass-house-lane, Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, Retail Brewer and Iron Roller, adjudicated bankrupt on the 8th day of March, 1866. A Dividend Meeting will be held on the 25th day of March instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.”

## **BROOK TAVERN**

21, (41), Stone Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Mrs. Clay, Smethwick



George Jerrams, brewer, Tat Bank, Oldbury  
William Charles Adams  
Holders Brewery Co. Ltd. (leased)

## LICENSEES

James Hale [1881] – **1885**);  
Thomas Carr (**1885 – 1892**);  
James Fox (**1892 – 1896**);  
William Charles Adams (**1896 – 1897**);  
Edwin John Baker (**1897**);  
Frederick Dewis (**1897 – 1898**);  
George Henry Jones (**1898 – 1901**);  
William Henry Draper (**1901 – 1904**);  
William Charles Adams (**1904 – 1906**):

## NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

### 1881 Census

41, Stone Street – BROOK TAVERN

- [1] *James Hale* (36), beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Eliza Hale* (34), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Mary Ann Hale* (7), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Thomas Hale* (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Lizzie Hale* (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *James Hale* (1), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Mary Clarke* (14), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

### Wednesbury Herald 22/4/1882

“A meeting of retail brewers, held at the BROOK TAVERN, Oldbury, on Wednesday night, decided to join the West Bromwich and District Retail Brewers’ Association.”

*James Hale*, beer retailer, 14, Stone Street. [1884]

### Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1884

“At the Police Court, yesterday, *Emma Hale* (35), wife of *James Hale*, landlord of the BROOK TAVERN, Stone Street, Oldbury, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. Police-constable Rivers stated that at 10.30pm on the day named he visited the BROOK TAVERN, in company with Police-constable Bayliss, and found the defendant very drunk in the bar. Defendant, who pleaded guilty, was fined 10s and costs, or fourteen days.”

*Thomas Carr*, beer retailer, Stone Street. [1888]

### Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1888

“Last night a meeting of miners was held at the BROOK TAVERN, Stoner Street, Oldbury, for the purpose of considering the wages question. A Miner, who presided, remarked that he hoped the miners individually would do their best to advance the wages. Trade was now reviving, and he considered it was the proper time for them to receive increased remuneration for their labour. The opinion which prevailed was that they were going to block trade by the action they were about to take. It was high time that they were up and doing.

Mr. H. Rust said that ever since June, 1884, there had been no arrangements whatever between masters and men to regulate wages. Since that time miners had suffered severely from low wages. During the last few months the officials of the district had been anxious that some arrangement should be made between employers and employed to regulate wages. It was generally thought that miners' agents were in favour of strikes and lock-outs, because it was stated that the representatives received better wages. He considered the public would be convinced that this was not the case, because if strikes were favourable to them, the agents would not endeavor to prevent them. The Oldbury miners had failed to support the representatives of the men who attended the conferences, as miners of other districts had. He hoped that the Oldbury men would place their agents upon the same footing as their colleagues. In that district the employers had been endeavouring to take away their perquisites and fire coal.

The Wages Board would be the means of protecting their rights. He contended that the Board would not prove any benefit to the miners without they united. If the miners had been united he was convinced that their wages would have been 10 per cent more than they were at the present day. If the miners of that town did not support him better in his actions he should refrain from representing them upon the Board. The low wages that colliers were receiving were due to the action of the men and not their representatives. The miners of that district had been placed in an awkward position by the action of the Cannock miners.

It was stated that at some of Lord Dudley's collieries the men had agreed to defer the notice for fourteen days.

Resolutions were carried in favour of two accountants being appointed to examine the employers' books, also approving of a Wages Board being formed, and adhering to the notice.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 25/4/1890

"Last night a well-attended meeting of miners was held at the BROOK TAVERN, Stone Street, Oldbury. Mr. H. Rust (vice-president of the Coal Trade Wages Board) and Mr. H. Barnes (secretary) addressed the meeting, pointing out the advantages of the Wages Board. Resolutions were unanimously passed to the effect that the miners present, seeing what the Wages Board had done for them, pledged themselves to stand by the Board and the officials; also repudiating the assertions being made by the agents of other districts that their officials had formed the Wages Board, and expressing confidence in their representatives, and also recommending all miners to join the association."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/11/1890

"Last night a meeting of miners was held at the BROOK TAVERN, Oldbury. Mr. H. Rust said the West Bromwich district had always been ready to assist or relieve the miners in other localities when in need, and yet after having done so other districts had now turned round upon them, and the leaders of the men were saying all they could detrimental to that district. The threat of another union to spend £100 to smash up the wages board was being carried out, and they were sending men into that district to poison the minds of the miners against the wages board, but he was glad to say that the men were paying no attention to them. The miners connected with the board had received an advance of 40 per cent, whilst one district under the federation had only received 22½ per cent.

Mr. A. Ramsell also addressed the meeting, and resolutions were passed in favour of an eight-hours bill and the continuance of the present wages board."

#### 1891 Census

21, Stone Street – BROOK TAVERN

- [1] *Thomas Carr* (42), coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Lucy Carr* (40), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *William Carr* (20), son, striker, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Joseph Carr* (18), son, fitter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *John Carr* (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Jane Carr* (6), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Peter Carr* (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Thomas Carr* (1), son, born Oldbury;

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/8/1891

“On Saturday night a meeting of miners belonging to the West Bromwich and District Miners’ Association was held at the BROOK TAVERN, Oldbury, for the purpose of considering the proposed disposal of the Pel-sall Inundation Fund. A resolution was passed in favour of the Court of Chancery making an order for the money to be handed over to the South Staffordshire Mining Accident Fund.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1891

“On Saturday night the annual meeting of the Oldbury branch of the West Bromwich and Oldbury Miners Union was held at the BROOK TAVERN, Stone Street, Oldbury; Mr. John Richards (chairman of the district) presiding. Mr. H. Rust (agent) spoke on the growth of unionism in the West Bromwich and Oldbury district, and also of the increase in its influence in settling disputes with the employers. A workman referred to the strike at Messrs. Chance Bothers’ Glass Works at Spon Lane, and urged that the association should help the glassmakers in their struggle, as it was a blow aimed at trades unionism. (Hear, hear.) The Chairman remarked that the association had already rendered the glassmakers assistance, £15 having been sent by them in aid of the strike fund. (Applause.)”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1892 - Advert

“Oldbury. BROOK TAVERN, Stone Street; doing good trade. Lease can be had. Apply on Premises.”

*James Fox*, beer retailer, 21, Stone Street. [1896]

1901 Census

21, Stone Street

- [1] *George H. Jones* (34), general labourer, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Fanny E. Jones* (34), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Christian H. Jones* (13), son, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Ann A. Jones* (10), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Georgina B. Jones* (8), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [6] *William H. Jones* (3), son, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Thomas C. Jones* (1), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Amelia [no surname]* (19), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*William Henry Draper* – see also BARREL.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905. It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

Birmingham Mail 24/6/1905

“The adjourned meeting of the Worcester County Licensing Committee was held today at the Shirehall, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, for the consideration of licenses of houses in Oldbury which had been reported by the local justices as not being necessary for the requirements of the district.....

The next house taken was the BROOK TAVERN, Stone Street, Mr. Jeffries appearing for the parties concerned, and saying that the license had been in existence 70 years.....

After deliberating half an hour, the justices decided that all the houses brought before them were unnecessary, but not being certain how far compensation money would suffice to meet the claims to be paid, drew up an order of precedence in which houses are to be dealt with, houses not paid for keeping open provisionally till they are dealt with.”

Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Old-

bury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

11. BROOK TAVERN, Stone Street.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/8/1905

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee having decided to refuse fifteen Oldbury licenses, as the amount of the compensation fund available allows, sat yesterday at the Shire Hall, Worcester, to decide who are the persons entitled to compensation.....

BROOK TAVERN, *William Charles Adams* (licensee and registered owner). The claim of Messrs. Holder Ltd, in respect of a tie for beer, and first option of purchase, acquired from the City Brewery Company, in liquidation, was adjourned to the next court.”

Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years’ purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years’ purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

BROOK TAVERN, £175.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division..... The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

BROOK TAVERN, Stone Street, £335.

The committee made awards as follows.....

BROOK TAVERN, Stone Street, £203 to the licensee and registered owner, *William Charles Adams*, and £130 to the lessees, Holder’s Brewery.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

**BROWN LION**

84, (37), Birmingham Street, (38, Birmingham Road) / Flash Road, (41, Freeth Street), Oldbury Green,

## OLDBURY

### OWNERS

E. F. Farley, brewer  
Edward Freeland, Tamworth (later at Fazeley)  
Mark Gibbs (later at Trewalder House, Malvern)  
J. W. J. Kingstone Ltd. [c. 1920]  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1929]

### LICENSEES

John Cheshire [1829] – [1845]  
Joseph Yates [1845] – [1850]  
Samuel Bullock **(1850 – 1855)**;  
Solomon Portman [ ] – **1856**);  
Meshach Fletcher **(1856 – [ ]**  
Solomon Portman [1857]  
J Portman [1859]  
John Allsopp [ ] – **1870**);  
George Walker Allsopp\* **(1870 – [ ]**  
George William Allsopp\* [1872]  
George Walter Allsopp\* [ ] – **1872**);  
William Underhill Jnr. **(1872 – [1873]**  
Thomas Harwood [1874] – [1878]  
Edward Townsend [1880]  
Collin Bell [1881] manager  
Joseph Holberry **(1882 – 1885)**  
Joseph Holloway **(1885)**;  
Mrs. Emma Southall **(1885 – 1889)**;  
George Allen White **(1889 – 1892)**;  
Mark Gibbs **(1892 – 1910)**;  
Charles Henry Mitchell **(1910 – 1911)**;  
Claude Vincent **(1911 – 1913)**;  
Ernest Jones **(1913 – 1914)**;  
George Fenton **(1914)**;  
John 'Jack' York **(1914 – 1922)**;  
Archie Gilbert Thurman **(1922 – 1925)**;  
Sidney Bowser **(1925 – 1930)**;  
Samuel George Evans **(1930 – 1933)**;

### NOTES

Oldbury Green [1845], [1850]  
41, Freeth Street [1873]  
38, Birmingham Road [1873]  
37, Birmingham Street [1878]  
84, Birmingham Street [1891], [1901], [1911], [1912]

### 1841 Census

Birmingham Street

- [1] *John Cheshire* (40), butcher;
- [2] John Cheshire (20), butcher;
- [3] Charlotte Cheshire (40);
- [4] Sarah Cheshire (13);
- [5] Ellen Cheshire (9);
- [6] Charles Cheshire (7);
- [7] Elizabeth Cheshire (5);
- [8] Benjamin Cheshire (4);
- [9] Ann Skett (15);
- [10] William Wright (35), schoolmaster;
- [11] N. K. (30), miller;
- [12] John Collins (15), slater:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/6/1844 - Advert

“Freehold Public House and Property, in Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Septimus Davis, at the TALBOT INN, in Oldbury, in the county of Salop, on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June inst, at six o'clock in the evening.....

Lot IV. A large, commodious, and substantial newly-built Public House, known as the BROWN LION INN, now in the occupation of Mr. *Cheshire*, the proprietor, having extensive frontages to the Dudley and Birmingham Turnpike Road and the Street leading to the Flash, with the Butcher's Shop, Brewhouse, Stable, Piggery, and other conveniences, containing, with the site of the Buildings, 566 square yards.

The House is extensive and well-arranged for carrying on the Innkeeping Business, either with or without a retail trade, having a large and convenient corner Shop fronting the road and street. The House also comprises a large and lofty club-room, eight sleeping rooms, commodious bar, parlour, tap-room, kitchen, larder, and five cellars; and the yard, which is inclosed and spacious, contains a large soft water cistern and pump of excellent water.

The whole of these Premises, which have been recently erected regardless of expense, are in thorough repair, and immediate possession may be had.”

[This advert reappeared in the paper on 27/10/1845.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/10/1844 - Advert

“BROWN LION INN, Oldbury, Salop.

To be Disposed Of by private Contract, the Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate Possession of the above old-established Public House, in consequence of the Proprietor having other engagements.

The above House is substantially-built, with every convenience for a Commercial Inn, and from its commanding situation, cannot fail to ensure a valuable opportunity to any industrious couple wishing to embark in the above business. The House will be let either with or without a Butcher's Shop adjoining the Bar.

The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a valuation. Rent and payments moderate.

For further particulars and to treat apply to Mr. *Cheshire* upon the premises, or to S. Bradbury, Auctioneer, West Bromwich.”

*John Cheshire* was also a butcher. [1845]

Worcester Journal 7/5/1846

“Between two and three o'clock on Wednesday morning last, the house of Mr. *Yates*, the BROWN LION INN, Oldbury Green, was forcibly entered, and a box containing money belonging to the Miners' Lodge, carried off, as also a desk belonging to the Tradesman's Lodge. The fellows, however, appear to have been disturbed after carrying off the booty, as on search being made in the course of the morning, the box was discovered in an adjoining field, with the lid broken open, but most fortunately the money was not discovered, as it had been deposited for greater safety in a secret drawer. A reward of £10 has been offered for the apprehension of the thieves.”

Birmingham Journal 18/7/1846

“The anniversary of the Pillar of Hope Lodge, O.F.W.U., was held at Host *Yates*’s BROWN LION, Oldbury, on Monday last, when about sixty members and friends sat down to dinner. After the cloth was drawn, the chair was taken by P. G. Gibbs and the vice-chair by N. G. Powell. The surgeon of the lodge, Mr. T. R. Cooper, visited the meeting in the afternoon, and at the request of the members, addressed them at some length on the relative and general advantages of Odd Fellowship, seriously impressing upon them the necessity of strict adherence to the principles laid down for their guidance, and the obligation each and all were under in endeavouring, by every just means in their power, to carry the same into effect, and by so doing, show the world its results, and thus gain its approbation and support. The health of the host and family was then given by the chairman, who expressed the satisfaction of the meeting for the really sumptuous dinner that had been provided. The host acknowledged the compliment in suitable and feeling terms. The members shortly after separated, much pleased with the entertainment of the evening.”

Birmingham Journal 31/10/1846

“On Saturday last, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Yates*, the BROWN LION INN, Oldbury, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of a man, named David Hughes, a miner, aged thirty, who was killed while blasting in an ironstone pit belonging to Messrs. Peacock and Whitehouse, near Oldbury. It appeared from the evidence of John Boden, who worked in the same pit, and was only a few yards distant from the deceased at the time of the occurrence, that Hughes was engaged between one and two o’clock on Wednesday in preparing for a blast, when by some accident the charge exploded before the time expected, driving a piece of rock against his side, which inflicted such severe injuries that the poor fellow died on the following Friday. As the accident was the result of want of caution on the part of the unfortunate man, a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Journal 11/3/1848 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale of Two Capital Open Boats.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Prince, on Monday, March the 20<sup>th</sup>, at the house of Mr. *Yeates*, BROWN LION INN, Oldbury, at Six o’clock in the evening.

No. 1 – A Deal Boat, in very fair working condition.

No. 2 – A good Oak Ditto, in capital condition.

For particulars, and to view the same, apply to Mr. Wm. Corker, Boat Builder, Stoney Lane, Oldbury.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 4/11/1850 - Advert

“Important to Parties Desirous of taking Inns.

To be Let, that old-established and full-licensed House, known by the sign of the BROWN LION, situated at Oldbury.

The Stock, Fixtures, &c, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

The House stands in a good situation, close to the Dudley and Birmingham Turnpike Road, and is doing an extensive trade.

The present tenant has been in the House upwards of five years, and is now retiring from the Public Business.

The House and Premises are commodious, and comprise front parlour and front tap-room, bar, and back kitchen, lodge-room, five sleeping rooms, two ale cellars, liquor cellar, good yard, piggeries, a good supply of hard and soft water, and every convenience attached to the House which may be desired.

There are two Lodges, with 130 Members, and three Clubs, with 121 Members, at the House.

The Coming-in will be upwards of £500, but may be reduced to £350 to accommodate parties coming in, if desired.

The present tenant will give up possession immediately, or stay six months, as parties may suggest who wish to embrace the opportunity.

For further particulars and to treat apply to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

Birmingham Journal 7/12/1850 - Advert

“Freehold Land and Buildings, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, at the House of Mr. *Joseph Yates*, the BROWN LION INN, Oldbury, on Monday, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1850, at Six o'clock in the evening.....”

#### 1851 Census

Birmingham Street

- [1] *Samuel Bullock* (31), victualler, born Bilston;
- [2] *Eliza Bullock* (31), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Joseph Bullock* (9), son, born Bilston;
- [4] *John Bullock* (7), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Samuel Bullock* (5), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [6] *Phineas Bullock* (3), son, scholar, born Bilston;
- [7] *Mary J. Bullock* (10 months), daughter, born Bilston;
- [8] *Jane Latimer* (20), general servant, born Oldbury;
- [9] *Mary Wilson* (11), general servant, born Oldbury;

#### London Gazette 3/8/1855

“Whereas a Petition of *Samuel Bullock*, now and since the 21st day of April, 1855, residing in Brick-house-lane, in the parish of West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, Journeyman Carpenter, and for four years and nine months previously residing in Birmingham-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, carrying on business as a Licensed Victualler, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at the Court House, Oldbury, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Samuel Bullock*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Samuel Bullock* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 18th of August instant, at nine 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 *Samuel Bullock*, 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, Oldbury, the Official Assignee of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.”

#### Birmingham Journal 22/8/1855

“On Saturday last the following insolvency cases were disposed of at the Oldbury County Court.....  
*Samuel Bullock*, now residing at Hill Top, West Bromwich, a carpenter, and formerly a publican, at the BROWN LION, Oldbury, passed his first examination, supported by Mr. Watson, and opposed by Mr. Sill. The opposition was reserved.”

#### Birmingham Journal 12/1/1856 - Advert

“Capital Old-Licensed House at Oldbury Green. The BROWN LION, near the New Carriage Works. By W. L. Turner. To be Sold by Private Contract, the above noted House, with immediate possession. The Stock is low, and the Furniture can either be taken to or not. For particulars, apply upon the Premises; or to W. L. Turner, House Agent, Surveyor, and Valuer, Star Inn, Lower Loveday Street, Birmingham. W. L. Turner, Appraiser and Public House Agent, has the Disposal of the Licenses and Possession of a small Old-Licensed House, in the centre of the town of Oldbury, and joining the Market. Fixtures and Brewing Utensils only to be taken to, the present Proprietor retiring. Apply as above. Lists to be had gratis. No charge made for entering Public Houses or other Business for Sale.”

#### Birmingham Journal 1/3/1856 - Advert

“That Excellent Old-Licensed Public House, the BROWN LION, in High Street, Oldbury. By H. Detheridge. To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Inn. Licenses, Fixtures, and Brewing Utensils to be taken at a fair valuation. The Premises are very commodious and convenient, possessing capital Business accommodation, with extensive Cellaring, a good Yard, and Stabling. Rent and payments low. The only reason the present Proprietor giving up the above Inn is in consequence of having other business



which occupies the whole of his time.

For particulars, apply to Mr. Fletcher, Rounds Green, Oldbury; or to Mr. Detheridge, Public House Agent, High Street, Brierley Hill.”

Worcester Journal 5/7/1856

“Worcestershire Midsummer Sessions. ....

Jane Parkes, 38, tailoress, Sarah Jane Parkes, 13, tailoress, Mary Ann Hodgetts, 39, dressmaker, and Eliza Hunt, 39, brickmaker, were indicted for uttering counterfeit coin at Oldbury on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Streeten prosecuted, and Mr. Richards defended the prisoner Hodgetts.

Mary Ann Basford, wife of the keeper of the BLACK BOY beershop, Oldbury, stated that on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult, about eight o'clock in the evening, the four prisoners came to her house; Jane Parkes had a pint of ale; Hodgetts and Hunt left about ten minutes afterwards; one of them said they should not be long before they came back. Jane Parkes stayed till after eleven o'clock. Sarah Jane Parkes left the house several times during the evening; on two occasions of her return bringing with her some cakes and flowers; she gave some coppers to Jane Parkes, who put them into her basket. During the evening the latter asked witness to give her three half-crowns for some small change, which she did. Hodgetts and Hunt were strangers, but the Parkeses were known to witness. Hodgetts and Hunt were not in the house during any of the transactions stated.

Mary Deakin was at her daughter's shop at Oldbury, on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult, when Sarah Jane Parkes came in and asked for a pennyworth of cakes, tendering a shilling in payment. Witness gave her the change, but before witness could pick up the shilling Parkes decamped, and the shilling was given to PC Simmonds on the following morning, as counterfeit.

On the evening in question the prisoners Hodgetts and Hunt went to another house, the BROWN LION, Oldbury; there was a third person with them, whom the landlady, Sophia *Portman*, could not identify. In payment for some port and sherry a shilling was tendered, change being given in coppers. The shilling was on the following morning found to be counterfeit, and given to PC Simmonds.

John Smith, landlord of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury, stated that on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>, the prisoners Hodgetts and Hunt went to his house, and in payment for some sherry, Hunt tendered a shilling, which witness returned to her as bad. She then went to Hodgetts, returned, and gave witness half-a-crown. Witness afterwards went to the PARROT ARMS, and there saw Hodgetts and Hunt, whom he asked if they knew him. They replied 'Yes.' On asking them if they recollected trying to pass a bad shilling at his house, Hunt said she did not know it was bad. Witness gave the change for the half-a-crown to Hunt, who he believed passed it to Hodgetts.

At the PARROT ARMS the prisoners had two glasses of sherry, a shilling being tendered in payment by Hunt. Fanny Proctor, waitress, gave the shilling to the landlord.

Sarah Jane Parkes went to the shop of Reuben Green, and in payment for some cakes produced a shilling. Green told her it was bad, when she said she had it from her mother's. It was returned to her. In consequence of what he had heard, Green went to the BLACK BOY, where he saw the prisoner Parkes.

Daniel Darby, a constable, was at the PARROT ARMS, about half-past ten at night, when the prisoners came in. A person also came in and said the prisoners had been passing a bad shilling at John Smith's. The landlord then produced the shilling he had taken from them, and it was found to be counterfeit. Witness then asked them how many more they had like that; they said none – they did not know it was bad. On asking them if they had been at Smith's, they said they had not, but on Smith being sent for they admitted being at his house. Darby received the shilling, and thereupon took the prisoners into custody.

PC Simmonds went to the BLACK BOY and found the prisoners Parkes there. He charged them with passing counterfeit coin. He said he should search them and told them to get up. When Sarah Jane Parkes got up and walked across the kitchen a handkerchief was dropped, which on being picked up was found to contain nine bad shillings and a crown-piece. Jane Parkes gave Tilsley a small bag containing 11d. Moved her on one side and found in her hand a purse, containing three bad shillings and five good sixpences. There was a basket on the screen, which prisoner said at first was not hers, but subsequently said it was her daughter's (Sarah Jane Parkes). Took them to the station house and there Sarah Jane Parkes said she picked the handkerchief up in a field at Rowley. Hodgetts said that Parkes lodged with her. While in the station Jane Parkes said she came from Dudley, and that Hodgetts gave her the purse to hold for a little while.

Mr. J. M. Skarratt proved the money passed and found in the possession of the prisoners to be counterfeit. Jane Parkes's statement taken before the Magistrates was read, which was to the effect that she received the purse and its contents from her daughter. The statement of the latter was that she picked the handkerchief up in a field, but did not let her mother know anything about it.

A victualler, named Harper, of Dudley, spoke to the excellent character of Hodgetts, whom he had known for 20 years, and she had worked for his family ten years. Hunt also produced two letters as to her character. The chairman minutely summed up the evidence, and the jury found all the prisoners guilty, but recommended Hodgetts and Hunt to mercy on account of their previous good character.

Hodgetts was sentenced to nine calendar months, Jane Parkes to twelve months, Sarah Jane Parkes to twelve months, and Hunt twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour, each."

#### London Gazette 28/10/1856

"*Solomon Portman*, late of Oldbury-green, Halesowen, Worcestershire, Victualler. In the Gaol of Worcester."

#### Worcester Journal 22/11/1856 - Notice

"Insolvent Debtor, to be heard before the Judge of the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Worcester, at the Guildhall, Worcester aforesaid, on Wednesday, the Tenth day of December, 1856, at the hour of ten in the morning precisely.

*Solomon Portman*, late of the BROWN LION, Oldbury Green, in the Parish of Halesowen, in the County of Worcester, Licensed Victualler; previously of Northfield Road, Netherton, in the Parish of Dudley, in the said County of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, but formerly of the same place, Beerhouse Keeper, Corn Dealer, Cowkeeper, and Milkseller.

Thos. A. Wilson, Attorney for the said Insolvent Debtor."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 17/12/1856

"At the sitting of the Worcester County Court, on Wednesday, the following insolvency cases were heard..... *Solomon Portman*, a young man who had kept a beer-shop in Halesowen, and had been struggling unsuccessfully to establish himself at Netherton and other places, came up for discharge. He was unopposed, and discharged."

#### Birmingham Journal 9/5/1857 - Advert

"To be Sold, a Light Gig, with Lamps, complete, made by Dowell, Birmingham, a few months ago; had little wear, and cost £25. Will be sold cheap, and may be seen at *Solomon Portman's*, the BROWN LION INN, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/5/1858 - Advert

"To Saddlers, Butty Colliers, and Others.

By R. L. Courtney, at the BROWN LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, on Monday Next, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

All the Stock-in-Trade of a Saddler. Also Four Gigs, Two Spring Traps, Three Horses, and Two Ponies, Store Pigs, and Household Furniture, removed to the above named Inn for convenience of sale, belonging to a party who is going to Australia.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/6/1859 - Advert

"To be Sold, a bargain, a nearly new strong Spring Cart, capable of carrying from 20 to 25cwt, suitable for a Corn Dealer, Maltster, Factor, &c.

Apply at the BROWN LION INN, Oldbury, where it may be seen."

*Solomon Portman* – see also LOVING LAMB, Netherton.

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/10/1859

"To be shot for (no man barred), at the house of Mr. *J. Portman*, BROWN LION INN, Oldbury, Stafford-

shire, on Monday, October 24, a superior home-fed pig, warranted 28 score, by 24 members, at 10s each (tickets unlimited). Conditions: To shoot at 3 or 5 birds each, gun  $\frac{3}{4}$ in bore,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz of shot, 21 yards rise; double guns  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz of shot, 19 yards rise, 60 yards boundary. Birds supplied by Mr. Badham of Birmingham. Shooting to commence at one o'clock. Parties coming by rail will book to Oldbury, on the Stour Valley line, five minutes' walk from the station to the inn. If time a sweepstakes after the shooting for the pig."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/10/1859

"At Mr. *Portman's*, the BROWN LION, Oldbury, the list for the pig not filling, a sweepstakes was shot by four members, at £1 each, 3 birds, when Messrs. Smith, Millington, Moore and Cottis tied, killing all, and shot off, Cottis and Millington shot out. Smith and Moore shot up to the tenth bird, and again tied killing all and divided."

Birmingham Journal 12/5/1860 - Advert

"Oldbury. Re *Solomon Portman*, Innkeeper, a Bankrupt.

Sale at the BROWN LION INN, of the Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, Wine, and Spirits, Well-seasoned Casks, Brewing Utensils, excellent Bagatelle Table, Malt Crusher, Hops, Beer Machine, Light Spring Carts, Gigs, and Harness; together with the Fittings and Fixtures.

Which will be Sold by Auction, by Mr. H. Court, on Tuesday Next, May the 15<sup>th</sup> (by order of the Assignee), on the Premises as above, commencing at Eleven o'clock.

Catalogues may be obtained at the Offices of C. T. Saunders, Esq, Solicitor, Cherry Street; or the Auctioneer, 13, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/5/1860 - Advert

"Public House Effects and Furniture.

By Mr. H. Court, This Day (Tuesday), at Eleven o'clock, at the BROWN LION INN, Oldbury.

Household Furniture and Stock-in-Trade."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/4/1862 - Notice

"The Commissioner authorised to act under a Petition for Adjudication of Bankruptcy against *Solomon Portman*, of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Innkeeper, dealer and chapman, will sit on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April inst, at Eleven o'clock, at the District Court of Bankruptcy, in Birmingham, to Audit the Accounts of the Assignees of the Estate and Effects of the said Bankrupt, under the said Petition.

C. T. Saunders, Solicitor to the Assignees."

Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1863

"Bankrupts. Declaration of Dividends.....

*Solomon Portman*, Oldbury, innkeeper. First dividend of 1s 1d any Thursday, at Mr. Kinnear's, 37, Waterloo Street, Birmingham."

\* possibly the same person

*George W. Allsop* issued tokens from here.

*William Underhill Jnr.* was also a baker and maltster. [1873]

County Express 31/10/1874 - Advert

"Oldbury, near Birmingham. Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public-House and Chemist's Shop.

Messrs. Hawkins and Son will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November Next, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that desirable well-situated Corner Business Shop, Dwelling House, and Premises, now used as a Chemist and Druggist's Shop, comprising Hall Entrance, Sitting Room, Dining Room, large front Shop, Mixing Room, Kitchen Pantry, seven Bed Rooms, Drawing Room, Store Room, and three Cellars; together with the Spirit Shop adjoining, known as the BROWN LION VAULTS, comprising Spirit Shop, Smoke Room, two

Bed Rooms, two Cellars, large Bakehouse, Flour Room, Store Room, Stable, and Out-buildings, having a driveway leading out of Birmingham Street and a side entrance out of Flash Road, Oldbury, and having a frontage to Birmingham Street of 20 yards 1 foot 6 inches, and to Flash Road of 19 yards 1 foot 9 inches, and now occupied by Mr. Alfred Gittings and Mr. *Thomas Harwood*.

Further particulars may be obtained from Wm. Shakespeare, Esq, Solicitor, Oldbury; or the Auctioneers, Brierley Hill.”

Worcester Journal 20/10/1877

“Joseph Hughes, aged 42, a stonemason, was charged with stealing a bottle of quinine wine, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst, at Oldbury, the property of *Thomas Harwood*.

Prosecutor is the proprietor of the BROWN LION INN, Oldbury, and on the morning of the date indicated the bottle of wine was missed from the bar, soon after the prisoner had left. The police were informed of the theft; and prisoner was found at the house where he lodged in the act of drinking the wine.

His plea was that he committed the robbery because he was weak, and the wine was strengthening. Found guilty, and sentenced to two months’ hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1878 - Advert

“Important Clearing-out Sale, at the BROWN LION, 37, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. J. Cooper, This Day (Friday), February 23.

The whole of the Stock of superior Wines and Spirits (some in bond), the valuable Fixtures, Public House Effects, a number of Store Pigs; also a portion of Household Furniture, &c, &c, consisting of Gas Chandeliers, mahogany and other Tables, railback and other Benches, fancy Liquor Barrels, wine and other Glasses, Decanters, quart and other Jugs, Ale and Spirit Measures, capital Stove (with Piping), one copper and one brass Hot-water Fountain (for counter), Saccharometer, Hydrometer; the excellent Shop Fixtures, Seating round room, wood Partitions and Screens, capital Counter, two superior Beer Engines (4 and 3 pull), with Piping and Taps; half-glass swing Door, &c; also, the whole of the Stock of Foreign and British Wines (some in bond), Cordials, and Champagne; a quantity of Store Pigs, and other things too numerous to mention in catalogues; by order of Mr. *Thomas Harwood*, whose lease of the above premises has expired.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock prompt.

Auctioneer’s Office, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/3/1878 - Advert

“Important Clearing-out Sale, at the BROWN LION, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

By R. J. Cooper, This Day (Friday), at 11 o’clock – the whole of the Stock of Wines and Spirits (some in bond); also, the Valuable Fixtures, Public-house Effects, Store Pigs, &c, &c.

Auctioneer’s Offices, Oldbury.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 3/9/1881

“Michael Gallighie, William Gallighie, Thomas McGuire, and Patrick McQueeney were charged with refusing to quit the BROWN LION INN, Birmingham Road, and also with assaulting *Collin Bell*, the manager. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Prosecutor said at 10.15pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> ult, the defendants went into the house, and, as they seemed drunk, his wife refused to serve them with ale. McGuire caught hold of witness round the neck, and struck him on the head, and the others also struck him.

PC Nash said he went to the BROWN LION on the night in question. There was a disturbance between the Gallighie’s and McGuire. In answer to the Bench, witness said he did not see McQueeney there. He saw McGuire strike the landlord. Cross-examined: The landlord had got hold of McGuire very near the throat. He struck the landlord on the breast. He did not see the other defendants strike prosecutor, and they left the house when they were asked.

PC Sanders corroborated the evidence of the last witness.

Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, commented upon the contradictory evidence.

John McQueeney was called, and stated that Patrick McQueeney was not at the house at the time, and the summons against him was dismissed.

The others were each fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days. The charge of refusing to quit was dismissed.”

AND

“Joseph Foley, carpenter, Old Hill, was charged with attempting to pass a bad florin at Oldbury, on the previous day.

Defendant went to the STORES, Birmingham Street, kept by Charles Roberts, and offered the coin in payment for some liquor. It turned out, however, that defendant had been down to the BROWN LION INN, and changed half a sovereign, and received the bad coin amongst his change.

As it was thus shown that the defendant was not aware the florin was a counterfeit one, the case was dismissed.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 18/10/1884 - Advert

“*Holberry's* Concert Hall, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Proprietor, *J. Holberry*.

The cheapest place of amusement in the Midlands – all the leading stars of the musical profession.

Monday next, and until further notice, Grand Change of Company.

Important Engagement of Mast. Leander, the one-arm juggler and performer on the slack wire, the wonder of the age; Miss Lillie York, the charming little serio-comic and burlesque artiste; Mr. Clem Riley, negro comedian and big boot dancer.

The best Glass of Ale in the town.

Prices of Admission: Mondays and Saturdays, Floor 3d, all returned; other nights, except benefits, Free.

Balcony 3d, half returned.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 7/3/1885

“Oldbury Petty Sessions.....

William Carr (24), Rood End, painter, and Violet Bayley, of the same address, were charged with stealing a jug and glass from the BROWN LION Concert Hall, the property of *Joseph Holberry*, proprietor, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ultimo.

Ephraim Cartwright, waiter, stated that the prisoners came into the bar, and were leaving, when Mrs. *Holberry* called his attention to the prisoner having a jug in a bag, and on examining the bag he found it to be a fact. The female prisoner pleaded guilty to the charge, but the male prisoner pleaded not guilty.

PS Stanton deposed to having received information as to the theft of the jug, and arrested the prisoners. He also stated that he had received many complaints from publicans in the town, as to the theft of jugs.

The female prisoner was fined 40s and costs; Carr was discharged.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 7/3/1885

“*Holberry's* Concert Hall. On Wednesday, the proprietor's first annual benefit was given at the hall. There was a full house and the affair passed off with eclat. Upon the occasion the members of the Social Class, held at the house, presented the host, Mr. *Joseph Holberry*, with a handsome meerschaum pipe, in recognition of his kindness and geneality. Mr. W. H. Walters made the presentation. During the evening the fine array of talent engaged rendered a really good entertainment.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 8/12/1885

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

At the Wolverhampton County Court, yesterday, *Joseph Holberry*, manager of the WATERLOO INN, Brook Street, Bilston, came up before Mr. Registrar Sanders for his examination. The debtor's statement of affairs showed his liabilities to be £278, and his assets nil. He was formerly a journeyman toolmaker, but in September 1882, went into business on his own account at the BROWN LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. This business he carried on until May, 1885, when he found that owing to bad debts, bad trade, and other circumstances he could not make it pay. Since then he had been waiting for an improvement in trade, when he hoped to pay off his debts. The debtor was allowed to pass his examination.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1885 - Advert

“Woman (young) to Play Piano and take part in work.

Apply, BROWN LION VAULTS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Mail 19/2/1887

“At the West Bromwich Police Court today, before the Hon. A. C. G. Chapman and Messrs. M. Ellis, and W. M. Warden, William Gorton (68), New Street, Hill Top, miner, was charged with obtaining 3s by fraud on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult, belonging to Seymour Mole, funeral undertaker, residing at Spon Lane.

Prosecutor stated that on the above date a servant from the FLOWER POT INN came to his house and said that a man who was in the above public house wished to see him. He went across and found the prisoner, who, after representing to him that his mother was dead, and that he should require him to provide the funeral, said that he was landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Oldbury. He then asked him to lend him 3s, and he (witness), on the strength of the order, did so. Prisoner further told him if he would fall at the DARTMOUTH HOTEL in about three-quarters of an hour he would drive him over to Oldbury to make a measurement for the coffin for his deceased parent. He did so, but found that nothing had been heard of prisoner. Witness, pointing to the prisoner, said, ‘He was dressed more respectably when I lent him the money, or else I should not have done so,’

Police-superintendent Whitehurst said that prisoner was ‘wanted’ in October last, but was unable to undergo his trial on account of being in a hospital through sickness.

Prisoner was sentenced to three months’ hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/6/1887 - Advert

“Pianist Wanted, Female; to live in. Good home. Apply, BROWN LION, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 6/7/1889

“Last Monday Oldbury was en fete in earnest, judging from the multitude that flocked to the Oldbury Town Football Ground where most attractive sports ever held in the town were witnessed. No expense had been spared to obtain the best possible talent, the Committee also making every accommodation for the expected crowd of visitors, who came in their thousands. The programme provided was given in admirable style, the whole of it being entrusted to the care of Mr. T. Keogh, of the WHITE LION HOTEL, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, this gentleman working well in the superintendence of the arrangements. Mr. *White*, of the BROWN LION HOTEL, Oldbury, also rendered valuable assistance.....”

[For a full report of the fete, see under WHITE LION.]

Smethwick Telephone 24/1/1891

“On Wednesday evening the annual dinner of Oldbury Cricket Club took place at the BROWN LION INN, Oldbury. Mr. *George White* (the host) catered in excellent style. There were a good number of members and friends present. After the removal of the cloths, Mr. H. Pugh occupied the chair, and Mr. G. Jerrams the vice-chair. The speeches and toast of the evening were interspersed with songs and pianoforte solos, &c. The Chairman, on rising, said that the chief business of the meeting was to arrange for the better carrying on of the Oldbury Town Cricket Club than it had been the last few seasons. The numerous company present, which was far in excess of any previous occasion, so far as he could remember, gave indication of a successful future. Last season the club had some very discouraging circumstances to face, which, no doubt, caused a little laxity amongst some of the players, who had not done so well as they might have done. One of these items was a debt, which happily they had overcome. He would call on the Secretary, Mr. Gough, to read out the averages. These, Mr. Gough said, were very hastily prepared, and must be taken as the best he could provide in the short space of time allotted to him, for it had been the intention of the club to give prizes this year. Mr. G. White had given a very good bat for the best batting average, and other prizes followed.....”

County Express 7/3/1891

“A numerously-attended meeting of railway men was held at the BROWN LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, on Sunday night, for the purpose of electing officers in connection with the local branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. Mr. S. Allen presided.

Mr. R. H. Webb (Stourbridge), in urging the claims of the society upon all railway servants, mentioned that £2,500 was paid yearly out of the funds to orphans of men who had been killed on railways, and also point-

ed out that £13,057 had been paid to men out of employment. Railway men were much liable to sickness and premature death than any other body of working men, and those were facts which would show them the necessity of making provision for such contingencies. Speaking of the number of hours railway men were employed, he said they knew it was not possible to fix a uniform number of hours for all the men. They never thought of such a thing; but what they asked was that there should be a limit to the maximum number of hours which any man should be required to work each day. He urged the men of Oldbury and surrounding districts to combine and support the national programme of the society. (Hear, hear.) The following officers were elected: Chairman of the branch, Mr. F. Towle; vice-chairman, Mr. J. Ingram; secretary, Mr. J. Cook; treasurer, Mr. J. Rowlands. A large number of members were enrolled.”

#### 1891 Census

84, Birmingham Street

[1] *George Allen White* (52), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] *Lavinia White* (52), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Amelia Rowland* (24), daughter, married, born Birmingham;

[4] *Sarah Ann Read* (13), niece, scholar, born London;

[5] *Thomas Evans* (32), visitor, assistant manager, born Tividale:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/4/1891 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted, aged about 18; one from country preferred.

Apply, *White*, BROWN LION, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Mail 19/9/1891 - Advert

“Servant (respectable) about 18 Wanted, who can make herself generally useful.

Apply, BROWN LION, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 21/5/1892 - Advert

“Brewers, &c. Wanted, by a well-known Man, a Situation as Manager. Good reference.

Address, Tom Keogh, care of Mr. J. *White*, BROWN LION, Oldbury.”

*George Allen White* – see also ASHLEY, Blackheath, Halesowen and CRYSTAL PALACE.

#### Midland Sun 17/6/1893

“On Tuesday night the annual meeting of the Oldbury Town Football Club was held at the BROWN LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Mr. D. Corbett presided.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/10/1895

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday, *Mark Gibbs*, landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Birmingham Street, was charged with permitting betting upon his premises on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of September.

Mr. Waldron, for the prosecution, said it seemed to him very clear that for a long period betting had been persistently carried on by defendant upon his own premises, and there was no doubt that he was a bookmaker in a rather extensive way. Complaints had been made to the police that bookmaking and betting were going on at defendant’s house. Police-constable Brunton, Selly Oak, and Police-constable Standford, Kings Heath, visited the defendant’s house about one pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> ult. They went into the front vaults, and there noticed a number of men betting with defendant, his son, and his daughter. They afterwards saw a man, who gave the name of Harrold, receive 6s from the landlord in respect of a bet. Brunton and Stanford backed horses, the former having 1s on Landmark, and the latter laying a similar amount on Sweet Auburn. Brunton won, and received 5s 1d. On the other dates things happened somewhat similar.

Police-constable Brunton said that on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult he saw defendant pay a customer £2 6s 4d.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe pleaded guilty on behalf of the defendant. There seemed, he said, no redeeming feature in the case excepting that the betting was carried on in a thoroughly business-like way.

Superintendent Chare said that he had twice previously cautioned defendant.

Mr. Heaton said the case was a very bad one. Defendant in the first case would be fined £10 and costs, and

in the other two cases would have to pay the costs, which altogether amounted to £14 4s. The license of the house would also be endorsed.”

*Mark Gibbs* was also a brewer. [1896]

*Mark Gibbs* was fined 10s and 36s costs, on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1896, for permitting drunkenness.

Worcestershire Journal 24/10/1896

“Worcestershire Quarter Sessions.....

An Oldbury Licensing Appeal. *Mark Gibbs* was the appellant, and Supt. John Chare and the Justices of the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division were the respondents, the appeal being against a conviction for permitting drunkenness on licensed premises. Mr. Hugo Young and Mr. Harrington (instructed by Messrs. Wright and Holland, Oldbury) appeared for the appellant, and Mr. Vachell and the Hon. Reginald Coventry (instructed by Messrs., Hemingway, Bewdley) for the respondents.

The case for the respondents, Mr. Vachell explained, was that on September 1<sup>st</sup>, Oldbury Wake day, PS Male and PC Baylis, about five o'clock in the afternoon, visited the BROWN LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, kept by appellant. A number of men were there, and one of them, afterwards ascertained to be Luke Boyle, was sitting at a table where he could be seen by the landlord and members of his family – a daughter, a son-in-law, and two sons – who were assisting him. He had a glass and jug partly filled with beer in front of him, and was very drunk. On attention being called to the man, the landlord and his son, Alfred went to him, removed the jug and glass, and assisted him to his feet. The son at the time remarked, ‘He has been ordered to go five or six times.’ The man Boyle was locked up and convicted the next day.

PS Male, in cross-examination, said September 1<sup>st</sup> was Oldbury Wake and there was an important football match, the BROWN LION INN being the head-quarters of the local team. There were about 30 men in the bar. Boyle was sitting in a corner formed by a screen. He did not know that the man who said Boyle had been requested to leave was Alfred *Gibbs*, until PC Baylis told him. He picked out Alfred from the four sons of *Gibbs* who were in the Court.

PC Baylis corroborated.

Mr. Young, for the defence, contended that the landlord and his assistants were very busy. There were a large number of people in the bar and Boyle was sitting in a corner where he was not very noticeable. It was not seen that he was drunk. He contended a mistake had been made by the police as to the person who said Boyle had been ordered out. It was not said by Alfred, who was not assisting in the house that day, but a man named Shuard, who said that thinking to shield the landlord, although it was not true. The landlord had ordered other people away.

The landlord was called to bear out the statement. The man was not drunk, but had had some beer.

In cross-examination appellant admitted that he had been three times convicted of offences against the licensing laws.

A number of other witnesses were called to state that Boyle was not drunk, and that he was not served with drink. Boyle himself said he was only in the house ten minutes, and no drink was served to him; as he was drinking from the jug of another man. He had had a drop, but was not drunk. He pleaded guilty before the magistrates. Another witness said it was he, and not one of the *Gibbs* family that said he had told the man Boyle to go. He said it for a joke. It was not true. Alfred *Gibbs* in cross-examination denied saying that Boyle was ordered out several times.

The Chairman said the Bench were unanimous that the appeal must be dismissed with costs.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 23/6/1900

“On Wednesday night a meeting, in connection with the Oldbury Branch of the National Amalgamated Union of Enginemen, Cranemen, Hammer-drivers, Steam and Electric Drivers of Great Britain, was held at the BROWN LION HOTEL, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. A workman presided over a large attendance. An address was given by Mr. J. Wright, agent to the society, in which he spoke upon the benefits to be derived from combination and advised the men to join the union, to improve their position. A resolution in favour of organisation was carried unanimously.”



### Sporting Life 8/12/1900

“Mr. Howard Wilkinson, of Oldbury, near Birmingham, hearing that two gentlemen, of Oldbury, wish to match their mokes to trot his donkey, Mr. Wilkinson wishes to inform them that he will match his donkey to trot either of the gentlemen’s mokes under the following conditions. Both donkeys to measure inside 12 hands, to trot two, three, and five miles, at the Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, for £10 or £25 a side. The *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder, and appoint referee. Mr. Wilkinson will meet either gentleman at Mr. *Gibbs*’ BROWN LION HOTEL, Oldbury, or at Mr. Lines’ NAGS HEAD HOTEL, Oldbury, tonight (Saturday) prepared to make a match.”

*Mark Gibbs* issued tokens from here.

### 1901 Census

84, Birmingham Street – BROWN LION INN

[1] *Mark Gibbs* (63), widower, licensed victualler, born Ettington, Warwickshire;

[2] Alice J. Evans (48), widow, domestic servant, born Dudley;

[3] Emily Hadley (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[4] John Phillpotts (17), barman, born Oldbury:

### Smethwick Telephone 15/6/1901 - Marriages

“On the 11th inst, by special license, *Mark Gibbs*, of the BROWN LION HOTEL, Oldbury, to Rose Tyler, youngest daughter of Charles Tyler, late of Bearwood Road.”

### Smethwick Weekly News 22/6/1901

“On Thursday night a company numbering between 80 and 90, on the invite of Mr. and Mrs. *Mark Gibbs*, of the BROWN LION HOTEL, sat down to an excellent repast, the occasion being to celebrate their wedding, which took place recently.

After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, Mr. J. T. Judge was voted to the chair, while Mr. E. Simpson occupied the vice chair.

The Chairman, in an appropriate and humorous style, proposed ‘The health of Mr. and Mrs. *Gibbs*,’ expressing the hope that they would live long and happily together.

The toast was enthusiastically received, the company singing ‘For he’s a jolly good fellow.’

Afterwards a smoking concert was held.....”

*Mark Gibbs* – see also BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, and DOG AND PHEASANT.

### 1911 Census

84, Birmingham Street – BROWN LION INN

[1] *Charles Mitchell* (37), licensed victualler, born Lancaster;

[2] Fanny Mitchell (37), wife, married 10 years, assisting in business, born Perry Barr;

[2] Henry Siddons (75), boarder, widower, born West Bromwich;

[4] Alice Durnell (20), domestic servant, born Bilston:

### Kelly’s Directory of Worcestershire 1912

“Foresters (Court No.1644) (Alfred Burgess, secretary) BROWN LION, 84 Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 11/1/1913

“That a special meeting of members of Court England’s Glory, AOF, will be held at the BROWN LION HOTEL, on Monday next.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 8/3/1913

“The first quarterly meeting of the Hairdressers’ Association was held at the BROWN LION HOTEL, on Thursday afternoon, when Mr. T. Smith presided, and there was a full attendance of members. The Hon. Sec. (Mr. L. Jones) presented the quarterly report, which showed that the whole of the hairdressers in the

district had joined the association. Several matters of trade interest came up for consideration.”

London Gazette 19/6/1914

“First Meetings and Examinations.....

*Claude Vincent*, 97, Sable-road, Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, lately residing at the BROWN LION, Birmingham-street, Oldbury, and the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, New-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester.

Date of Meeting, June 24, 1914.”

*Claude Vincent* – see also BROWN LION, Tividale, WONDER, Tividale, and ODDFELLOWS, New Street, Oldbury.

*John York* = John Yorke

He played violin.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/9/1916

“A two hours’ fishing contest, promoted by Mr. *Jack Yorke*, of the BROWN LION HOTEL, Oldbury, took place at Titford Pool, Whiteheath, yesterday morning, the proceeds being for a fund to send parcels to Oldbury soldiers at the front. There were 169 competitors, and the first prize was won by Mr. W. Roberts with a fish weighing 11½oz.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/4/1918 - Advert

“Girl Wanted, age from 15 upwards; good home and wages.  
BROWN LION HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 10/12/1921

“Boxing. Boxing. Boxing.

Crippled Children’s Fund. Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Matinee, Smethwick Empire.

Tickets may be obtained from the following gentlemen.....

Mr. I. *Yorke*, BROWN LION, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/7/1925

“*S. Bowser*, last year’s captain of Walsall Football Club, who was formerly a player for the Albion, has been granted the licence of the BROWN LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 21/1/1928 - Advert

“Re J. W. J. Kingstone, Ltd, Smethwick.

Important Sale by Auction of 20 Licensed Houses in the County Boroughs of Smethwick and West Bromwich, and at Warley and Oldbury, all within a radius of six miles of the centre of the City of Birmingham, and comprising in separate lots.

8 Valuable Fully Licensed Houses.

7 ‘On’ Beerhouses, and 5 ‘Off’ Licenses.

Together with the Seven Quarter Brewery, Offices and Premises, known as the Summit Brewery, and various Freehold Shop and Dwelling House Properties adjoining the several Licensed Houses.

By Messrs. Jones Son & Vernon, FAI, at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1928, at 4pm precisely (unless sold previously by private contract).....

Lot 6. The BROWN LION INN. Freehold, Fully Licensed, corner of Birmingham Street and Flash Road, Oldbury.”

Dudley Chronicle 1/3/1928

“Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon, of West Bromwich, held a successful property sale at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham. The lots included many licensed properties in West Bromwich, Oldbury, and Smethwick, and so keen was the competition that all the lots were sold, the sale realising altogether well over £60,000.....

BROWN LION INN, Oldbury, freehold, fully licensed, made £5,750.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/4/1930

“*Sidney Bowser*, the former Albion captain, was summoned at Oldbury yesterday for, it was alleged, having permitted drunkenness at the BROWN LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, of which he is the licensee. Prosecuting for the police, Mr. A. W. Higgs alleged that after 10pm on 15 March Police-sergeant Keyte and a constable saw *Bowser* helping a drunken man named Drury out of the house and when spoken to about it *Bowser* replied that he had been so busy that he did not notice anyone in particular. Subsequently *Bowser* said he did not see Drury until three minutes to ten.

The case was dismissed.”

*Samuel George Evans* – see also PERROTT ARMS.

Smethwick Telephone 7/3/1931

“Matters of great importance were under consideration with the application of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers for permission to erect a hotel on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton Road at a point near the Smethwick and Oldbury housing schemes.....

Mr. Hurst said he had the honour to apply to the Bench on behalf of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, a fully licensed public house, to a site at Warley, on the new main Wolverhampton Road, at the corner of Albert Road [the WERNLEY].....

The Bench considered the matter in private for a long time. Eventually the Chairman said that the application would be granted subject to the surrender of two full licences in the centre of Oldbury – the BROWN LION, Birmingham Street, and the ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street – and also subject to certain minor alterations to the plans.”

Smethwick Telephone 2/5/1931

“Worcester Licensing Committee on Monday confirmed the provisional order granted to Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, sanctioning the removal of the publican’s licence from the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, Oldbury, to premises to be erected at the corner of the Wolverhampton-Birmingham arterial road and Albert Road at Warley, in the Oldbury division.

Mr. J. G. Hurst, KC, who appeared with Mr. M. Holdsworth to make the application said that since the construction of the arterial road there had been remarkable building development at the site of the proposed licence. In addition to closing the CROSS KEYS, his clients would surrender two more full licences in the district of Oldbury. It was mentioned that these licenses would be the BROWN LION in Birmingham Street, and the ENGINEERS ARMS in Stone Street. The estimated cost of the new building was stated to be £14,000, exclusive of the site.”

It closed at 10pm on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1933.

Smethwick Telephone 27/1/1934

“Preliminary Announcement. Sale By Auction on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1934, of Freehold Investment Properties ..... by Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon.....

Lot 1. Birmingham Street and Flash Road, Oldbury, the Delicensed Premises, the BROWN LION with Vacant Possession. An Important Business Site.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1934

“A total of £7,700 was realised by Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon in two auction sales last week at Oldbury and Dudley, when the following prices were realised ..... Business premises (formerly the BROWN LION) at the Corner of Birmingham Street and Flash Road, Oldbury, and No.82, Birmingham Street, adjoining, £1,175.”

## BROWN LION

145, Dudley Road, (Tividale Road), TIVIDALE

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

Elizabeth Brown [1832] – [1842]

Joseph Brown [1845]

Mary Brown [ ] – **1850**);

Sarah Brown (**1850** – [ ]

Mary Brown [1851]

Sarah Brown [1851] – [1854]

Joseph Brown [ ] – **1857**);

George Newton (**1857** – **1860**);

Thomas Hale (**1860** – [1870]

William Stevens [1869] – [1871]

Joseph Brown [1872]

William Bowkett [1873] – [1875]

Samuel Mason [ ] – **1880**);

William Lloyd (**1880** – [1881]

Samuel Mason [1885]

Stevens [1884]

James Cale [1884] – **1885**);

Mary Ann Palmer (**1885** – [ ]

David Baker [1887] – [1891]

Joseph Clapham [1891] – [1892]

George Clapham [1896] – [1901]

George William Hill [1903] – **1907**);

Claude Vincent (**1907** – [1910]

### NOTES

#### 1841 Census

Tividale

[1] *Elizabeth Brown* (80), publican;

[2] Sarah Brown (16), born Staffordshire;

[3] John Matthews (50), agricultural labourer:

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/2/1845

“David Mills (Shiner) of Tividale will run William Bennett of Dudley Port, 11 score yards, for any sum he thinks proper. His money is ready any night at the BROWN LION INN, Tividale, or any other sporting house in the village.”

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 6/3/1850

“Wordsley Public Office. This being a special sessions for the transfer of victuallers licenses, the undermentioned public houses changed hands.....

BROWN LION, Rowley, from *Mary Brown* to her daughter, *Sarah Brown*.”

### 1851 Census

Tividale

- [1] *Mary Brown* (62), widow, publican, born Rowley;
- [2] *Sarah Brown* (26), daughter, born Rowley;
- [3] *Emma Brown* (8), daughter, born Rowley;
- [4] *Eliza Bridgwater* (19), servant, born Rowley;
- [5] *Elijah Fradgley* (39), inmate, clerk at a colliery, born Brierley Hill:

### 1861 Census

Tividale – BROWN LION

- [1] *Thomas Hale* (41), boatman, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Eliza Hale* (40), wife, born Golds Hill;
- [3] *Hannah Hale* (18), daughter, born Riders Green;
- [4] *Luaise Hale* (16), daughter, scholar, born Riders Green;
- [5] *Jane Hale* (13), daughter, scholar, born Swan Village;
- [6] *Eliza Hale* (11), daughter, scholar, born Swan Village;
- [7] *Maria Hale* (9), daughter, scholar, born Swan Village;
- [8] *Sariah Hale* (6), daughter, scholar, born Swan Village;
- [9] *Thomas Hale* (4), son, scholar, born Swan Village;
- [10] *George Newton* (46), visitor, widower, labourer, born Haywood Park, Staffordshire;
- [11] *George Watkins* (15), boarder, boatman, born Liverpool;
- [12] *John Coley* (18), boarder, boatman, born Birmingham:

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/6/1866

“An inquest was held yesterday, by Mr. Edwin Hooper, at the BROWN LION, Tividale, touching the death of a child eight years of age, named John Beddard, who had resided in Tividale. On Tuesday last the deceased was sent by his mother to purchase a reel of cotton. Finding he did not return, she made inquiries, and received the mournful intelligence that he was drowned in the Birmingham canal. Mrs. Beddard had no suspicion whatever that any person had pushed the deceased into the canal. She heard that he was endeavouring to catch a fish, when he slipped in. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased was Found Drowned in the Birmingham canal, but how he came into the water there was no evidence to show.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“Rowley Regis. The annual licensing meeting for this division was held on Friday, at COOKSEYS HOTEL, Old Hill.....

Mr. Superintendent Mills handed in to the Bench the following list of victuallers who had been fined in the last year.....

*William Stevens*, BROWN LION, Tividale.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1870 - Advert

“To be Let, the BROWN LION INN, Tividale, near Dudley.  
Apply on the Premises.”

### 1871 Census

Tividale – LION INN

- [1] *William Stevens* (58), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary A. Stevens* (52), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] *James Stevens* (30), son, brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Susannah Jones* (16), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

*William Bowkett* = William Bowcott

### Stourbridge Observer 15/2/1873

“John Prince was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the house of *William Bowkett*, of the BROWN LION INN, Tividale. Complainant said that the defendant came to his house on the 3<sup>rd</sup> ult, made a noise, and refused to quit when requested, and tried to throttle him. Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s and costs; in default 14 days.”

Stourbridge Observer 5/7/1873

“*William Bowcott* was summoned by Superintendent Mills, with permitting the sale of ale during prohibited hours, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult, at Tividale.

PC Beard said he visited the BROWN LION INN, kept by the defendant, at 10am on the above date, and found three men in the brewhouse. They were drinking out of a quart jug of ale. He saw the defendant’s wife take the ale out of the house into the brewhouse. He spoke to the landlady about it and she said it was the first time and hoped they would overlook it.

PC Shorthouse corroborated.

Defendant’s wife said the two men represented to her that they were travellers. The other man, William Bailey, lived close by her house and the men called him in to drink.

Defendant was fined £3 and costs; in default one month.

Charles Cutler and William Bailey were charged with being unlawfully on licensed premises during prohibited hours, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult. PC Beard proved seeing the defendants and a man named George Smith drinking in the BROWN LION. Cutler gave him a false address. Defendants pleaded guilty. Cutler was fined 10s and costs, or 21 days; and Bailey 5s and costs, or 14 days.”

County Advertiser 19/7/1873

“George Forster was charged with being found on licensed premises on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult. Police-constable Berd said that he found defendant, with two other men who had been previously convicted, in a brewhouse belonging to the BROWN LION INN, Tividale, at unlawful hours. They had a quart jug of ale. Defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

County Advertiser 20/3/1875

“*William Bowkett*, landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Tividale, was charged with having permitted drunkenness in his house on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Police-constable Holland said that on the morning of the above date he visited the defendant’s house in company with Police-constable Given, and he there saw two men named Mann and Watts, who were both drunk. There was a jug and glass on the table. Mann was so drunk that he staggered. The men did not make any disturbance.

Police constable Given said he visited the house in company with the last witness. He saw the two men Watts and Mann. They were both drunk. They obtained their names.

Police-sergeant Walters gave corroborative evidence. He called the attention of the landlord to the fact that the men were drunk, but he made no reply.

Mr. Shakespeare having addressed the Bench for the defence, called Thomas Watts, who stated that he and six others were allowed four quarts of ale on the morning in question by a friend. He asked the police why they wanted his name, but he received no answer. He eventually gave his name. There was not a single person in the house who was drunk.

Cross-examined by Mr. Superintendent Mills: Would swear that Mann was not drunk.

William Mann also swore that there was no one drunk in the house. He was not drunk. He was coming out of house when one of the officers pushed him in and made him ‘stagger.’

Benjamin Baker also gave similar evidence.

Defendant, who had been previously convicted, was fined 20s and costs; the license was not to be endorsed.”

County Advertiser 2/10/1875

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The following publicans who had been convicted during the year, having been cautioned, had their licenses renewed.....

*William Bowkett*, BROWN LION, Tividale.”

County Advertiser 25/11/1876

“George Maund was charged with assaulting Police-constable Hicklin on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, and with damaging his uniform to the extent of £1 0s 4d.

Police-constable Hicklin stated that at about 9pm on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, he ejected the defendant from the BROWN LION INN, Tividale, by order of the landlord. When outside defendant attacked him, cut his eye and face, knocked his helmet in, and damaged his clothes. A crowd collected, and a number of his companions came to defendant’s assistance, and aided in assaulting him. Witness was knocked down several times.

Police-constable Given corroborated this statement, and the Bench sentenced the defendant to three months’ imprisonment, with hard labour. The charge of damaging the uniform was withdrawn.”

Dudley and District News 4/12/1880

“Mr. W. Hayes applied for the transfer of the BROWN LION INN, Old Hill, from *Samuel Mason* to *William Lloyd*. The police opposed the application on the ground that since *Lloyd* had gone into the house he had not conducted it well. The application was adjourned for a month.”

AND

County Express 4/12/1880

“Mr. Hayes applied for the transfer of the BROWN LION INN, Oldbury Road, Tividale, from *Samuel Mason* to *William Lloyd*.

Superintendent Woollaston objected to the immediate transfer on the ground that the house had not previously been well conducted; and further because he had been informed that on the previous night the applicant was assaulting his wife, who had only been married to him a few months.

The Bench adjourned the application for a month to enable the police to make enquiries.”

1881 Census

Dudley Road

- [1] *William Lloyd* (32), licensed victualler, born Breconshire;
- [2] *Isabella Lloyd* (41), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *William Lloyd* (13), son, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *John Lloyd* (10), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Fanny Lloyd* (6), daughter, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/4/1884

“Mrs. R. *Stevens*, landlady of the BROWN LION INN, Tividale, was fined £10 and costs by the Old Hill magistrates, yesterday, for having used a quantity of sugar in a brewing on January 9, without entering the same in the brewing book.”

*James Cale* = James Kale

County Advertiser 6/9/1884

“John Jones, miner, Tividale, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *James Cale*, BROWN LION, Tividale, and refusing to quit, and was fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days’ imprisonment.”

AND

Dudley and District News 6/9/1884

“John Jones, labourer, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *James Kale*, the BROWN LION, Tividale. Defendant went into the house on Saturday night, the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult, and had some beer. He became so disorderly that the landlord ordered him to quit. He refused, and an officer was sent for, but before the arrival of that functionary he left the house. Fined 2s 6d, or seven days.”

County Advertiser 14/2/1885

“The Bench allowed the transfer of the BROWN LION, Tividale, from *James Cale* to *Mary Ann Palmer*. Application for the transfer was made by Mr. T. Cooksey. Some conversation took place between the Bench

and the police as to the signing of the form in support of the transfer, and Mr. Hingley remarked that he was afraid overseers sometimes signed merely as a matter of form.”

County Express 18/7/1885

“Joseph Eades, Greets Green, Westbromwich, was charged with assaulting Police-constable Highway, and also, in conjunction with Joseph Priest, with being drunk and disorderly on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Jackson appeared to defend; Priest did not put in an appearance.

Police-constable Highway said that on the date named he saw four men come from the BROWN LION INN, Tividale. As they were drunk he told them to go home, which they refused to do, and Eades struck him in the face.

Replying to Mr. Jackson witness said he was quite sure defendant was the man who struck him.

Mr. Jackson said he must tell the officer candidly that the defendant was named Abraham Eades, a brother of Joseph Eades, and was never at the place named on the night in question, though the summonses had been wrongly taken to him.

Joseph Eades was called into Court, and Mr. Jackson asked which of the men it was who assaulted Highway. The officer said the men were very much alike, but to the best of his knowledge it was the one who originally appeared, but he confessed he had his doubts.

The Bench said the mistake was excusable, as the men were very much alike, but the present summons would be dismissed.

A warrant was issued against Priest.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1894

“Bankruptcy Proceedings. *Re David Baker*, Oldbury.

The above-named debtor, who formerly carried on business as a coal master at the Clifton Colliery, Oldbury, and at other collieries, came up for his public examination. Mr. R. A. Tench (from Mr. Clark’s office) represented a bill-of-sale holder, and Mr. Todbury (from Mr. Shakespeare’s office) was for the debtor.

In reply to the Assistant Official Receiver, the bankrupt stated that he commenced business in 1887 at the BROWN LION INN, Tividale, with £300 capital. He subsequently became the lessee of some brickworks at Dudley Port, and in 1890 he joined his brother John and a Mr. Thomas Whitehouse in partnership at the Grange Colliery, Oldbury, each partner finding capital amounting to £50. Afterwards, in 1892, he traded in partnership with Messrs. G. J. and J. Sheldon at the same colliery, and six months later he retired from the last-named firm, receiving as his share £70. In October, 1892, with a capital amounting to £400, he became the tenant of the Clifton Colliery, Titford Road, and expended about £500 in repairing the shaft. In September last a fire broke out in the pit, and he had to abandon working and scaffold the pit over. He estimated that he lost upwards of £700 by that undertaking. He attributed his insolvency to the fire at the colliery, and to bad trade at a the public house, where he resided.

The examination was concluded.”

Dudley Mercury 27/4/1889

“Florence Mann, single woman, Tividale, was charged with stealing 10s, the money of *Sophia Baker*, landlady of the BROWN LION, Tividale, on the 11<sup>st</sup> inst.

Prosecutor said that defendant called at her house to pay 1s 1d, which she owed. She gave witness a sovereign, and witness fetched two half-sovereigns, and gave one to defendant and the other change in silver and coppers. She went into another room for a few minutes, and when she returned she gave the defendant another half-sovereign in mistake. She asked defendant to return the money, but she refused to do so.

The Bench dismissed the case.”

County Express 10/1/1891

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano, A. H. Bassano, and H. A. Wiggin, Rosannah Baker (17), char-girl, of Dudley Road, Tividale, was charged with stealing a jacket, watch, and chain, the property of *Mary Jane Baker*, on the 24<sup>th</sup> ult.

It appeared that prosecutrix lived with her parents at the BROWN LION INN, Tividale, and was acquainted with the prisoner, who sometimes came to the house. On Christmas Eve she came in about four o’clock to



ask the time and went into the back kitchen, where she stayed about fifteen minutes. After the prisoner had gone, the jacket was missing. The watch was in the pocket of the jacket, which together with the watch and chain, was worth 20s 6d.

Cross-examined: The jacket was not lent to prisoner.

Inspector Bishop said that prisoner burst out crying when she was brought to the Police Office, at Old Hill, and he saw her take the watch from underneath her clothing. She said, 'I didn't steal the jacket; I had it lent to me, and I found the watch and chain in the pocket when I searched it.' The chain, which was a common beaded one, she had broken up.

Mr. Bassano said there were three convictions against prisoner, and all for similar offences. She would be sentenced to two months' hard labour."

#### 1891 Census

145, Dudley Road

[1] *Joseph Clapham* (28), publican, born Tividale;

[2] *Prudence Clapham* (49), wife, born Burnt Tree:

#### 1901 Census

145, Dudley Road – BROWN LION INN

[1] *George Clapham* (28), iron worker galvanising sheets, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Hannah Clapham* (29), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Elsie Clapham* (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Ethel B. Clapham* (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Louisa Williams* (21), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Tipton Herald 11/7/1903

"At Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, John Gordon, alias Douglas, who declined to disclose his address; John Bourton, Adderley Street, Bordesley Green; John Henry Green, Mill Street, Aston Road, Birmingham, were brought up on remand, charged with being in possession and attempting to pass base coin at Tividale on Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. F. Hooper, Birmingham, defended Bourton and Green.

*Mary Hill*, of the BROWN LION, Tividale, stated that about two o'clock on the date in question two men came into the house. She identified them as Gordon and Bourton. Gordon asked for quinine, a glass of gin, and a packet of cigarettes. She served them with what they asked for, and Gordon tendered her a 5s piece. She picked the money up and examined it. She felt doubtful of the colour. She put it between her teeth, and it was gritty. She gave it back to Gordon, and told him she had some doubt about its being good. Gordon said, 'It's all right; I wish I had a thousand of them.' She replied that she did not care about taking it, so he asked Bourton to pay for the drink. Bourton then tendered 1s for the same, and she gave him 6d change. In some conversation which took place between the two men, Gordon turned to Bourton and said he wondered how it was that people could tell bad money. Bourton said, 'Possibly they tell in the same way that she (witness) did, by putting it between their teeth. Some people told by the colour, and some by putting the money between their thumb and finger.'

Mr. Hooper: When you identified the prisoners were there only three of them? – Witness: No sir. There were seven men altogether, and I identified the two as those who came into the public house.

Mr. Hooper: Have you ever seen the prisoners before? – Witness: No sir.

Mr. Hooper: What do you do in the public house? – Witness: I attend to the business for my brother.

Mr. Hooper: You were busy on the day in question? – Witness: Not so very. The prisoners came to the bar, and there was no one there.

Mr. Hooper: Yours is an old fashioned house? – Witness: Yes sir.

Mr. Hooper: Is there plenty of light? – Witness: Both front and back doors were open, when the prisoners came in.

Mr. Hooper: When Bourton gave you the 1s there was nothing wrong with it? – Witness: No sir, not as far as I saw.

Mr. Hooper: What made you take notice of the man who gave you the 1s. – Witness: I noticed very particularly – the two especially – when I received the 5s from the one.

Mr. Hooper: So when Gordon tendered the 5s piece, which you say was a base coin, you became suspicious? – Witness: Naturally.

Mr. Hooper: Can you swear to Bourton now? – Witness: I can.

Mr. Hooper: How was he dressed? – Witness: In a blue suit, peaked cap, and turn down collar. She could not say whether he had a tie or not.

Mr. Hooper: How long were you looking at him? – Witness: It was only a glance.

Mr. Hooper: Could you describe how every one of your customers that day were dressed? – Witness: If they came in separately as the prisoners did and tendered a base coin I naturally should look at them minutely.

In answer to further questions in reference to identification, witness said when she was fetched into the Court on Monday there were seven men standing up in a row. She picked Gordon out without the slightest hesitation.

Mr. Hooper: But you had some difficulty in identifying Bourton? – Witness: No sir, I did not, although I picked Gordon out first.

Mr. Hooper: What made you notice him particularly? – Witness: His sallow complexion.

Mr. Hooper: Then you call his a complexion? – Witness: Yes sir.

She came into Court by herself, and she had not the slightest doubt but that Bourton and Gordon were the two who visited her premises on Saturday.

Mr. Hooper: If I tell you that I have abundant evidence to prove that Bourton was miles away on Saturday with his wife, then have no doubt. – Witness: I should not – not for one moment.

Thomas Cox, landlord of the SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale, was the next witness called. He stated that about ten minutes past two on Saturday two men came into his house. He did not know them at the time, but now identified them as Gordon and Bourton. They called for gin and bitters. Witness told them he did not sell it, whereupon Gordon called for two glasses of ale. He then tendered a 5s piece. Witness took it from him and examined it, and not being satisfied with it asked Gordon if he had any smaller change. To this Gordon said, 'Wait till my mate comes in. He's gone outside.' When Bourton arrived he gave him 1s. Gordon said there was nothing wrong with the 5s and rung it on the floor. Witness told Gordon he was not satisfied with it and he should not take it. He next saw the men in Court the following Monday morning. There were five other men, making in all seven. He identified the two who came into his house the previous Saturday. He had not the slightest doubt about them. When they came into his house one was dressed in a dark grey suit, and the other a blue serge suit. In answer to questions by Mr. Hooper witness said his house was about 150 yards from the previous witness's. When the prisoners came in they stood in the passage. He had never seen any of the men before, to his knowledge.

Mr. Hooper: What made you notice them? – Witness: I had word that they were passing base coin in the district from a man in the tap room.

Mr. Hooper: So you thought it best to make a mental photograph of these men? – Witness: Yes.

And this made you suspicious? – Yes. Someone had, I believe, gone for the policeman then.

You lost nothing by the transaction? – No.

In answer to further questions, witness said he identified the prisoners at the police station the following Monday. They were there amongst five other men, ill dressed in respectable clothes. He picked the prisoners out, and had not the slightest hesitation about either of them.

Mr. Hooper: If I tell you that Bourton was miles away at the time, would you hold the same opinion? – Witness: I would. I have not the slightest doubt.

James Griffiths, 29, High Street, Tipton, sheep shearer, stated that he remembered seeing Police Constable Heatherley near Barnett's Brickyard, Tividale, on Saturday last. The three prisoners were about 150 to 200 yards in front of him. In consequence of what he said he gave chase. For a time they kept to the highway, and then cut across some fields and up to the canal side, and then under the aqueduct at Dudley Port. Witness followed upon his machine as fast as possible. He cut across the highway, and then he caught a second sight of them going across a field. He gave chase across the fields on his bicycle. Witness eventually got up to the men and rode with them about forty yards. Gordon said, 'Here's a detective, here.' Bourton said, 'It's no detective.' Prisoner also said, 'It's no detective.' Bourton and Green then left Gordon behind a little, and witness jumped off his machine. He followed Gordon close up. The others ran across field after field. Gordon started to run, and witness called to several men to help him while he went in pursuit of the other two.

No one, however, would do so, and he held Gordon until Heatherley arrived. The other two went through some works at Newtown, and he lost sight of them. He saw the prisoners with four more at the Court on Monday. He identified the two who ran away as the two in the box. In answer to Mr. Hooper, he denied having whispered something to Heatherley, before he picked out Bourton. He was sure he had not made a mistake with reference to Bourton. In fact, he was confident that it was the same man. He was sure that all three of the prisoners made use of the word 'detective'.

Police Constable Job Heatherley, stationed at Tividale, stated that in consequence of certain information given him, he saw three men on the canal side at Dudley Road, Tividale, going in the direction of Dudley Port. They crossed over the L.N.W.R. line on to the embankment of the canal again. They went on to Mr. Peter Wood's Brickyard. When near the marl hole of the brickyard they saw him. He was in uniform at the time. They then commenced running, and he told Griffiths to go in pursuit of them on his bicycle. The men continued running. Bourton and Green were in front, and Gordon a little distance behind. He saw Gordon put his hand into his left coat pocket and throw away the pieces. He watched very minutely where they dropped, and when he came up to the spot he picked up sixteen 5s base coins (produced), and then recommenced the pursuit. When he got to Greets Green, Griffiths had Gordon in custody. He took him to Greets Green Police Station, and afterwards to Old Hill. At the latter place he cautioned him and charged him with being in possession of sixteen base coins, and also with attempting to pass the same at Tividale. Gordon took hold of three of the coins and examined them, and said, 'Why, they are good ones. I wish I had many thousands of them.' On Sunday he charged them jointly, and after cautioning them Bourton said, 'I don't know where Tividale is.' Green said, 'I was in the city all day yesterday.' Gordon said, 'These two men were not with me. Nobody saw me with any bad money.' He was present when the witnesses identified the prisoners. There were four others put with them. The Inspector said to the three prisoners, 'Now then, get amongst the other four men where you like, and stand with your hands out of your pockets.' None of the witnesses hesitated to pick the prisoners out. He did not have any conversation with any of the witnesses. They had not had time to get any more evidence.

Mr. Cooksey (Magistrates' Clerk): Will there be any more witnesses? – Witness: Other people may be called on another occasion.

Inspector Hodgkinson asked for a remand for the Treasury to be represented. Mr. Hooper strongly objected to a remand. There was not, he said, a tittle of evidence against Green, and he was charged with having in his possession base coins, and further with attempting to pass them. No one, only the cyclist, even saw Green, and he admitted he often made mistakes. He strenuously objected to a remand from time to time, especially when he was able to prove that the two men he represented were innocent. There was not one tittle of evidence against Green.

The Chairman: I think there is.

A remand was granted for a week.

Mr. Hooper: Then I have to apply for bail.

This was refused."

#### County Advertiser 18/7/1903

"On Wednesday, at Rowley Regis Police Court – before Messrs. A. H. Bassano, C. W. Bassano, J. W. Tilley, and G. H. Holcroft – John Gorton (21), alias Walter Douglas, labourer, who refused to give his address, but belongs to Birmingham; John Henry Green (24), alias John Turst, glassworker, of Mill Street, Aston, Birmingham; and John Bourton (21), horse dealer, of Adderley Street, Bordewsley, Birmingham, were charged in custody on remand with uttering base coin at Tividale on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, and also with having base coin in their possession on the same date. Mr. F. Hooper, of Birmingham, appeared to defend Green and Bourton. Mary Hill, sister of the landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Tividale, stated that on the afternoon of the date named, the prisoners Gorton and Bourton visited the public house, and were supplied with some drink and cigarettes. Gorton tendered a five shilling piece, which witness examined and refused to accept, as she did not care to take it. Gorton said, 'It is all right; I wish I had a thousand of them.' Witness, however, told him that she should not take it, and Bourton then paid for the drink. In reply to Mr. Hooper, witness said she still adhered to her statement made on the previous Wednesday that Bourton was the man who came into the house with Gorton.

Thomas Cox, landlord of the SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale, said that the prisoners Gorton and Bourton

visited the house on the date named and purchased two glasses of ale. A five shilling piece was handed to witness in payment of the ale, but this he refused to take as it did not seem to be satisfactory to him, and he had also received an intimation, whilst the prisoners were in the house, that bad money was being passed in the district.

James Griffiths, of High Street, Tipton, stated that on the afternoon of the date named, he saw Police-constable Heatherley searching for three men who were running away in the direction of Dudley Port. The officer asked witness to follow them and he did so upon his bicycle. They crossed over the London and North Western Railway and witness caught them up. He rode alongside the prisoners for about forty yards and called upon three young men to assist him to capture them, but they all refused. Witness then caught Gorton and held him until Police-constable Heatherley arrived upon the scene. The other two prisoners ran away across the fields.

Police-constable Heatherley stated that whilst he was chasing the prisoners he noticed Gorton put his hand in his left hand pocket, pull out something, and throw it away. Upon arriving at the spot witness found sixteen base crown pieces (produced). Witness conveyed Gorton to Old Hill Police Station, and the other two prisoners, when charged with the offence, said they did not know where Tividale was.

Mary Salter, wife of Charles Salter, of the VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, Oldbury, stated that on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst the prisoners Gorton and Bourton visited her house and were supplied with some drink. Gorton gave her a five shilling piece and witness handed him 4s 6d change. She could not say whether the coin was a base one as she had since disposed of it.

Police-sergeant Evans, of the Birmingham police, deposed to seeing the three prisoners leaving a public house in Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. They separated, but witness subsequently saw them together again at the Snow Hill Station. The same evening, upon receipt of a telephonic message from Old Hill, he arrested Bourton, who in reply to the charge, said he did not know where Tividale was, and he had been in the city all that day.

Detective Harris deposed to arresting Green, who also denied being at Tividale.

Police-constables Lawson and Foulkes described a conversation they heard between the three prisoners at Handsworth Station on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst, after they had been remanded and were being escorted to Winson Green Gaol. Gorton said, 'I wish I had never seen — Tividale,' to which Green replied, 'I have never been there before, and I will watch I don't go again.' Bourton said, 'Nor me, I don't know where Tividale is.'

Harry Arthur Griffiths, jeweller, of High Street, Cradley Heath, deposed to examining the sixteen five shilling pieces found by Police-constable Heatherley; they were all counterfeit.

When charged with the offences by the magistrates' clerk (Mr. T. Cooksey), Gorton said, 'I plead guilty to attempting to pass one base coin not knowing it to be bad. These two fellows (pointing to the other prisoners) were not with me on the afternoon, although they were with me on the morning when seen by Sergeant Evans.'

The other prisoners pleaded not guilty, and Mr. Hooper, on their behalf, urged that there was no evidence whatever against Green, and that the witnesses were mistaken as to Bourton. Both men were in Birmingham during the day in question. A number of witnesses were called to prove this, but eventually the Bench committed the prisoners for trial at the Assizes, bail being refused.

Mr. A. H. Bassano (the presiding magistrate) complimented James Griffiths, the cyclist, for the pluck he displayed to secure the arrest of the three prisoners. Superintendent Pilliner said the police much appreciated the valuable assistance they received from Griffiths, through whose efforts the prisoners had been brought to justice.

Detective Harris gave Superintendent Pilliner particulars of the prisoners' antecedents, which raised the ire of Bourton, who attempted to assault Harris, and declared his intention of killing him for giving the Staffordshire police particulars, which he characterised as an injustice. Owing to his violence it was necessary for a policeman to stand near to him in the dock."

### Staffordshire Sentinel 27/7/1903

"The County Assizes.....

Third Court. Held in the Grand Jury-room, before Mr. D. D. Greene, KC, MP.

John Gorton, 21, clerk, and John Henry Green, 24, glass blower, and John Bourton, 21, horse dealer, were charged with uttering to Thomas Cox, on July 4<sup>th</sup>, at Tividale, Rowley Regis, a piece of counterfeit coin

resembling a 5s piece, well knowing it to be false and counterfeit. Gorton was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, Green was discharged, and Bourton was sentenced to five months' imprisonment."

Smethwick Telephone 16/6/1906 - Advert

"Tuesday, June 26, 1906. Important Sale by Auction, by Samuel Jones, Son, and Vernon.....

Lot 1. Freehold Full-Licensed House and Premises, known as the BROWN LION INN, situate at Dudley Road, Tividale."

County Advertiser 1/12/1906

"Charles Richards, carpenter, of Dudley Road, Tividale, was charged with being drunk and disorderly and damaging windows to the extent of 17s, the property of *George William Hill*, landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, on the 19<sup>th</sup> ult.

The landlord alleged that on the night in question defendant visited his house in a drunken condition, and because he refused to supply him with beer defendant pulled a hammer out of his pocket and smashed fifteen panes of glass in the windows.

Police-constable Heatherley was called, and when he arrived defendant was using very bad language, and threatening people.

He was fined 10s for the drunkenness, and 1s and costs for the wilful damage, amounting in all £1 14s 6d."

*George William Hill* – see also ASH TREE, Tividale.

County Express 12/2/1910

"On Wednesday the annual general licensing sessions for the Old Hill petty sessional division were held at the Police Court, Old Hill.....

The Bench decided to defer the renewal of the licenses of the.....

BROWN LION INN, Tividale, kept by *Claude Vincent* to the adjourned licensing sessions in order that notices of objection could be served upon the owners on the ground of redundancy."

Lichfield Mercury 1/7/1910

"On Friday the principal meeting of the Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority was held at the Shirehall, Stafford.....

Licenses refused ..... BROWN LION, Tividale, full 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.....

BROWN LION, Tividale was referred to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, the committee being unable to approve the amounts submitted."

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1912

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.

1910 Cases. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue gave their decisions.....

BROWN LION, Tividale, £897."

*Claude Vincent* – see also WONDER, Tividale, BROWN LION, Oldbury, and ODDFELLOWS, New Street, Oldbury.

**BUILDERS ARMS**

34, (18), (11), Portway Road / [Little Eel Street](#), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

John Sadler, Portway Road, Oldbury [1884]  
Samuel Sturges Sadler  
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1901]  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

## LICENSEES

Joseph Darby [ ]  
John Sadler [1855] – **1863**);  
Joseph Deville (**1863** – [1865]  
Samuel Sturges Sadler (**1869** – **1897**);  
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (**1897** – **1908**);  
Albert Heath [1901] manager  
Herbert French (**1908** – **1913**);  
William Beasley (**1913** – **1917**);  
Ann Beasley (**1917** – **1920**);  
John William Beasley (**1920** – **1941**);  
Ann Beasley (**1941** – **1945**);  
Frederick Alan ‘Fred’ Sowry (**1945** – **1953**);  
Thomas Garbett (**1953** – **1961**);  
John Wallace (**1961** – [1966])

## NOTES

18, Portway Road [1871], [1881], [1884]  
11, Portway Road [1873]  
34, Portway Road [1891], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1939]

‘Lost Landscape. Portway Road, Oldbury. A Black Country Street.’ by Alan Dodson

“There were three pubs in my day in the Eel Street, Churchbridge and Portway Road ‘square’ although there had been as many as eight over the years. The BUILDERS ARMS stood at the corner of Little Eel Street and Portway Road. It was a large pub and even as a boy I remember it well, a solid cube of a building wrapping round the corner, with double bay windows, an imposing entrance facing Portway Road and large upstairs windows overlooking both streets. Adding to the impression, the road which formed a shallow depression from the bridge began to rise into the lane quite sharply at the Little Eel Street corner. One can imagine the BUILDERS ARMS was built to be more than just a watering hole for canal labourers and had the air of the establishments which later became known as ‘commercial hotels.’ The large function room on the first floor was much in favour for twenty-first birthday celebrations and the like. The BRICKMAKERS ARMS was at the corner of the other end of Eel Street and Churchbridge, smaller but in many ways similar. They were simply known as ‘The Top’ and ‘The Bottom’ although my father always referred to ‘The Top’ as ‘Beasley’s’ after the family whose members were licensees from 1913 until 1945.

The TRAVELLERS REST, known to all as ‘Sherwood’s’ or ‘Sammy Sherwood’s’ after the licensee from 1893 until 1945, which might be some sort of record, was a small pub in Churchbridge next door to ‘The Bottom,’ with rooms not much bigger than those of the neighbouring houses but distinguished by its own double bay windows and arched doorway.”

*Joseph Darby* issued tokens from here.

*John Sadler* was also a builder [1855]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/3/1855

“At Mr. *Sadler*’s BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury, tomorrow (Monday), a splendid pigeon gun,  $\frac{3}{4}$ -bore, made by Mr. Rose of Halesowen, is to be shot for, 20 tickets at 5s each, 3 birds, 2oz of shot, guns  $\frac{3}{4}$ -bore, 21 yards rise, the field the boundary. To commence at one, dinner at five o’clock. Mr. Perry will supply the best blue rocks.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/11/1855

“On Monday at Mr. *Sadler*’s, the BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury, the match between six members of the Oldbury and six members of the Wednesbury Clubs came off, for £10 a side and a dinner for 12, at 7 birds each, 21 yards rise, the green the boundary. The betting was level, if anything the Wednesbury had for choice. After some close and excellent shooting the match was won by the Oldbury Club by 1 bird, killing 36 out of 42. The return match will come off on Monday, the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, at the PORTWAY INN, for the same amount of stakes &c.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/9/1856

“At *J. Sadler*’s, BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury, on Monday, Oct 6, a fat pig, weighing 14 score, will be shot for, by 14 members, at 10s each, 3 birds, guns  $\frac{3}{4}$ -bore, 2oz of shot, 21 yards rise, the field the boundary. The best blue rocks will be provided. To commence at one o’clock.”

AND

“Timothy Hadley of Oldbury will shoot a match with Mr. T. Cottis of Westbromwich, for £10 or £25 a side, at 11 birds each, 1½oz of shot, 21 yards rise, 80 fall, to find and trap for each other. A match can be made either at Mr. *Sadler*’s Oldbury; or Josiah Griffiths’s, SPREAD EAGLE, Wednesbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/3/1857

“T. Hadley of Oldbury and Joseph Palmer of Wednesbury are matched to shoot at 11 birds each, for £10 a side, tomorrow (Monday), at *Sadler*’s, BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/5/1857

“At Mr. *John Sadler*’s, BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury, a quarter of a mile from Bromford Lane station, tomorrow (Monday), a match will take place at 5 birds each, for £10 a side, between Messrs. Hadley and Cottis, with three-quarter guns, 2oz shot, 21 yards rise, and 60 yards fall, and to trap against each other out of one hamper. The best blue rocks have been provided by Crosbie. To commence at one o’clock. Also a £10 sweep, by twenty members, at 10s each, 3 birds each; the usual conditions; rise and boundary to be abided by.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/5/1857

“At *Sadler*’s, the BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury, near Birmingham, the match between Messrs. Cottis and Hadley, at 3 birds each, for £10 a side, which stood to come off on Monday, at the above grounds, did not take place, Cottis forfeiting; but a sweepstakes took place between Messrs. Hadley, Brown, Cottis, and Nurse at 3 birds each, 10s each, when Cottis won killing all. A second sweepstakes, by the same parties on the same terms, came off, when Mr. Nurse won, killing all. Afterwards Messrs. Brown of Walsall and Hadley of Oldbury shot a match, at 7 birds each, for £5 a side, when both killed all their birds and shot off bird for bird, when Brown killed 8 in succession, Hadley 7.”

1861 Census

Portway Road – BUILDERS ARMS

[1] *John Sadler* (41), builder employing 2 men, born Oldbury;

[2] Harriet Sadler (40), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] C. M. Sadler (21), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] *Samuel Sadler* (18), son, builder apprentice, born Oldbury;

[5] James Sadler (13), son, builder apprentice, born Oldbury;

- [6] Harriet Sadler (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Ellen Sadler (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Mary Sadler (8), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [9] Philip John Sadler (2), son:

Birmingham Daily Post 18/12/1862 - Advert

“Oldbury. The BUILDERS ARMS.

By Mr. Robert H. Jones. To be Disposed of, in consequence of other engagements of the Proprietor, this old-established and well-connected Old-Licensed House.

The Premises are situate in the centre of the Brick and Coal Trade, have been fitted up with every convenience, regardless of expense, and consist of Entrance Hall, spacious Bar, Tap Room, Smoke Room, two Parlours, Kitchens, extensive Club Room, and five Bed Rooms. There is also a spacious Yard, with Skittle and Marble Alleys, and the Stabling, Coach-house, Brewhouse, and Cellarage is unequalled in the town, with every accommodation in Out-offices, hard and soft Water, &c. In-coming about £250.

Apply to Mr. Robert H. Jones, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Accountant, Church Square, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/3/1866 - Advert

“BUILDERS ARMS INN, Oldbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that capital Business House with commodious Premises, and every convenience. Rent and payments low. In-coming not to exceed £200.

Apply upon the premises; or to A. Atree, Auctioneer, Church Square.”

Birmingham Journal 14/12/1867 - Advert

“BUILDERS ARMS, Portway Road, Oldbury. Clearing-Out Sale.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. C. Wootton, on Monday Next, 16<sup>th</sup> December, on the Premises as above, commencing in the morning at Eleven o’clock.

The Licenses, Goodwill, Public House Fixtures, Brewing Plant, a portion of the Household Furniture and Effects; comprising the Screens and Seating of two Rooms, Gas-fittings and Piping, Ale Machine and Spirit Fountain, with Piping and Taps, metallic-top Counters, Shelving, 100-gallon wrought and cast-iron Boilers, 16-strike Mash Tub, 300-gallon Store Cask, 160-gallon wrought and cast-iron Boilers, Lead Pipe, capital Barrels, Swing Sign, half-tester and tent Bedsteads, feather Beds, mahogany Tables, horse-hair Couch and Easy Chairs, Chimney Glasses, Clocks and Timepieces, and a variety of useful Effects.

Catalogues of the Auctioneer, Paradise Street, West Bromwich.”

1871 Census

18, Port Way Road

- [1] *Samuel Sadler* (28), builder, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Sadler (28), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Sarah Sadler (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] May Sadler (11 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Phebe Hadley (13), servant, born Oldbury;
- [6] Sarah James (12), servant, born Oldbury:

1881 Census

18, Portway Road – BUILDERS ARMS

- [1] *Samuel Sturges Sadler* (38), builder and publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Sadler (38), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Sarah Sadler (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] Florence Sadler (6), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

*Samuel Sturges Sadler* was a partner of John Sadler & Sons, builders and joiners, Portway Rd.

West Bromwich Weekly News 3/1/1891



“The fourth annual social dinner was held at the BUILDERS ARMS, Portway Road, on December 25<sup>th</sup>, and on the removal of the cloth Mr. W. Poole occupied the chair.....”

#### 1891 Census

34, Portway Road – BUILDERS ARMS

- [1] *Samuel Sturges Sadler* (48), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Sadler (48), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Florence Nightingale Sadler (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Sarah King (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

William Butler and Co. Ltd. were fined £5 and £2 5s 0d costs, on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1898, for permitting drunkenness.

#### 1901 Census

34, Portway Road – BUILDERS ARMS

- [1] *Albert Heath* (25), manager, public house, born Tettenhall;
- [2] Elizabeth Heath (27), wife, born Stoke on Trent;
- [3] Herbert Heath (1), son, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] Ada Heath (2 weeks), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/9/1901

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The following licence holders presented plans for alterations to their premises.....

William Butler and Co. Limited, BUILDERS ARMS.....

The magistrates examined the plans, and Mr. Wilson stated that several of them had personally examined the premises.....

Granted subject to the erection of a wall 7ft high to shut off the licensed premises.”

#### 1911 Census

34, Portway Road – BUILDERS ARMS

- [1] *Herbert French* (57), widower, licensed innkeeper, born Rawmarsh, West Riding Yorkshire;
- [2] Ann Pearsall (71), sister-in-law, spinster, housekeeper, born Ladywood, Birmingham;
- [3] Elizabeth French (17), daughter, manufacturer’s bookkeeper, born Ladywood, Birmingham;
- [4] Christopher French (16), son, barman at home, born Ladywood, Birmingham;
- [5] Arthur French (13), son, school:

*William Beasley* married Ann Buttery.

*John William Beasley* was in possession of the pub at the time of the Licensing Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1920.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/4/1920

“Alfred Hearne, a gipsy, of no fixed abode, was charged at Oldbury yesterday with obtaining £5 by false pretences from *William Beasley*, of the BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury.

A van dealer named Gilbert said that on 22 March he and the defendant agreed to exchange two vans, Hearne also to pay him £3. They were in the BUILDERS ARMS at the time, and Hearne produced a note which he asked the landlord to change. *Beasley* gave him five £1 Treasury notes for it.

The following morning the defendant told Gilbert he had to go away, as he was in some trouble. He wanted to cry off the bargain, and consented to forfeit £1 if Gilbert would return him the other £2, which he did.

In reply to Mr. Darby, who appeared for the defendant, Gilbert said that he had had a number of dealings with the defendant, and found him always honest, and straightforward.

*Beasley* said he thought that the note was a genuine one, and did not discover it was false until the following week, when he was paying a traveller

When arrested by Police-constable Ridley, Hearne said he did not know that the note was a wrong one, adding that he had sold two ponies at Wolverhampton and the note was part of the money he had received for them.

The magistrates thought that it was a proper case to bring before the Court, but there was not sufficient evidence of attempt to defraud, and the case was dismissed.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/10/1927

“*John William Beasley*, licensee of the BUILDERS ARMS, Portway Road, Oldbury, was fined £5 and four guineas special costs, yesterday, for selling intoxicating liquor after hours. Six customers found on the premises were ordered to pay the costs, 4s 6d.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/10/1936

“A man lies in West Bromwich General Hospital unaware that in another ward his son is lying critically ill as a result of a road crash involving the son’s car and two motor-cycles, in which three people were killed and three others (including his son) severely injured on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton road at Oldbury on Sunday night.

The West Bromwich Coroner will this morning open the inquest on the three victims of the crash, which was reported in our editions yesterday. Only formal evidence is likely. The victims were:

Leslie Frank Allen, aged 23, of 181, Lightswoods Road, Bearwood, Smethwick, driver of one of the motor-cycles; Freda May Strawbridge, aged 17, of 25, Grosvenor Road, Harborne, his pillion passenger; and John William Wilkinson, aged 20, of 78, Gilbert Road, Smethwick, the driver of the other machine.

The injured, all of whom are in a critical condition in West Bromwich and District General Hospital, are: Lily Hayes, aged 17, of 79, St. Stephens Road, Smethwick, Wilkinson’s pillion passenger; Benjamin *Beasley*, aged 21 son of the licensee of the BUILDERS ARMS, Portway Road, Oldbury, the driver of the car; and Clara Taylor, aged 21, of 74, Church Street, Oldbury, his passenger.

*Beasley* and his passenger were both operated on yesterday, but his father, who has been a patient in the hospital for several weeks, has not yet been informed of the accident.

The girl Hayes is suffering from multiple fractures, while the other two persons received severe internal injuries. In addition, Miss Taylor has a compound fracture of the left leg.

There is still some mystery about the crash and eye-witnesses are asked to communicate with the Oldbury police. The *Birmingham Gazette* understands that it occurred in a heavy ground mist between the Birchley cross-roads and Titford Bridge, at 10pm, when the motor-cyclists were riding towards Birmingham and the car going in the opposite direction. The car appears to have been in collision with Wilkinson’s motor-cycle and then turned a somersault, coming into the track of Allen’s machine. The impact was so severe that the nearside door was forced inwards across the front of the seat, while the roof was also ripped. The car mounted the kerb and cut its way through the grass path before coming to a standstill almost a complete wreck. There were indications that Allen’s head had struck the front corner of the roof. The front part of Allen’s machine was shattered. The roadway had the appearance of a shambles.”

[The inquest returned verdicts of Accidental Death, there being insufficient evidence to attach blame to anyone.]

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/10/1936

“A wreath representing a vacant chair was one of the 60 floral tributes at yesterday’s funeral of Mr. Benjamin *Beasley*, son of the licensee of the BUILDERS ARMS, Portway Road, Oldbury. Aged 21, he was the driver of the motor-car which, with two motor-cycles, was involved in a triple smash on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton road, Oldbury, on the night of 4 October. He died from his injuries on Thursday week at the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, being the fourth victim of the smash.

Between 200 and 300 people witnessed the departure of the cortege from Portway Road, and there was an almost equal number at the Oldbury Cemetery, where the interment took place. The service was conducted by the Rev. P. Burnett, Vicar of Rounds Green, Oldbury.

The chief family mourners were Mrs. *Beasley* (mother), William and Leslie *Beasley* (brothers), and Miss C. *Beasley* (sister). The bearers were Messrs. H. Boswell, B. Winsper, J. Hall and J. Rowley.

Mr. *Beasley*, senior, is still in the hospital at West Bromwich, where he has been for several weeks, recover-

ing from an illness.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/4/1938

“A. Bayliss, of the Trade Union Hall and Institute, Oldbury, is the individual champion of the Oldbury and District Darts League which comprises between 300 and 400 players.....

The final of the A. E. Jesson Cup for clubs was also decided; GREEN DRAGON, Dudley, proving far too strong for BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury. BUILDERS ARMS claimed only two of the eight games, the winners of them being L. Beasley and B. Hull (who recovered after being nearly ‘white-washed’ to win on double 17).

The winning side were: J. Rollason, J. Herbert, P. Garrett, J. Crump, B. Round, W. Neath, J. Walsh and S. Jackson. Biggest score, with three darts, of the night was the 125 of W. Neath.”

1939 Register

34, Portway Road

[1] *John W. Beasley*, date of birth 19/6/1888, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Ann Beasley, dob 16/8/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Benjamin Beasley, dob 15/8/1889, dryer out, galvanizing plant, single;

[4] John W. Beasley, dob 29/4/1914, tube drawer, single;

[5] Leslie Beasley, dob 13/6/1916, estimating clerk, metal trade, single;

[6] Clara S. (Beasley) Hall, dob 16/8/1920, unpaid domestic duties, single:

*Frederick Sowry* = Frederick Sowny

Tipton Herald 22/10/1960

“Over 100 relatives and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cox of 240, Oldbury Road, West Bromwich, gathered at the BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury, on Saturday to wish the couple well on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1966

“Two Oldbury licensees, *John Wallace*, of the BUILDERS ARMS, Portway Road, Oldbury, and Alice Prately, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, who admitted diluting beer, were both fined £10 at Oldbury magistrates court yesterday.”

News Telephone 2/7/1970

“Rounds Green Celtic held their presentation night at the BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury, to celebrate a successful season in which they won the Warley Alliance Group Cup and joint winners of the Junior Bonus Division, and were runners up in the under-18 League.....”

‘Lost Landscape. Portway Road, Oldbury. A Black Country Street.’ by Alan Dodson

“As the swinging sixties in other places became the seventies, in Portway Road nothing was left standing apart from the corner shop at the bridge, the BUILDERS ARMS on the Little Eel Street junction, the old metal works warehouse with a couple of small enterprises huddling in its shadow and number 10, the old Marine Stores, solitary among the rubble.”

Closed

Demolished

**BULLS HEAD**

Park Street, Churchbridge, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

Simeon Griffiths [1851] – [1860]

James Parsons [1868]

## NOTES

*Simeon Griffiths*, retailer of beer, Church Bridge. [1851]

### 1851 Census

#### Park Street

[1] *Simeon Griffiths* (37), coal miner, beer retailer, born Tipton;

[2] Elizabeth Griffiths (32), wife, born Kingswinford;

[3] Elizabeth Higgs (76), mother-in-law, widow, born Stourbridge;

[4] Emma Griffiths (6), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Richard Griffiths (1), son, born Oldbury;

[6] Jane Griffiths (3), daughter, born Oldbury;

[7] Maria Robinson (16), general servant, born Oldbury;

[8] Thomas Hakerman (17), apprentice coal miner, born Birmingham;

[9] William Hancox (18), servant, coal miner, birthplace not known:

### London Gazette 1/5/1860

“In the Matter of the Petition of *Simeon Griffiths*, formerly of Churchbridge in the parish of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Beer Seller and Dealer in Tobacco, afterwards of Churchbridge aforesaid, carrying on business as a Butty Collier, in copartnership with Caleb Griffiths, under the style or firm of Caleb Griffiths and Simeon Griffiths, and being a Beer Seller and Dealer in Tobacco, on my own account, then of Churchbridge aforesaid, carrying on business as a Butty Collier, in copartnership with George French, under the style or firm of Griffiths and French, and also being a Beer Seller and Dealer in Tobacco on my own account, then of Churchbridge aforesaid, Butty Collier, Beer Seller, and Dealer in Tobacco, then of Churchbridge aforesaid, Beer Seller and Dealer in Tobacco, and also carrying on business at Westbromwich, in the county of Stafford, as a Butty Collier, in copartnership with Richard Jennings, under the style or firm of Griffiths and Jennings then of Churchbridge aforesaid, Beer Seller and Dealer in Tobacco, and also carrying on business as a Butty Collier, at Oldbury aforesaid, in copartnership with John Fletcher and James Griffiths, under the style or firm of Griffiths, Fletcher, and Griffiths, then of Churchbridge aforesaid, Beer Seller and Dealer in Tobacco, and also carrying on business as a Butty Collier, at Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, in copartnership with the said Caleb Griffiths and James Griffiths, under the style or firm of Griffiths, Griffiths, and Griffiths, then of Churchbridge aforesaid, Beer Seller and Dealer in Tobacco, and also carrying on business as a Butty Collier, of Rowley Regis aforesaid, in copartnership with Richard Griffiths and Richard Moore, under the style of Griffiths, Griffiths, and Moore, and also being a Butty Collier on my own account, and now of Churchbridge aforesaid, Miner, Beer Seller, and Dealer in Tobacco.

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, at Oldbury, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 17th day of May instant, at ten of the clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary.”

### London Gazette 10/8/1869

“*James Parsons* the younger, now and for twelve months last past residing at Churchbridge, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, and carrying on the business of a Butcher, and previously thereto of the BULLS HEAD, Churchbridge aforesaid, Beerhouse Keeper and Butcher, and previously thereto of

Blackheath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Butcher, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, on the 6th day of August, 1869, is hereby required to surrender himself to George Steward Watson, Esq., a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar on the 27th day of August instant, at ten of the clock in the forenoon precisely, at the said Court. The Registrar of the Court is the Official Assignee, and William Shakespeare, of Oldbury, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

## CAT

West Bromwich Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

## CHEMICAL INN

5, Seven Stars Road, (5, (61), (60), Park Lane), (Chemical Road), Low Town, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

William Foster, Causeway Green  
Walter Showell and Co. Ltd. [1890], [1923]

## LICENSEES

George Duckhouse [1851] – [1862]  
George Price [ ] – **1863**);  
John Pearson (**1863 – 1865**);  
William Price (**1865 – [ ]**)  
Joseph Day [ ] – **1868**);  
William Foster (**1868 – [1881]**)  
William Smith [1884] – **1885**);  
Joseph Male (**1885 – [ ]**)  
Alfred Dyche [1888] – **1889**);  
Thomas Williams (**1889 – [1891]**)  
Richard John Amphlett [1891] – **1892**);  
Joseph Waterhouse (**1892 – 1894**);  
Walter Showell and Co. Ltd. (**1894 – 1907**);  
Alfred Slim [1896] manager?  
James Stansfield [1901] manager  
Patrick Kenny (**1907 – 1910**);  
Maria Owen (**1910 – 1911**);  
Frederick Willetts (**1911 – 1914**);

Henry Brown (1914 – 1915);  
John Leonard Parkes (1915 – 1916);  
William Samuel Parkes (1916 – 1920);  
John Leonard Parkes (1920);  
Douglas George Young (1920 – 1921);  
Joseph Matthews (1921 – 1922);  
Luke James Riddle (1922 – 1923):

## NOTES

Low Town [1865]  
60, Park Lane [1873]  
61, Park Lane [1881]  
5, Park Lane [1891], [1896], [1916], [1921]  
5, Seven Stars Road [1901], [1911]

CHEMICAL TAVERN [1855], [1864], [1865]

### 1851 Census

West side of Low Town

- [1] *George Duckhouse* (32), beer seller, born Huntingdon, Staffordshire;
- [2] Mary A. Duckhouse (32), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Abraham Duckhouse (9), son, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Mary Jones (91), grand-mother, widow, cottage proprietress, born Wellington, Shropshire:

### Birmingham Journal 18/12/1852 - Advert

“Oldbury. Valuable Freehold Public House, the CHEMICAL TAVERN, Five Houses and Building Land, in Park Street, near to Messrs. Chance’s Chemical Works and the Birmingham Canal.

To be Sold by Auction, by H. Farrington, at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, on Wednesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1852, at Five for Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions.

Lot 1. All that substantially-built Public House, fronting to Park Lane, occupied by Mr. *Duckhouse*; containing Bar, two good Tap Rooms, Parlour, good Club Room, three Bed Rooms, good Cellars, Brewhouse, entire Yard, Pump, and other conveniences.

Lot 2. All those Five substantially-built Houses adjoining lot 1, with the Brewhouses, Yard, and Side Road of three feet wide to the back, in the occupation of Warton and others, producing a rental of £37 1s.

Lot 3. All that valuable Piece of Building Land, fronting to Park Lane, and adjoining lot 2, subject to a right of way of three feet to the back of lot 2, and containing about 431 square yards, together with the Pig-sties and Pump thereon.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Coldicott and Canning, Solicitors, Dudley; or the Auctioneer, Walsall.”

### 1861 Census

Low Town – CHEMICAL TAVERN

- [1] *George Duckhouse* (42), publican, born Huntingdon, Staffordshire;
- [2] Sarah Duckhouse (39), wife, born Hartlebury, Oxfordshire;
- [3] Abraham Duckhouse (19), son, labourer at iron furnace, born West Bromwich;
- [4] George Duckhouse (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] Sarah Dukes (30), general servant, born Oldbury:

*George Duckhouse* – see also OLD TALBOT, Birmingham Street.

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/3/1862 - Advert

“CHEMICAL TAVERN, Oldbury.

To be Disposed of, by A. G. Altree, that desirable and compact old-licensed Inn, situate near the works of Messrs. Chance Brothers, and is surrounded by mining, brick, and ironworks. It has a good society attached, and is doing a very good business. The house is replete with every convenience, and well supplied with hard and soft water. The Proprietor having taken to a spirit vault is the sole reason why this much-desired opportunity presents itself. Incoming about £150.

For particulars, apply to A. G. Altree, Public-house Agent and Valuer, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, or upon the premises.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/9/1863 - Advert

“To be Disposed of by Private Contract, by A. G. Altree, the CHEMICAL TAVERN, Oldbury. The above excellent old-licensed Inn is now doing a satisfactory in and out-door trade, and is well frequented, and has a lodge attached. The house and premises are in good repair and complete. Any one seeking a genuine concern and a comfortable home should turn at once their attention to this offer. Incoming about £150.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply upon the premises, or to the Auctioneer and Valuer, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/2/1865 - Advert

“Wanted a Girl-Of-All-Work, for a Public-house. Wages liberal.

Apply at the CHEMICAL INN, Oldbury.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 4/3/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a Pony Trap and Harness. A first-class Slate-bottomed Bagatelle Table and Marking Board for Sale.

Apply at the CHEMICAL INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/8/1867 - Advert

“CHEMICAL TAVERN INN, Park Lane, Oldbury.

An excellent opportunity of taking to a good Old-licensed Business House, with a Field of Land adjoining, every convenience, and well situated, for £140, part of which may remain upon approved security for a time. Apply on the Premises.”

Birmingham Journal 9/11/1867 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale, at the CHEMICAL TAVERN, Park Lane, Oldbury, by E. H. Barton.

To be Sold by Auction, on Tuesday Next, November 12, at half-past Ten o’clock (unless previously sold by Private Contract).

The whole of the Household and Public House Furniture, Slate-bottom Bagatelle Table, and Brewing Plant, including Wash Stands, Tables, Birch and Tent Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Palliasses, Chairs, Tables, Engravings, Cabinet Pianoforte, Sofa, Spirit Bottles, Cups, Jugs, Glasses, four-pull Ale Machine, Timepiece, Benches, Signs, Lamp, Partitioning, Malt Mill, Hop Sieve, Mash Tub, Coolers, lead Wort Pipe, patent Boilers and Settings, Gathering and other Tubs; 250-gallon, hogshead, half-hogshead, and other Casks; Gas-fittings, and other Effects.

Catalogues at the Auctioneer’s Offices, 11, Union Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/11/1867 - Advert

“By E. H. Barton, This Day (Tuesday), at half-past Ten, at the CHEMICAL TAVERN, Park Lane, Oldbury. Household and Public House Furniture, Bagatelle Board, Pianoforte, Brewing Plant, and Effects.

Auctioneer’s Offices, 11, Union Street.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 7/8/1869

“The monthly meeting of Oldbury Local Board was held yesterday.....

Mr. Davis, the Inspector, said there were two cisterns at the CHEMICAL TAVERN, Seven Stars Road, which were in such a condition as to be very injurious to health, especially in the present hot weather. The

members agreed that the Sanitary Committee should visit the place.”

#### 1871 Census

Low Town – CHEMICAL TAVERN

- [1] *William Foster* (49), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Frances Foster (53), wife, born Stone;
- [3] Richard Foster (26), son, no occupation, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Alice Foster (20), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] William Foster (18), son, stoker, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] George Foster (16), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Frances Foster (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 27/4/1871 - Advert

“Found, on the 22nd inst, a Slate-and-white-coloured Greyhound Bitch. If not claimed in three days, will be Sold.

Apply, CHEMICAL INN, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 28/4/1877 - Advert

“Bargain. For Sale, handsome, dark-brown Cob, 14 hands, 4 years; sound, quiet, and good worker. Too small for present owner.

Apply, CHEMICAL INN, Low Town, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/6/1880 -Advert

“Pigs (14 strong Stores) for Sale.

Apply, CHEMICAL INN, Low Town, Oldbury.”

#### 1881 Census

61, Park Lane – CHEMICAL INN

- [1] *William Foster* (59), licensed victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] Frances Foster (63), wife, born Stone:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 3/11/1881 - Advert

“Dog-Trap, with cushions, complete, for Sale, in good condition; 14½ to 16 hands; also, stylish little Pony Trap, new, 13 to 14 hands; both cheap.

Apply, CHEMICAL INN, Park Lane, Oldbury.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 19/7/1884

“Oldbury Police Court. *William Smith* of the CHEMICAL INN, Low Town, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant. PS Stanton deposed that on the night in question he saw the defendant’s door wide open at 10 minutes past 10, and four men in the tap room. As there had been no previous complaint against the defendant, he was allowed to go on payment of the costs.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 31/7/1886

“Harriet Walker (26), Park Lane, Oldbury, was charged with stealing a purse containing 17s in money, the property of Stephen Baldwin, on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst. Prosecutor stated that on Saturday afternoon he went into the CHEMICAL TAVERN, Park Lane, and saw the defendant there. He put his purse upon the table and went away, forgetting to take it. When he came back a few moments afterwards it was gone and defendant also. When charged with the offence defendant at first denied all knowledge of the purse, but subsequently admitted having taken it. She was fined £1 and the costs, or, in default, one month’s imprisonment.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 21/5/1887

“An inquest was held on Friday morning, at the CHEMICAL INN, Park Lane, by Mr. E. Docker (deputy coroner), touching the death of John Charles Whitehouse, aged four years, who was drowned in the arm of



the canal on Wednesday evening.

Betsey Whitehouse, mother of deceased, stated that she saw her child playing on the bank a little before 8 o'clock on Wednesday night, and a few minutes past 8 she heard that he was in the canal.

John Bullard stated that he heard the cries of the children, and ran to the canal and assisted to get the child out, but he was quite dead.

PS Stanton said that the children were in the habit of playing on the bank, which was very dangerous.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/8/1890

"At the Police Court, yesterday, Mr. Joseph D. Wood, architect, of Birmingham, applied to the magistrates to approve plans for extensive alterations which it is proposed to carry out at the CHEMICAL INN, Park Lane, and the ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury. It was explained the both houses belong to Messrs. Showell and Sons (Limited). The application was granted, subject to approval of the licensing justices."

#### 1891 Census

5, Park Lane – CHEMICAL INN

- [1] *Thomas Williams* (33), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Harriet Williams (33), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Harriet Williams (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] John Williams (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] Ernest Williams (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Ethel Williams (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] Arthur Williams (4 months), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] Ellen Day (19), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Thomas Williams* – see also GATE.

#### Smethwick Telephone 2/5/1891 - Advert

"CHEMICAL TAVERN, Chemical Road, Oldbury.

This well-known Old Licensed Inn, to be Let. Lease 14 years. Rent £50.

For further particulars, apply to W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Valuer, 13, Church Street, Oldbury."

#### 1901 Census

5, Seven Stars Road

- [1] *James Stansfield* (36), public house manager, born Langley Green;
- [2] Elizabeth Stansfield (37), wife, born Langley Green;
- [3] Frederick J. Stansfield (9), son, born Langley Green;
- [4] Edith M. Stansfield (3), daughter, born Langley Green;
- [5] Mary A. Lane (17), domestic servant, born Langley Green:

Walter Showell and Co. Ltd. were fined 40s and 5s 6d costs, on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1902, for permitting drunkenness.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

"Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

CHEMICAL TAVERN."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation. ....

CHEMICAL INN, Tatbank, alehouse, owner Messrs. Jordan and Co. ....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee’s investigations. ....”

1911 Census

5, Seven Stars Road – CHEMICAL INN

[1] *Maria Owen* (32), widow, licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Fannie Lee* (20), servant, born Oldbury:

*Douglas George Young* – see also WHITE SWAN.

Smethwick Telephone 11/6/1921

“A very pretty wedding of much local interest was solemnised at Holy Trinity Church on Wednesday, the contracting parties being, Bert, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Browning Smith, of South Road, Smethwick, and Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *Joseph Matthews*, of the CHEMICAL INN (and late of Barker Street), Oldbury. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a dress of white crepe-de-chine, with rich embroidery, and a veil with orange blossoms. She carried a bouquet of mixed white flowers. The bridesmaids were Miss May Smith (sister of the bridegroom) and Miss Lillian *Matthews* (sister of the bride). They wore charming dresses of peach-coloured crepe-de-chine with black and peach embroideries, and black hats, and carried bouquets of sweet peas (the gift of the bridegroom). The ceremony was performed by the Vicar (the Rev. E. L. Cochrane, MA). The duties of best man were carried out by Mr. Howard *Matthews* (brother of the bride, and the Oldham Athletic footballer). The bridegroom is well-known locally, being an official of Holy Trinity Recreation Club. After the ceremony the reception was held at Oldbury. The honeymoon is being spent in Teignmouth (South Devon).”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1922

“At Oldbury adjourned licensing sessions yesterday an application was refused for a licence for a building in the Londonderry Lane area, where the Smethwick housing scheme is being developed.

The applicant, *Joseph Matthews*, licensee of the CHEMICAL INN, Park Lane, on behalf of Messrs. Showell’s Brewery, asked that his licence should be transferred to a site in the new area, on which it is proposed to erect a thoroughly modern house.

The application was opposed by Mr. Lyon Clark on behalf of the clergy and ministers in the district, Mr. C. H. Darby on behalf of a resident, and Mr. F. Dawes on behalf of Messrs. Atkinson’s Brewery Company. It was stated that the cost of the proposed new building would be from £8,000 to £10,000.”

An application was granted, at the Adjourned Licensing Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1923, for the Ordinary Removal of this license to premises known as the ALBION INN, Tat Bank.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/5/1923

“The Worcester Licensing Committee yesterday. ....

The committee confirmed two new licences granted by the Oldbury magistrates.

One involved the transfer of the full licence of the CHEMICAL INN, Park Lane, Oldbury, to the ALBION, a

beerhouse, in the growing Tat Bank area.....”

The premises closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1923.

#### Smethwick Telephone 15/9/1923

“Important Sale of Valuable and Attractive Freehold De-Licensed Properties, Building Land, Freehold Residences (with Vacant Possession), Dwelling Houses and Shop Property situate in Oldbury, Whiteheath and Langley.

By Messrs. Jones, Son & Vernon (FAI), at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1923, at 7pm sharp, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then produced and read.

Edward and Henry Streets, Langley Green.

Lo1 1. All that Freehold De-Licensed Premises together with the Two Cottages adjoining, forming the corner of Edward and Henry Streets, Langley Green, aforesaid, and formerly known as the BEEHIVE.

The whole property has a frontage to Edward Street of about 21 yards 1ft and 9ins, and to Henry Street of about 11 yards and 1ft.

Vacant possession will be given to the whole of the Premises with the exception of the Cottage, No.45, Henry Street, which is in the occupation of Mr. Ferrer, rent free, for five years from the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 1920.

Park Lane, Oldbury.

Lot 2. The Freehold De-Licensed Premises, formerly known as the CHEMICAL INN, Park Lane, Oldbury.

The property has a frontage of about 13 yards 1ft and 4ins, and Vacant Possession will be given.....”

#### Smethwick Telephone 29/9/1923

“At the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, the following properties were disposed of.....

A freehold de-licensed premises, formerly known as the CHEMICAL INN, Park Lane, Oldbury (vacant possession), £170.”

### **CHEMICAL ARMS**

Canalside, Stone Street, (26, Lodge Street), Tat Bank, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Oldbury Railway Co.

Thomas Adams

#### LICENSEES

Eliza Sturges [1881]

John Woodall [1884] – **1886**;

Job White Hartley (**1886 – 1888**):

#### NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

#### 1881 Census

26, Lodge Street – CHEMICAL ARMS INN

[1] *Eliza Sturges* (57), widow, brewer and beer seller, born Dudley;

[2] Mary Ann Bridge (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury;  
[3] Benjamin Woodall (56), lodger, general dealer, born Dudley:

London Gazette 2/4/1886

“*John Woodall*. The CHEMICAL ARMS INN, Canal-side, Stone-street, Tat Bank, Oldbury, and the Anchor Bridge Boiler Works, Birmingham-road, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Beerhouse Keeper and Boiler Maker.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/5/1886

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Yesterday a meeting of the creditors of *John Woodall*, of the CHEMICAL ARMS INN, Stone Street, Tat Bank, and also carrying on business as a boilermaker, at the Anchor Bridge Boiler Works, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, was held at Oldbury County Court; Mr. C. Woollett presiding. The debtor’s statement showed the liabilities to be £98 18s 11d, and the assets £27 3s. The debtor was subsequently examined before Mr. G. S. Watson, Registrar, and allowed to pass. Mr. S. H. Forrest was the debtor’s solicitor.”

There was no application to renew the license on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1888.

It was demolished as part of the construction of the railway line linking Oldbury with Langley, c.1888.

## **CHURCH BRIDGE TAVERN**

Tiger Wharf, Whimsey Bridge, Halesowen Street, Churchbridge, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

William Martin [1845]

Joseph Lissimore [1851] – [1856]

William Hall [1859] – [1865]

### NOTES

#### CHURCH BRIDGE TAP HOUSE

*Joseph Lissimore*, CHURCH BRIDGE TAVERN, Halesowen Street. [1851]

*Joseph Lisimore*, victualler, BRIDGE TAVERN, Halesowen Street. [1855]

Worcester Journal 20/9/1856

“*Joseph Lissimore*, innkeeper, was fined 2s 6d and costs, for keeping his house open for the sale of beer at improper hours, on Sunday the 31<sup>st</sup> ult.”

Birmingham Journal 13/11/1858 - Advert

“A First-Rate Opportunity,

A Capital Old-Licensed Inn, the CHURCH BRIDGE TAVERN, near the Tiger Wharf, Oldbury.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Contract, the Licenses and Possession, doing a good business.

The Premises are well situated, with every convenience. Rent and Coming-in very low.

For further particulars, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Valuer, &c, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1858 - Advert

“Sale of Public House Fixtures, Furniture, Stock-In-Trade, and other Effects.

By Joseph S. Parkes, at the CHURCH BRIDGE TAVERN, upon the Premises, Tomorrow (Friday) November 26<sup>th</sup>, the whole of the Brewing Plant, Fixtures, Furniture, Licenses, Possession and other Effects, near the Tiger Wharf, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/8/1860

“The boiler explosion briefly noticed in our impression of yesterday has resulted in more serious consequences than were at first anticipated, and three of the sufferers have already expired from the effects of the terrible injuries received.

Mr. Samuel Johnson’s brickworks – the scene of the accident – are situated not far from the TALBOT HOTEL, and cover a large extent of ground. A portion of them is occupied by an extensive shed, where the bricks are gradually dried by hot air previous to being removed to the kiln. Just outside this shed, and running parallel with it, is the boiler which exploded, and the fatal effects of the explosion resulted from the fact that the end of the boiler is just in front of the entrance to the shed. Consequently, the steam and hot water rushed into the shed, enveloping everybody in the building at the time. The boiler is a cylindrical one, with what is called a ‘D’ end. It is about twenty-eight feet long and four feet in diameter, and was firmly set in brickwork. The steam clack of the boiler went through the slate roof overhead, and hence has arisen a theory respecting the cause of the explosion, which does not appear altogether improbable, although in the present stage of that which will form the subject of scientific enquiry we submit the theory with diffidence. It is stated that the engineer, whenever he wanted to alter the weights on the steam clack was in the habit of getting on the slates, by which means some of them were disarranged, and the rain got through. It is supposed that the wet thus let in lodged between the sides of the boiler and the brickwork, and gradually corroded the plates till they were so thin that one of them burst. This is the more probable from the fact that the explosion took place at the junction of the plates with brickwork, and that the other portions of the boiler are quite sound and of considerable strength. Very little brickwork was disturbed by the explosion, and only a few slates were blown off the roof; but the steam and water rushed into the shed with such force that one or two of the girls at work fell down, and consequently were more severely scalded than the others. Two men who were at work in the upper portion of the shed escaped unhurt; but if the accident had happened a short time later several men would have been at work carrying bricks to the kiln, and they must inevitably have shared the fate of the unfortunate girls. The names of the sufferers are as follow: Ann Bridge, 17; Eliza Carter, 12; Prudence Carter, 22; Catherine Duggan, 20; Sarah Matthews, 16; and another girl named Stokes. Dr. Cooper was immediately in attendance upon the girls, and paid them every possible attention; but in three cases it was of no avail, and Bridge and the two Carters have died from the fearful injuries they sustained. Their skin had come entirely off in some places, and upon other portions of their bodies it hung like shreds of parchment. Sarah Matthews is not expected to recover.

The boiler is connected with an engine used for grinding clay, and drawing waggons up and down the pit from which the clay is obtained. The flue does not extend to the point where the explosion took place, and therefore it would appear that the explosion could not have been caused by the burning of the plates, An inquest was opened on the bodies of the deceased girls last evening, at the house of Mr. *William Hall*, CHURCH BRIDGE TAVERN, before R. Docker, Esq, Coroner, and a Jury, of whom Mr. S. Marsh was foreman; but after viewing the bodies and inspecting the scene of the accident, the Jury were discharged till Friday next, in order that in the meantime a scientific investigation of the probable cause of the explosion might be made.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/8/1860

“An adjourned inquest was held at Oldbury, on Friday, upon the bodies of three girls, killed by a boiler explosion at the brickworks of Mr. Samuel Johnson, of that town, on the previous Monday. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, appending to it the remark that great neglect had been exhibited in allowing water to run through the roof on to the boiler – the sole cause of the accident.”

## 1861 Census

### Church Bridge – CHURCHBRIDGE TAVERN

- [1] *William Hall* (45), wheelwright and retail brewer, born Halesowen;
- [2] Elizabeth Hall (41), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] William Hall (23), son, wheelwright, born Oldbury;
- [4] Erick Hall (18), son, wheelwright, born Oldbury;
- [5] Elizabeth Hall (11), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Edwin Hall (1), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] Barbara Cockbill (12), servant, born Wick, Worcestershire;
- [8] James Hall (15), son, smith, born Staffordshire:

## London Gazette 23/7/1861

“Whereas a Petition of *William Hall*, now and for the last two years and seven months or thereabouts, and carrying on business as a Licensed Victualler and Wheelwright and Blacksmith, at Churchbridge, in the Hales Owen-road, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, for two years and three months previously thereto residing and carrying on business as a Wheelwright and Blacksmith, in Hales Owen-street, Oldbury aforesaid, and for five years and upwards previous to that residing and carrying on business as a Wheelwright and Blacksmith, at Churchbridge, in the Hales Owen-road, Oldbury aforesaid, 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 *William Hall*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *William Hall* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 12th day of August next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors’ assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *William Hall*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Messrs. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, Registrars of the said Court, at their office, at the Court-house, Oldbury, the Official Assignees of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.”

## Birmingham Journal 11/10/1862 - Advert

“Oldbury. Important Low-Rented Old-Licensed Inn, the CHURCH BRIDGE TAVERN, near the Whimsey Bridge, fronting the Oldbury and Hales Owen Turnpike Road, adjoining the most important Ironworks and Foundry of Messrs. Job Taylor and Company, large and important Brick and Tile Works, Collieries, and Coal Wharfs.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, that important Old-Licensed Inn. The House consists of Front Tap and Smoke Room, Bar, Servants’ and Cooking Kitchen, three large Bed Rooms, good Cellaring, capital Brewery, Stabling for three horses, Piggeries, Skittle and Marble Alley, extensive lock-up Yard, in which a good Retail Coal Trade may be done, with a good supply of hard and soft Water.

There is a good Wheelwright’s Business connected with the House, which the Proprietor would give up to a Purchaser, as he is retiring from business.

Brewing once a week. Rent £18 per annum. Coming-in about £70. Immediate possession may be had.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer and Surveyor, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Check BRICKMAKERS ARMS.

[In the 1861 census the next entry is Eel Street.]

## CLAY MILL

OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

Francis Ensor [1853]

## NOTES

### Birmingham Journal 8/1/1853 - Advert

“CLAY MILL INN, Oldbury.

To be Disposed Of, the above excellent Retail Public House, now doing a very profitable Business, situate in a populous neighbourhood, surrounded by Works. It is a corner House, built expressly for the trade.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *Francis Ensor*, on the premises, who will give satisfactory reasons for leaving. Coming-in about £60.”

### Birmingham Journal 26/2/1853 - Advert

“Sale at the CLAY MILL INN, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1853, the whole of the Public House Fixtures, Screens, Drinking Tables, Beer Machine, English Oak Casks, 16-Bushel Mashing Tubs, Pair Wood Vats, Cast-iron Boiler, Pug Mill and Clay Rolls, Two Open and One Cabin Boat, Two Narrow-wheel Carts, Rick of Oats, Four-wheel Double-bodied Phaeton, and Plated Harness, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Francis Ensor*, who is giving up the public business.

Catalogues may be had on Monday next, from the Auctioneer, at his Offices, Freeth Street, Oldbury, and High Street, Brierley Hill. Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the morning.”

## COTTAGE

193, (193a), (3), (65+66+67), (65), Tat Bank Road, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Henry Swain, 1, Tatbank Road, Oldbury

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (leased) (acquired c.1915) [1924]

Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired in 1936)

Ansells Ltd. (acquired in 1960)

Surinder Singh Shokar (acquired in 1985)

## LICENSEES

Henry Swain [1871] – **1888**);

Abraham Smith (**1888 – 1893**);

Joseph Southall (**1893 – 1908**);

Elizabeth Wortley (**1908 – 1922**);

Alfred Ballard (**1922 – 1927**);

Frederick Andrew Knowles (**1927 – 1930**);

John Phillips (**1930 – 1934**);

Jessie Phillips (1934);  
William James Riddle (1934 – 1941);  
Rose Riddle (1941 – 1946);  
William James Riddle (1946 – 1966)  
Surinder ‘Shinda’ Singh Shokar [1979] – 1987)  
Gerard ‘Gerry’ Desmond Foden [1987] – [1990]

## NOTES

65, Tatbank Road  
65+66+67, Tat Bank Road [1881]  
3, Tat Bank Road [1891]  
193a, Tat Bank Road [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912]  
193, Tat Bank Road [1966]

It was originally called the ALBION

It had a beerhouse license.

### 1871 Census

Tat Bank Road – ALBION Brewery

- [1] *Henry Swain* (46), brewer and grocer, born Warley;
- [2] *Elizabeth Swain* (47), wife, born Londonderry, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Joseph Swain* (20), son, born Londonderry, Worcestershire;
- [4] *Elizabeth Swain* (16), daughter, teacher in a school, born Londonderry, Worcestershire;
- [5] *Amplias Swain* (15), daughter, scholar, born Londonderry, Worcestershire;

*Henry Swain*, grocer and beer retailer, Tat Bank Road. [1872], [1873]

ALBION Brewery [1873], [1880], [1896]

### 1881 Census

65+66+67, Tat Bank Road

- [1] *Henry Swain* (56), brewer employing 3 men, born Warley Wigorn;
- [2] *Elizabeth Swain* (57), wife, born Warley Wigorn;
- [3] *Elizabeth Swain* (26), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;
- [4] *Amplias Swain* (25), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;

*Henry Swain* was described as a brewer, beerhouse keeper and grocer. [1884]

He was described as an ale and porter brewer, grocer and provision dealer, and beer retailer, ALBION Brewery, Tat Bank Road. [1888]

### Birmingham Mail 7/2/1890 - Advert

“Beer (Outdoor), Tobacco, and Grocery Business to Let, High Street, Selly Oak, surrounded by buildings; rent low; terms moderate; a good opportunity for a business person.  
Apply, *Henry Swain*, ALBION Brewery, Oldbury.”

### 1891 Census

3, Tat Bank Road – ALBION INN

- [1] *Abraham Smith* (38), grocer and licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Eliza Smith* (36), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Minnie Smith* (17), daughter, born Oldbury;



- [4] Ernest Smith (15), son, carrier, born Oldbury;
  - [5] Lillie Smith (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
  - [6] Phoebe E. Smith (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
  - [7] Arthur Smith (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
  - [8] Ralph Smith (1), son, born Oldbury;
  - [9] Adeline Smith (7 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
  - [10] John W. J. Cooper (18), brother-in-law, carter, born Oldbury:
- AND

1, Tat Bank Road – ALBION BREWERY

- [1] *Henry Swain* (66), brewer, born Warley;
- [2] Elizabeth Swain (67), wife, born Warley;
- [3] Minnie Adam (13), domestic servant, born Blackheath:

*Henry Swain* was described as an ale and porter brewer, ALBION Brewery, Tat Bank Road. [1896]

*Joseph Southall*, beer retailer and shopkeeper, 193a, Tat Bank Road. [1896]

#### 1901 Census

193a, Tat Bank Road – ALBION INN

- [1] *Joseph Southall* (35), house painter, licensed victualler, and grocer shopkeeper, born Oldbury;
- [2] Harriet Southall (33), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Hubert Stanley Southall (11), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] Joseph Archibald B. Southall (9), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] Harriet Ashley (63), mother-in-law, widow, born Oldbury;
- [6] Maria Bradley (15), servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/6/1901

“Yesterday morning Charles Frewin (40), of Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, was whitewashing Swain’s brewery and engine house, when he fell from a scaffold six or seven feet, and so injured himself that he died soon after being taken to the West Bromwich Hospital.”

#### 1911 Census

193a, Tat Bank Road

- [1] John Wortley (54), house carpenter, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Wortley* (51), wife, married 31 years, publican, born Oldbury;
- [3] Annie Maria Wortley (20), daughter, school teacher, born Oldbury;
- [4] John Hackett (7), grand-son, born Oldbury;
- [5] Lily Guest (21), domestic servant, born Quinton:

#### Smethwick Telephone 14/12/1918 - Advert

“Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

Unreserved Sale by Auction of the whole of the Brewing Plant and Effects by Messrs. Jones, Son & Vernon, FAI, on the date as above, at the ALBION Brewery (Swain’s), Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, two minutes’ walk from Langley Green (GW Railway) Station.

Catalogues in course of preparation.

Sale to commence at 11am sharp.

Auctioneers’ Offices: 29, Church Street, Oldbury, and at Smethwick and Birmingham. Tel. 6x, Oldbury.”

An Order was granted for the removal of the full license of the CHEMICAL TAVERN to the ALBION INN on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1923.

#### Dudley Chronicle 27/3/1924

“Telephone Directory. New Lines Completed to Date.....

List of New Lines Completed During Week Ending March 15<sup>th</sup>.....  
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd., ALBION INN, Tatbank Road, Oldbury. Tel. Oldbury 53.”

Mark Tatton Lodge (No.5762) of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes met here. [1935]

#### 1939 Register

Tat Bank Road – ALBION INN

- [1] *William J. Riddle*, date of birth 11/8/1901, manager licensed premises, ARP Warden Senior, married;
- [2] *Rose Riddle*, dob 26/7/1901, manageress licensed premises, married;
- [3] *Oswald J. Riddle*, dob 14/4/1923, lead burner (plumbing), ARP Warden, single;
- [5] *Hannah Sherrett*, dob 28/1/1915, assistant licensed premises, single:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 27/2/1958

“A 31-year-old Irishman, living at Warley, stole his father-in-law’s watch and pawned it at a shop in West Bromwich, Oldbury magistrates were told yesterday.

*William Albert McAuly Lemon*, of 133, Princess Road, Warley, pleaded guilty to taking the watch from a dresser.

Lemon was also accused of stealing £2 and cigarettes from the ALBION INN, Tat Bank, while still on probation for a previous offence. He was sent to prison for six months on each charge, the sentences to run consecutively.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/2/1966 - Deaths

“*James William Riddle* beloved husband of *Rose* and father of *Oswald* and *Les* of ALBION INN, 193, Tatbank Road, Oldbury, passed away Saturday, February 19, at the age of 64 years. Funeral service Thursday, February 24, West Bromwich Crematorium at 4pm.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/10/1966

“Mr. *William James Riddle*, of the ALBION INN, Tatbank Road, Oldbury, Worcestershire, who died on February 19 intestate, left £9,303 (£9,098 net). Duty £366.”

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 4/2/1986

“An Oldbury publican is faced with the threat of losing his licence and his livelihood only weeks after buying a public house for £70,000. Father of four *Shinda Singh* bought the ALBION INN, in Tat Bank Road, from *Ansells* at Christmas after being licensee at the premises for nearly five years. He has now been shocked to be told that the police will be objecting against his licence being renewed when he applies for the renewal at Warley Licensing Court on Monday. A notice at the court at Smethwick said that the objection has been lodged on the grounds of *Shinda Singh*’s offences.

*Shinda Singh* agreed he had been convicted last June for selling intoxicating drinks to young people under the age of 18.

A Warley magistrates’ court official confirmed that the police were going ahead with the objection against the renewal of the licence.

*Shinda Singh* said, “This has come as a terrible blow considering I have only just bought the ALBION INN for £70,000.

*Shinda*, who used to be an electrician, helped to save the pub from closure more than two years ago when the licensing justices said the premises were unfit for the sale of intoxicating drinks. The pub was allowed to remain open after *Shinda Singh* and *Ansells* carried out improvement work.”

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 22/3/1986

“Licensee *Shinda Singh* was celebrating today after winning a battle to keep the ALBION INN pub, Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, which he bought from *Ansells* three months ago. *Shinda Singh*, who has been licensee for five years, applied for his license to be renewed at Warley licensing court, but police objected because of two convictions last June for selling intoxicating drinks to underage drinkers. The application was adjourned. Now *Shinda Singh* has been told that his license will be renewed for 12 months.”

### Sandwell Evening Mail 13/8/1986

“An Oldbury father of four who bought a pub for £40,000 six months ago and spent a further £30,000 on improvements may now convert it into a DIY centre. Mr. *Shinda Singh* said he has drawn up the conversion plan for the ALBION INN at Tat Bank Road in case Warley Licensing Justices fail to renew his licence for the pub next April. He became licensee of the pub in 1979 and bought the premises from Ansells last December for £40,000 and then spent £30,000 on refurbishing the premises. Now *Shinda*, a former electrician, has applied for permission to convert the pub into a DIY centre. In a council report to be considered at today’s Sandwell land and town planning committee meeting, he said there is insufficient demand for a pub in the Tat Bank Road area.

*Shinda Singh* said, ‘It will cost about £10,000 to convert the pub into a DIY centre but I want planning permission in case my licence as a licensee is not renewed next April.’

Sandwell’s director of technical services, Mr. John Baker, is recommending committee members to throw out the conversion plan on the grounds of insufficient parking space.”

[Planning permission was refused.]

Harbajan Singh, of Smethwick, was stabbed to death here at about 2.30am on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1987.

### Sandwell Evening Mail 13/3/1987

“A Sandwell licensee has sold a reputedly haunted pub at a loss of more than £10,000 after a series of setbacks. *Shinda Singh* bought the ALBION INN at Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, from Ansells more than a year ago as a Christmas present for his wife and four children. He was convicted ten months ago of selling alcohol after hours. Weeks later he was refused planning permission to convert the premises into a supermarket. In January a man was murdered at the pub and another injured. Now *Shinda Singh* has decided to quit the trade. ‘I have had enough of the place and I very much doubt if the licensing justices would have renewed my licence in view of the conviction. At present I do not know where we are going to live or what I shall do for a living.’

The pub is reputed to be haunted by the ghost of a former licensee. His apparition is said to have been seen by several publicans over the years.”

License not renewed to *Shinda Singh* on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1987 for selling to under-18s and after hours.

It closed on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1987

It reopened as the COTTAGE in 1987.

### Sandwell Evening Mail 10/10/1987

“A quiet night in a Midland pub ended in terrifying violence when one man was stabbed to death and another hacked with a meat cleaver, a court heard. Pervinder Singh Sahota (22) was jailed for 12 years by Mr. Justice McNeill, who said, ‘Everybody is tired of people who go out on social occasions carrying weapons. People who carry weapons drink too much, lose their tempers and use them.’

Pervinder Singh, of Marshall Street, Smethwick, pleaded guilty at Stafford Crown Court to the manslaughter of Harbagan Singh, aged 32, of Pool Road. His plea of not guilty to murder was accepted. He also admitted wounding Makhan Singh, aged 30, of Sycamore Road, with intent to cause him grievous bodily harm.

Mr. Anthony Palmer, QC, prosecuting, said father of three Harbagan Singh bled to death when an artery in his leg was severed. He was stabbed by Pervinder Singh during an argument in the ALBION pub in Langley. Mr. Palmer said Pervinder Singh took a meat cleaver his girlfriend carried and went back to the bar and began hitting out at Makhan Singh and Harbagan Singh. Makhan Singh described Pervinder Singh as ‘wild,’ Mr. Palmer said. Harbagan Singh was stabbed in the leg. ‘He died in hospital an hour later,’ said Mr. Palmer.

Pervinder Singh told detectives, ‘We were just fighting. I did not want to kill him – I only wanted to stop him.’

Mr. Anthony Barker, QC, defending, denied that the attack on Harbagan Singh was ‘murderous.’ His death was a ‘tragic misfortune.’

Jaswinder Singh (30), of St. Albans Road, was jailed for 18 months. He pleaded guilty to removing the cleaver, which was thrown into a river. His wife, Davinder Kaur (26) and her brother Sikander Singh Mann (22), of Rosefield Road, were conditionally discharged for two years. They admitted perverting the course of justice by removing weapons. Surinder Kaur Sandhu (20), of Montague Road, Pervinder Singh's girlfriend, admitted intending to pervert the course of justice by removing the cleaver. Sentence on her was adjourned for probation reports."

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/12/1987 - Advert

"Gerry and Greta of the COTTAGE INN, Tatbank Road, Oldbury. Are delighted to announce that their main lounge has now been fabulously refurbished in 'Olde Worlde' style. They look forward to welcoming old and new customers and wish every one a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

*Gerard Desmond Foden* – see also BRITISH QUEEN.

It became NEW COTTAGE BAR AND GRILL. [2015]

Halesowen News 1/8/2020

"A new Eat Out to Help Out postcode checker has been launched by the government that allows you to find out which business in Halesowen and the surrounding areas are taking part in the scheme.

Eat Out to Help Out officially begins on Monday, August 3. Customers will be able to get a 50 per cent discount on food or non-alcoholic drinks (up to a £10 discount per diner) at participating establishments. The scheme will run every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until Monday, August 31. Establishments will claim a reimbursement from the government for the discount they've given. Participating establishments may include restaurants, cafés, bars or pubs, work and school canteens and food halls. Here are the establishments so far registered to take part in the scheme within five miles of Halesowen town centre.....  
NEW COTTAGE BAR AND GRILL, Tat Bank Road, Oldbury."

[2021]

**COTTAGE OF CONTENT**

Langley Green, OLDBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Slim [ ]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 11/6/1866 - Advert

"Freehold Property, Langley Green, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins (by order of the Mortgagee), on Monday Next, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, at the house of Mr. Goode, the CROSS INN, Langley Green, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that Public House and Premises, known as the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, comprising Tap Room, Bar

Parlour, three Chambers, Cellar, Brewhouse, Out-buildings, and Premises, situate near the Independent Chapel, Langley Green aforesaid, and formerly occupied by the late Mr. *John Slim*. Estimated rental £20. For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Hayes and Wright, Solicitors, Oldbury and Hales Owen; or the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

## COURT HOUSE TAVERN

OLDBURY

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

William Davis [ ]

### NOTES

*William Davis* issued tokens from here.

### Birmingham Daily Post 3/8/1871 - Advert

“Oldbury. To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the COURT HOUSE TAVERN, situate opposite the County Court; together with a good Shoeing and Jobbing Business. Satisfactory reasons for leaving. Rare opportunity.

Apply, R. J. Cooper, Auctioneer, Oldbury; or upon the Premises.”

## COURT OF REQUESTS

Church Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

J. D. Wetherspoon

### LICENSEES

Simon Taylor (2012 – [2014] manager

Anna Haraszkievicz [2014] manager

Kirsty Hopkins [2017] manager

### NOTES

It was originally Oldbury’s Court of Requests and Prison, opened in 1816. It became Oldbury Court House in 1846.

It became Oldbury Police Station in 1904.

It became Oldbury Library in 1977.

#### Black Country Bugle 30/10/2019

“It was built in 1816 as Oldbury’s Court of Requests and prison specifically to deal with debtors. It had the jurisdiction to levy fines of up to £5 and impose terms of imprisonment of up to 100 days. The Court of Requests goal had cells for both men and women ..... In 1846 Oldbury became part of Circuit 25, and County Courts were held monthly in the building.....”

It is a Grade II listed building.

It opened on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

#### Halesowen News 17/1/2012

“JD Wetherspoon has opened its new pub the COURT OF REQUESTS in Oldbury today (Tuesday) creating 50 jobs in the town. The company spent £1.25 million re-developing the former courtroom and library, Church Street.

The COURT OF REQUESTS will be open from 8am until 12 midnight Sunday to Thursday and from 8am until 1am Friday and Saturday. However, due to a problem today the pub didn’t open its doors until 9am. The former Public Library is one of the oldest buildings in Oldbury and is now a Grade II listed building, it was erected in 1816 as a court. The premises included a gaol, with cells for male and female prisoners. The new pub will specialise in real ales, serving a wide range of beers, including those from local and regional brewers.

Manager *Simon Taylor* said, ‘Myself and my team are looking forward to welcoming customers into the pub and we are confident that it will be a good addition to Oldbury’s community.’

The new-look pub will feature one bar, as well as an enclosed beer garden to the rear of the premises, where smoking will be permitted. There is also a small car park at the rear of the pub.

A spokesman for Wetherspoons said, ‘The design of individual rooms has been inspired by the building’s previous uses, including library, cells, courtroom and dining room. An original cell door has been incorporated, as well as the prisoners’ exercise-yard pavers, as a walkway within the beer garden. Photos, local history artwork and information boards relating to the history and characters of the area, will be displayed in the pub.’

The pub is wheelchair accessible and has a specially-adapted toilet for people with disabilities.”

#### Halesowen News 30/10/2012

“A week of Halloween fun is being staged at a spooky Oldbury pub to raise funds for children with cancer. Among the highlights will be scary tours around the 196-year-old prison cells and courtroom and fancy dress evenings at the COURT OF REQUESTS on Friday and Saturday. Duty manager Daniel Cox and pub friend Donna Newman will spend Saturday night locked in the cells at the back of the pub. Fellow duty manager James Brewer and barman Yan Cooke, will embark on a sponsored 55-mile bike ride on Sunday of the Clic Sargent charity. The Wetherspoons pub is also selling toffee apples, vodka shots and Halloween cupcakes all week to boost the fundraising.”

#### Halesowen News 13/11/2012

“Patrons at an Oldbury pub might not have the finest champagne to quaff or caviar to chomp but they can relax in the knowledge their toilet is one of the best in the country. The COURT OF REQUESTS, Church Street, has been awarded a platinum star rating by inspectors in the Loo of the Year Awards 2012. The awards are aimed at highlighting and improving standards of ‘away from home’ toilets across the UK and authorised inspectors make unannounced visits to hundreds of toilets at sites across the UK, in order to judge them. The toilets are judged against numerous criteria, including décor and maintenance, cleanliness, accessibility, hand washing and drying equipment and overall management.

The COURT OF REQUESTS, a Wetherspoon pub, is managed by *Simon Taylor* who is determined his award-winning toilets never go down the pan. He said, ‘I am delighted with the award. Staff at the pub

work hard to ensure the toilets are in first-class condition at all times and it is great that this has been recognised by the inspectors.’

The building used to house Oldbury jailhouse and court and recently was a library before being transformed into a pub.

The Loo of the Year Awards 2012 managing director, Mike Bone, said, ‘The toilets at the COURT OF REQUESTS have been designed and fitted out to a very high standard and are both clean and well maintained. The pub richly deserves its platinum award – the highest individual award the judges can deliver.’”

#### Halesowen News 29/1/2013

“An Oldbury street will be closed for two days for work to be carried out on a pub roof.

Market Street will be closed on Saturday and Sunday (February 2 and 3) from Church Street to its junction with the car park at the back of the COURT OF REQUESTS pub to allow a crane to be brought in. Diversions will be in place.”

#### Halesowen News 27/12/2013

“Shopped-out men looking to swerve the January sales can head to an Oldbury pub which is holding its own New Year sales. Manager *Simon Taylor* is reducing the price on a range of drinks and meals at the pub in Church Street for three weeks from Thursday, January 2 until Thursday, January 23 inclusive. The pub will be serving a selection of drinks between £1.99 and £2.49 as well as filter coffee at 79p a cup. It will also be offering a choice of five meals at £2.99 each.

Manager *Simon Taylor* said, ‘Department stores and shops hold their sales in January, so it is the perfect time to have a sale in the pub too. I believe that given the choice of a trip to a sale at the shops or a sale at the COURT OF REQUESTS, most people would prefer a visit to the pub. The range of drinks and meals on sale is aimed at suiting a wide variety of tastes and I believe that the January Sale will prove popular with our customers.’”

#### Halesowen News 17/3/2014

“International beers will be gracing the pumps of pubs in Halesowen, Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis and Oldbury during 17 day festival. The WILLIAM SHENSTONE, MOON UNDER THE WATER, the BRITANNIA and the COURT OF REQUESTS will have beers from South Africa, New Zealand, Sweden, Canada, USA, Belgium, Australia, Germany, Spain and Norway. The Wetherspoons beer festival runs from Friday, March 28 to Sunday, April 13 with all beers priced from £1.99 to £2.15 a pint.....

COURT OF REQUESTS manager *Anna Haraszkiwicz* added, ‘The festival will be the perfect way for real ale enthusiasts to enjoy a range of excellent beers from overseas brewers. It will also give them an opportunity to support brewers throughout the UK, as the pubs are featuring many of their beers.’

Many of the beers are available in the pubs for the first time, having been brewed exclusively for the festival. Customers will be able to sample any three of the real ales in special third of a pint glasses for the price of a pint.”

#### Halesowen News 21/3/2014

“Dexy’s Midnight Runners will be on the menu for an Oldbury pub this weekend. Writer Neil Warburton is launching his book *Keep On Running* about the band at the COURT OF REQUESTS on Saturday between 7pm and 8pm. The guest of honour is Anthony O’Shaughnessy who was the young boy featured on the album cover of Dexy’s million-seller album *Searching for the Young Soul Rebels*.”

#### Halesowen News 20/9/2014

“Four Wetherspoon pubs across Halesowen and Sandwell are dropping their prices by 7.5 per cent on Wednesday as part of the company’s ongoing tax battle with the Government. The MOON UNDER WATER, Cradley Heath, the BRITANNIA, Rowley Regis, the WILLIAM SHENSTONE, Halesowen, and the COURT OF REQUESTS, Oldbury are joining in national Tax Equality Day which is highlighting the benefit of a VAT reduction in the hospitality industry.....”

#### Halesowen News 21/11/2014

“An Oldbury pub is flushed with success this week after being lauded for its toilets in the Loo of the Year Awards 2014. The COURT OF REQUESTS, Church Street, clinched a platinum star rating by inspectors. Authorised inspectors make unannounced visits to hundreds of toilets at sites across the UK, in order to judge them. The toilets are judged against numerous criteria, including décor and maintenance, cleanliness, accessibility, hand washing and drying equipment and overall management.

The COURT OF REQUESTS, a Wetherspoon pub, is managed by *Anna Haraszkiwicz*. She said, ‘I am delighted with the award. Staff at the pub work hard to ensure the toilets are in first-class condition at all times and it is great that this has been recognised by the inspectors.’

The Loo of the Year awards 2014 managing director, Mike Bone, added, ‘The toilets at the COURT OF REQUESTS have been designed and fitted out to a very high standard and are both clean and well maintained. The pub richly deserves its platinum award – the highest individual award the judges can deliver.’”

#### Halesowen News 6/1/2016

“A boozy row has erupted between Sandwell Council and Wetherspools after the authority officially called for residents to observe Dry January. The council ‘challenged’ residents to stop drinking alcohol for 31 days as part of the Alcohol Concern and Public Health England backed campaign.

Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council, said, ‘Once the excesses of Christmas and New Year are over, many of us plan to start off the year in a healthy way. Dry January is something I like to do every year. It’s a good opportunity to give your body the chance to have a detox after the festive period. People who have taken part in previous years say after a month without alcohol they sleep better, lose weight and generally feel more energetic.’ He added, ‘Dry January isn’t about forcing everyone to give up alcohol for a month but remembering we all need to look after ourselves and live as healthy a lifestyle as possible.’

However, giant pub firm JD Wetherspoon, which runs the COURT OF REQUESTS in Oldbury, the BRITANNIA in Blackheath and the MOON UNDER THE WATER in Cradley Heath, blasted Cllr. Cooper and the council for being ‘nannyish.’ Wetherspoon’s PR spokesman Eddie Gershon said, ‘People enjoy going out for a drink in a local pub, if people decide to drink less in a particular time then that is a decision for them to make. We are not sure that a leader of a council needs to be endorsing something like Dry January and one could ask the council whether it would also put out statements about not having a fry up, having a takeaway or eating less during a particular month of the year. People who go to the pub are not stupid and can make their own decisions, it feels a bit nannyish, and it could lead to councils pontificating on a whole range lifestyle actions.’

However, Cllr. Cooper hit back, he said, ‘I don’t see anything nannyish about it – we’re not telling people they shouldn’t drink, but like many public organisations, we’re backing a national campaign that encourages people to think about their health. As the authority responsible for public health and alcohol treatment, of course we’re going to support public health campaigns that help tackle things like excessive drinking, obesity and inactivity.’ He added, ‘I am sure JD Wetherspoon’s profits will survive whether customers are drinking a pint of lager or a pint of lemonade.’”

#### Halesowen News 20/11/2017

“An Oldbury pub has won acclaim for the quality and standards of its toilets in the 2017 Loo of the Year Awards. The COURT OF REQUESTS, in Church Street, has been awarded a platinum star rating by inspectors – the highest award possible. Celebrating their 30th anniversary this year, the awards are aimed at highlighting and improving standards of ‘away from home’ toilet provision across the UK, with inspectors making unannounced visits to thousands of toilets across the UK. All of the toilets are graded from bronze to platinum with unacceptable toilets not graded at all.

*Kirsty Hopkins*, manager of the JD Wetherspoon pub, said, ‘We are delighted with the award. Staff at the pub ensure the toilets are in first-class condition at all times and it is great that this has been recognised by the inspectors.’

The platinum rating is given only to outlets which offer ‘exceptional toilets’, being judged against numerous criteria, including décor and maintenance, cleanliness, accessibility, hand washing and drying equipment and overall management. Awards’ managing director, Mike Bone, said, ‘The toilets at the COURT OF REQUESTS have been designed and fitted out to a very high standard and are both clean and well maintained. The pub richly deserves its platinum award.’”



[2021]

## CROSS ANCHORS

43, (73), Birmingham Road, (Oldbury Green), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

William Downing, Holly Lane, Smethwick

Edward Cheshire, Windmill Brewery, Smethwick (later Cheshire's Brewery Ltd.) [1902]

William Edward and Thomas Lee Downing, Spon Lane, Smethwick

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (leased c.1915–1919) (acquired in 1919)

## LICENSEES

Joseph Underhill [1835] – **1866**);

Mrs. Maria Underhill (**1866** – [1873]

John Downing Underhill [1879] – **1889**);

Samuel Allbrooke (**1889** – **1890**);

John Johnson (**1890** – **1891**);

Thomas H Hamblett (**1891** – **1893**);

Eli Cartwright (**1893** – **1899**);

Edward William D Stone (**1899** – **1901**);

Ellen Green (**1901** – **1902**);

Joseph Withnall (**1902** – **1903**);

Henry Davis (**1903** – **1905**);

William Parkes (**1905**);

Samuel Raybould (**1905** – **1906**);

Edward Knight (**1906** – **1908**);

Jeremiah Day (**1908**);

Enoch Carvell (**1908** – **1909**);

George Long (**1909** – **1922**);

Esther Long (**1922** – **1925**);

Arthur Charles Darby (**1925** – **1928**);

## NOTES

73, Birmingham Road [1873], [1881], [1884]

43, Birmingham Road [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921]

Tokens were issued for its Sick and Dividend Society.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/8/1835 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, at Oldbury Green.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on Friday next, the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, at the house of Mr. *J. Underhill*, the CROSS ANCHORS, at Lime-kiln Bridge, near Oldbury, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions as will be then produced.....”

## 1851 Census

### Birmingham Road

- [1] *Joseph Underhill* (46), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Maria Underhill* (44), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Thomas Underhill (19), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] William Underhill (14), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] Sarah Ann Underhill (12), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *John Underhill* (10), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] Elizabeth Underhill (8), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] Joseph Underhill (5), son, born Oldbury;
- [9] Mary S. Underhill (3), daughter, born Oldbury;

### Birmingham Journal 12/5/1855

“On Tuesday, the Coroner, R. Docker, Esq, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *Joseph Underhill*, the ANCHOR INN, Oldbury, on the body of a married woman, aged about fifty years, named Simpson, who resided near the first toll gate leading from Oldbury to Smethwick. The circumstances of this rather singular case, which has occasioned considerable interest in the locality, were as follow.

On Saturday evening last, a little before eleven o'clock, two girls entered the shop of Mr. Holland, draper, Oldbury, and asked for a trifling article, which, however, they did not purchase. On returning to the shop shortly afterwards they purchased a boot lace. During their presence in the shop on both occasions Mr. Holland observed a person standing near the street door evidently awaiting an opportunity when she might not be observed; and whilst he was stooping behind the counter she disappeared, carrying with her two pieces of print containing twenty-five yards each. Mr. Holland jumped over the counter, but not seeing the course the thief had taken he detained the two girls, believing that they were accomplices. Police-sergeant Simmons was sent for, and in answer to questions, the girls declared they knew nothing of the thief. They were accordingly set at liberty and went in the direction of Smethwick. Simmons deeming it right to watch them followed, and near to the Anchor Bridge they joined the deceased, with whom they commenced conversing. The latter had evidently been at market, for she was loaded with various articles. Partly on this account and partly because the girls were conversing with her, the officer suspected she must be the person whom Mr. Holland saw at his shop door. He accordingly accosted the deceased by tapping her on the shoulder, and inquired of the deceased what she had beneath her shawl. She made no reply, but commenced squalling and crying ‘murder.’ Simmons tried to appease her, observing to her that he meant her no harm, and requested that she would go to Mr. *Underhill*’s public house. She said she was not afraid to go, and went, but seemed much frightened. She was accommodated with a chair, and as she seemed in a fainting state, water was given to her. Simmons told Mr. *Underhill* why he followed her, and left. She inquired who Simmons was, and being told that he was a policeman she became much worse, exclaiming, ‘Oh dear! My mother died with fright, and I shall do the same.’ She died in about half an hour afterwards. Mr. Cooper, surgeon, was sent for, but life was extinct before he arrived. On taking her to the house, Simmons recognised her as a respectable woman, and of course did not offer to search her.

The Coroner and Jury seemed to be satisfied that the officer did not exceed his duty, and that he did no more than what was perfectly right. They accordingly returned a verdict, Died by the Visitation of God. Nothing has since been heard of the stolen property.”

### Birmingham Journal 14/7/1855

“On Saturday, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Underhill*, CROSS ANCHOR, Oldbury, before R. Docker, Esq, Coroner, the adjourned inquest was resumed on the bodies of John Beddall, George Lewis, and Henry Banks, three of the four men who were killed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, by a fall of coals at the Hange Colliery, at Tividale, belonging to Messrs. Round. The Government Inspector (T. Wynne, Esq), and one of the proprietors, were present at the enquiry.

It was shown by the evidence that the deceased were bandsmen, and having a little leisure time they were sitting down smoking when about twenty tons of coal fell upon them. When extricated they were quite dead. The portion of the mine that gave way was what is called a ‘chance’ stratum, and the roof from which

it fell was six or seven yards high.

The Inspector examined the propping of the coal, and it transpired that timber was used so long as this particular roof was not more than nine or ten feet high, but that as the mine was extracted, and the roof became higher, timbers were dispensed with, as it was stated was customary.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

Mr. Round told the coroner and jury that he would in future see that the workings were propped to a greater height than heretofore.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1859 - Advert

“Oldbury Wake and Races will be held on land at the back of the OLD CROWN, and opposite the ENGINEERS ARMS, as usual, on Monday and Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 1859.

Mr. Darby, Steward. Mr. Taylor, Judge. Mr. Keeten, Starter.

The Trial Sakes, of 10 sovs, 1 sov entrance.

The Oldbury Stakes of 8 sovs, 1 sov entrance.

A Hurdle Race of 8 sovs, 1 sov entrance.

A Sweepstakes of 5 sovs, 10s entrance.

A Handicap Race for beaten Horses, 10s entrance, with a purse of sovs added.

All entries to be made at Mr. *Joseph Underhill's*, CROSS ANCHORS, on or before Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1859, and to close at Eight o'clock pm. The first race to commence each day at half-past One o'clock. Any dispute arising to be settled by the committee. Parties entering their horses are requested to state the name of the horse and the colours of the rider. Fictitious entries will be disqualified.

Every information respecting ground for Booth, Shows, Stalls, &c, may be had on application to Mr. *Joseph Underhill*, or Mr. John Nock, Oldbury; or Mr. H. Keeten, Forge Tavern, Birmingham.”

#### 1861 Census

Birmingham Road – ANCOR INN

[1] *Joseph Underhill* (55), victualler and farmer, born Oldbury;

[2] *Maria Underhill* (54), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *John Underhill* (20), son, born Oldbury;

[4] Elizabeth Underhill (18), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Joseph Underhill (16), son, born Oldbury;

[6] Mary S. Underhill (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] Ellen Underhill (4), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Journal 2/8/1862 - Advert

“Oldbury Races will take place on Monday and Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1862.

All information may be had at Mr. *Underhill's*, CROSS ANCHORS, Oldbury, or H. Keeten's, Birmingham.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/4/1866 - Advert

“Important Freehold Dwelling Houses and Building Land, at Popes Lane, Oldbury, Road End, and Causeway Green, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at Mr. *Joseph Underhill's*, the ANCHOR INN, Oldbury Road, Oldbury, on Monday Next, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Six o'clock in the Evening (by order of the Trustees of the late Thomas Underhill), in the following or such other Lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale, subject to conditions then to be read.....”

#### Birmingham Journal 11/8/1866 - Died

“On the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, after a long illness, in his 62<sup>nd</sup> year, Mr. *Joseph Underhill*, of the CROSS ANCHORS, Oldbury; deeply lamented.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1866

“The following license transfers were effected.....

ANCHOR INN, Oldbury, from the executors of *Joseph Underhill* to *Maria Underhill*.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/1/1867 - Notice

“Re Thomas Underhill, deceased.

Notice is hereby given, that all Creditors and Persons having any Claims or Demands against or upon the Estate of Thomas Underhill, late of Tat Bank, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Worcester, Farmer, deceased, who died on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1852, and whose Will was proved in the Consistory Court of Worcester on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1853, by Samuel Underhill, Provision Dealer, and *Joseph Underhill*, Victualler and Farmer, both late of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, and now respectively deceased, the Executors therein named, are required to send particulars in writing of their Claims to us, the under-signed solicitors to *Maria Underhill*, Thomas Underhill, and John Downing Underhill, all of Oldbury aforesaid, the Executrix and Executors of the said *Joseph Underhill*, deceased, who was the surviving Executor of the said Thomas Underhill, deceased, on or before the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1867, after which day the said *Maria Underhill*, Thomas Underhill, and *John Downing Underhill* will proceed to distribute the Assets of the said Thomas Underhill, deceased, among the parties entitled thereto, having regard to the Claims only of which they shall then have had notice.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1867.

Hayes and Wright, Oldbury, Solicitors to the said *Maria Underhill*, Thomas Underhill, and *John Downing Underhill*.”

County Express 16/5/1868

“The following persons were summoned for having in their possession deficient scales and weights, and using them to the disadvantage of their customers.....

*Maria Underhill*, publican and flour dealer, Birmingham Road, deficient scales, fined 1s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1870 - Advert

“Oldbury Races will take place over the old Course, back of the CROWN INN, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, August 29, 30, and 31, 1870.

A Hack Race, of 5 sovs, 10s entrance.

The Trial Stakes, of 5 sovs, 10s entrance.

The Oldbury Stakes, of 5 sovs, 10s entrance.

The Innkeepers' Stakes, of 5 sovs, 10s entrance.

Pony Race, of 3 sovs, 5s entrance.

All applications for Ground Booths, Stalls, &c, to be made to Mr. *Underhill*, CROSS ANCHORS, Oldbury.”

1871 Census

Birmingham Road – CROSSED ANCHORS

[1] *Maria Underhill* (64), widow, farmer and victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Mary Sophia Underhill (22), daughter, born Oldbury;

[3] Ellen Underhill (14), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1872 - Advert

“Oldbury Races will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Next, September 2, 3, 4, on the Course at the back of the OLD CROWN, Oldbury.

For particulars, apply to Mrs. *Underhill*, CROSS ANCHORS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/8/1874 - Advert

“Oldbury Wake will be held on the Old Ground, on Monday, August 31, and Tuesday, September 1, 1874.

All Applications for Ground to be made to Mr. *Underhill*, CROSS ANCHORS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/2/1877 - Advert

“Oldbury. That capital old-established House, the CROSS ANCHOR INN, in the midst of extensive works; to be sold after a successful occupancy of forty-four years. In-coming about £300.

Apply, R. J. Cooper, Auctioneer, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 15/3/1879 - Advert

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Investors and Others.

Important and Valuable Properties and Land, situate in Birmingham Street, and Birmingham Road, Oldbury. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. J. Cooper, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1879, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.....

Lot 5. All that truly valuable and improving Freehold Property, comprising the important and old-established Old-Licensed Business Premises, known as the CROSS ANCHOR INN, with the Three Cottages at the side thereof, together with the necessary Outbuildings, and respectively in the occupations of Messrs. *Underhill*, Burns, and others.....

Lot 5 is situate in the Birmingham Road, Oldbury, and next to three large and important works, and the only entrance to these works is by passing the side of these premises.....”

1881 Census

73, Birmingham Road – CROWN AND ANCHOR

[1] *John D. Underhill* (40), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Emma Underhill* (36), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Emily Underhill* (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] *Maria Underhill* (74), mother, widow, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 5/6/1889

“Yesterday, at Oldbury Police Court, *John Downing Underhill*, landlord of the ANCHOR INN, Birmingham Road, and Patrick Connor, of Low Town, were charged with fighting in the above-named public house on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. W. H. Vernon defended.

Police-constables Davis and Noakes gave evidence to the effect that on the day in question they found the two men fighting, and both their faces were badly bruised and cut. Connor was *Underhill's* father-in-law, and when the police officers spoke to the landlord about the disturbance he replied that it was a bit of a family bother.

The defence was that the landlord was struck by two men whom he was ejecting, and that Connor went to his assistance and in the scuffle was knocked down.

Ultimately the Bench dismissed the case.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1889 - Advert

“CROSS ANCHORS INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.

This old-established full-licensed Inn to be Let (opposite Oldbury Football Ground), either upon lease for 14 years, or as a yearly tenancy.

For price and particulars, apply to W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Valuer, 52, Church Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1890

“*John Johnson*, landlord of the CROSS ANCHORS INN, Birmingham Road, was summoned for being drunk on his own licensed premises on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. He was also further charged with abusing Police-constable Bayliss on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst whilst in the execution of his duty. Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

Police-sergeant Hill said about three o'clock pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, he, in company with Police-constable Bayliss, visited the defendant's house. He saw the defendant behind the bar apparently very drunk. Defendant when witness told him that he would be reported challenged his statement as to his condition, and added that he could 'do the right about turn.' Witness visited defendant's house again on the following Thursday to serve a summons, and at the same time intimated to defendant that he would probably hear of his conduct on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst, when defendant said he would plead guilty to the first charge, but not to the second.

Four other constables corroborated the evidence of the last witness as to the condition of the defendant on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst.

For the defence several witnesses were called, who denied that the defendant was drunk; and defendant himself pleaded that he was excited and not drunk.

With regard to the second charge, Police-constable Bayliss said the defendant shouted at him and asked

when his case was coming on, and also added that the clothes witness was wearing he (defendant) had paid for, and when he got a drop too much beer in his own house he was the first to run him in. Defendant became so abusive that witness had to handcuff him and take him to the police station. On the way to the station defendant made use of threats, and said he would stick a knife in him, or pay somebody else to do it. In reply to Mr. Shakespeare witness said he handcuffed the defendant for using obscene language, and he was not aware that he had committed an illegal act by so doing.

Superintendent Spike and Sergeant Hill gave evidence as to the condition of defendant when at the police station.

For being drunk on his premises defendant was fined 10s and costs, and the other charge was withdrawn on the defendant paying the costs.”

#### 1891 Census

43, Birmingham Road

[1] *Thomas H. Hamblett* (41), publican, photographer and tobacconist, born Dudley;

[2] *Mary H. Hamblett* (36), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *Ernest H. Hamblett* (16), son, blacksmith, born Oldbury;

[4] *Emily E. Hamblett* (13), daughter, assistant in tobacconist, born Oldbury;

[5] *Thomas E. F. Hamblett* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *Amelia M. Hamblett* (7), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] *Maud Hancock* (19), domestic servant, born Dudley:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/7/1891

“On Wednesday, about ten o’clock, an explosion of gas occurred at the CROSS ANCHORS INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury. *Mrs. Hamblett*, the wife of the landlord, was cooking at a gas stove, when she noticed a smell of gas. She opened the oven door, when the gas exploded with a loud report, and *Mrs. Hamblett* was burnt about the face and head.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1891

“At Oldbury, yesterday – before Messrs. W. E. Chance and J. W. Wilson – *Thomas Hamblett*, landlord of the CROSS ANCHORS INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, was charged with using abusive language towards Police-sergeant Cooper and Police-constables Bayliss, Perkins, and Chamberlain. Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended.

Hearing voices in defendant’s house at midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, the officers entered and saw the defendant and his wife sitting at a table. They then went out, and upon going to the front of the house the defendant came to the window and called them scamps, vagabonds, frauds, blackguards, and other abusive names.

Mr. Sharpe, for the defence, urged that no offence had been committed by the use of mere abusive words, and that the officers had not been deterred from performing their duty, and were not threatened in any way.

The Bench decided that an offence had been committed, and defendant was ordered to pay the costs (11s), and was also bound over to keep the peace for three months. Mr. Sharpe appealed to the Bench to modify their decision, and allow the defendant to pay the costs, but the Bench declined.”

#### 1901 Census

43, Birmingham Road – CROSS ANCHORS INN

[1] *Edward W. D. Stone* (28), licensed victualler, born Peartree, Derbyshire;

[2] *Ellen Stone* (28), wife, born Melbourne, Derbyshire:

#### Smethwick Telephone 6/9/1902 - Advert

“To be Sold by Private Treaty, by Messrs. Samuel Jones, Son & Vernon.....

Full Licensed House on the main Birmingham Road, Oldbury, known as the CROSS ANCHORS, with 3 cottages and stabling adjoining; tied to Cheshires’ Brewery Ltd, for ale, beer, and porter; free for spirits; term, 87 years from 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1901; lease and fixtures, £250; stock at valuation.

Auctioneers’ Offices: 29, Church Street, Oldbury, and High Street, Smethwick.”

### 1911 Census

43, Birmingham Road – CROSS ANCHORS

[1] *George Long* (35), licensed victualler, born Smethwick;

[2] *Esther Long* (33), wife, married 2 years, born West Bromwich:

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/3/1914

“An application was made at Oldbury Police Court yesterday at the adjourned Licensing Sessions, by *George Long*, of the CROSS ANCHORS INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of his licence to certain premises about to be constructed at the corner of Abbey Road and Thimblemill Road, Warley. The application was opposed by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, Holt Brewery Co., the BEAR HOTEL, and a large property owner in the district; Ansell’s Brewery; Mr. Roe, an off-licence holder in Threshires Oak Road; the Rev E. Hulbert, on behalf of St. Hilda’s Church; Mr. Douglas for the Bearwood Adult School for men, and Mr. Chapman for Bearwood Baptist Church. After consideration, the magistrates announced that the application would be refused.”

### Smethwick Telephone 9/12/1922 - Acknowledgements

“Mrs. *G. Long*, CROSS ANCHORS, Oldbury, wishes to thank fellow licensees and customers, all Associations, relatives and friends, for floral tributes, and kindness shewn during her sad bereavement.”

*Arthur Charles Darby* – see also RED COW.

### Smethwick Telephone 6/3/1926

“The Oldbury Licensing Justices granted the application made on Wednesday last by Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, Ltd. for the removal of the full licence of the CROSS ANCHORS INN, Oldbury, to new premises to be erected near the Smethwick housing site bounded by Thimblemill Road, Pargeter Road, and Norman Road, Warley, subject to the surrender of the licence of the OLD BOAT INN Canal Side, Oldbury, and the off-licence at Katherine Road, Warley, and certain alterations in the plans of the proposed new building.”

### Smethwick Telephone 5/6/1926

“Housing developments at Warley were mentioned at a meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee on Monday, when Mr. J. G. Hurst, KC, applied, on behalf of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, for confirmation of the removal of the licence of the CROSS ANCHORS, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, to premises proposed to be erected in an area where new houses have been built.

Mr. Hurst said there had been a great movement of the population in Oldbury. The CROSS ANCHORS was in a district where there were 35 fully-licensed houses, and in the new area, where it was proposed to remove the licence, there were only two fully-licensed houses. It would be to the advantage of the Local Authority if the licence was removed as suggested, as it would be made possible, with less expenditure, to carry out road widening.

Mr. Hurst said it was proposed to surrender the licence of the OLD BOAT INN and an off-licence near the new site.

The committee confirmed the removal, the Chairman (Mr. Bund) saying that the surrender of the two licences was part of the bargain.”

The house closed at 10pm on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1928, and the license removed to the THIMBLEMILL, Smethwick.

### Smethwick Telephone 14/7/1928 - Advert

“Sale by Auction of Freehold Business Premises, Dis-licensed Properties and Decontrolled Villa.

By Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon, FAI, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>.....

Lot 2. Freehold Dis-licensed Premises, CROSS ANCHORS, Birmingham Road, with Vacant Possession. Together with Two Freehold Cottages at the rear, Nos.3 and 5, Manchester Street. Let at weekly rentals producing £22 2s per annum.”

## CROSS GUNS

47, (35), (3), Church Street, (Bromford Road), (Bromford Lane), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Anne Parkes, Smethwick  
Samuel Thompson, maltster, Smethwick (acquired in 1889)  
Samuel Thompson and Sons [1901]

## LICENSEES

Timothy Smith Millward [1845]  
William Crump [1847] – [1850]  
Mrs. Elizabeth Worley [1851] – [1854]  
Philip Nock [1855] – [1865]  
Mrs. Mary Hill [1867] – [1880]  
Thomas Price [1881]  
Alfred Wall [1882]  
Mrs. Kate Clarkson [1884] – **1890**);  
Edward Greenhouse (**1890 – 1891**);  
Samuel Baker (**1891**);  
John William Price (**1891 – 1897**);  
Samuel Downing (**1897 – 1898**);  
John Beasley (**1898 – 1899**);  
Walter Weaver (**1899 – 1900**);  
Henry Stevenson (**1900 – 1901**);  
John Humphrey Fox [1900]  
Samuel Thompson and Sons (**1901**);  
Mrs. Treglown (**1901**): manager

## NOTES

Church Street [1862]  
Bromford Lane [1870], [1871], [1872]  
3, Church Street [1871]  
35, Church Street [1873]  
Bromford Road [1884], [1888], [1892]  
47, Church Street [1891], [1896]

## 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....."

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/4/1846

"On Saturday last, at the CROSS GUNS INN, the Oldbury company of hand bell ringers rang a true and complete peal of Kent treble bob major, consisting to 5,088 changes, in two hours and 49 minutes, by the following, viz, Mr. Ambrose Hickinbottom treble, Mr. James Ward of Bromford second, George Bates third, James Jones fourth, Thomas Jones fifth, William Davies of Spon Lane sixth, William Waterhouse seventh, and William Toy eighth. The whole was conducted in a very able manner by Benjamin Bach of Oldbury. They would have no objection in meeting the Handsworth company for £5."

#### Birmingham Journal 15/5/1847

"On Tuesday morning last, a serious accident occurred to a poor boy of the name of Parsons. It appears that two empty boats were being drawn by one horse along the canal, at Bromford, near Oldbury, when by some means the unfortunate lad got his leg entangled in the rope, or strap, connecting the two, when the boats were close together. The driver, unconscious of the same, rather hastened the speed of his horse, when the rope becoming tightened, the poor lad's leg was very severely injured, the ankle being dislocated; the bone protruded through an extensive laceration of the soft parts, to the extent of four inches. The whole of the muscles and tendons were torn from their attachment to the bone, which was completely denuded of even its natural covering. The unfortunate sufferer was quickly taken to the house of Mr. *Crumpp*, CROSS GUNS, Oldbury, who very kindly received and paid every attention to the poor boy. On Dr. Cooper's arrival, although the wound assumed so formidable a character, he with some difficulty reduced the dislocation, placed the parts in apposition, thinking it better to give the boy a chance of even a stiff ankle, in preference to a wooden leg. We are glad to hear that he is, up to this time, progressing favourably."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/1/1854

“R. Dickinson of Westbromwich, hearing that Wm. Bailey of Thomas Street, Oldbury, is not satisfied with his late defeat, he will run him 80 or 100 yards, for £5 or £10 a side. A match can be made any night next week, at the CROSS GUNS, Church Street, Oldbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/6/1856 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, at Oldbury, forming the corner of Church Street and the old West Bromwich Road, a short distance from the Railway Station.

To be Sold by Auction, by Fallows and Smith, at the house of Mr. *Philip Nocks*, the CROSS GUNS, Church Street, Oldbury, on Monday the 21st day of July next, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then and there to be produced.....”

Worcestershire Chronicle 16/7/1856

“Midsummer Assizes for the County and City of Worcester.....

Charles Bennett, 35, builder, surrendered to his bail charged with having in his possession two forged £5 Bank of England notes, at Oldbury, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April.

Mr. Huddleston stated the facts of the case on behalf of the prosecution at some length, and then called:

*Elizabeth Nock*: I am the wife of *Philip Nock* who keeps the CROSS GUNS, at Oldbury. Prisoner came to the house on the 16<sup>th</sup> April, and called for a glass of ale. I borrowed six-pence of him to make up some change for a gentleman. He said he could lend me one, but it was the only one he had. He then asked me to change a £5 note for him, and produced what I thought was a note. I went up stairs for change, but finding that I had not enough, I gave the note to Ann Dudley to return to the prisoner. I afterwards said I would endeavour to get it changed for him elsewhere, and he again gave me the note. I asked him to put his name upon it, as there was some difficulty in getting a note changed in that neighbourhood without a name upon it. He wrote ‘Charles Holland’ upon it. My little boy went for the change, but could not get it, and the note was again returned to the prisoner. (The note was here produced and identified by the witness as the note upon which the prisoner had written.)

Cross-examined: I am perfectly sure he wrote Charles Holland upon it. I did not see any samples of hops with him. I can't say whether he was tipsy or not.

By the Court: If there are any other initials on the note the prisoner did not write them.

Ann Dudley deposed to receiving the note from Mrs. *Nock*, and giving it back to prisoner.

William Bridge keeps a public house at Oldbury. On the 16<sup>th</sup> April the prisoner came to my house and wanted me to buy some hops. He had two glasses of ale and some bread and cheese, and tendered in payment what seemed to be a £5 note. I could not change it, and took it to a grocer named Lines, who thought it was a bad one, and went back with me. Prisoner afterwards tendered a good sovereign in payment for his bread and cheese. Lines had some conversation with the prisoner, and presently a policeman and Mr. Lee came in.

Cross-examined: Prisoner seemed perfectly sober.

Mr. Samuel Lines, grocer, deposed to the last witness bringing the note to him for change. He saw it was spurious, and went back with Mr. Bridge, and asked the prisoner if he knew the note was bad. He replied that he did not, and in answer to a question said he had it from Messrs. Stroud and Co., hop merchants, for whom he travelled, a very respectable firm, having warehouses in Birmingham, Liverpool, and Burton-upon-Trent. Witness then asked him where their warehouses in Liverpool were, and he could not tell. Witness asked to be allowed to see the samples of hops he had, and upon their being produced he detected at once that the prisoner had been speaking falsely, and was not in the trade. PC Simmonds then came in, and the prisoner put the note in a port monnaie.

In cross examination the witness prevaricated considerably from his statement when before the magistrates; and Mr. Powell asked that the depositions should be read. Upon that being done, the witness admitted that he had made a mistake today – instead of saying that he had received the note from Messrs. Stroud, he said ‘he had received it from a man whom he should know again if he saw him.’

PC Samuel Simmonds took the prisoner into custody, and found the two notes upon him. He said he had received them from a Mr. Stevenson, a hop merchant in the Moseley Road, Birmingham, and gave £10 in hard cash for them at the New Street Station. Upon searching him I found upon his person four sovereigns and some silver and copper moneys, all good. He gave his name as Charles Bennett, of Spon Lane. I found

that correct, but upon inquiry for Mr. Stevenson, I could not find any such person.

Mr. Whitehouse, the postmaster of Burton-upon-Trent, deposed that there was no such firm as Stroud and Co. in that town.

Mr. Rhodes, hop merchant, of the Bull Ring, Birmingham, stated that there was no firm of Stroud and Co. in that town

Inspector Glossop, of the Birmingham police, stated that there was no Mr. Stevenson, a hop merchant, in the Moseley Road.

Mr. Bumstead, the inspector of notes to the Bank of England, proved that the notes found upon the prisoner were forgeries, and from the same plate.

Mr. Powell then addressed the jury for the defence, and after a lengthy appeal to their feelings, contending that the transaction was more a mistake than anything else, called John James, who, amidst other improbabilities, said that he saw the prisoner give sovereigns for the notes to two men at the Birmingham railway station, whom he (witness) thought the prisoner knew. He gave the prisoner a good character for eleven years.

Another witness named Houston spoke to the prisoner as being an 'honest and respectable' builder and contractor, whom he had known a long time.

Both these witnesses were closely cross-examined by Mr. Huddleston as to their own respectability; and it seemed also clear that they were anything but correct in their statements regarding the prisoner.

His lordship summed up at great length, recapitulating the greater portion of the evidence.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to six years' penal servitude."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 10/9/1856

"On Thursday last, R. Docker, Esq, held an adjourned inquest at the house of Mr. *P. Nock*, the CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury, on the bodies of John Sheldon and John Bryan, two of the eleven men who were killed on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, by an explosion of sulphur, at Lord Ward's Ramrod Hall Colliery, near Oldbury. H. M. Wainwright Esq, solicitor, of Dudley, attended on the part of Lord Ward, as also did E. F. Smith, Esq, his lordship's agent. L. Brough and T. Wynne, Esqrs, Government Inspectors, were also present. Mr. Bodington again attended for Mr. Spruce, the ground bailiff.

The evidence given was just the same as that laid before the Staffordshire jury who sat upon the other bodies, and who returned a verdict of Accidental Death. We are glad to find that the Worcestershire jury came to a more sensible conclusion; but it affords a fine illustration of the dependence to be placed on Coroners inquests

The coroner, in summing up the evidence, said it was the jury's duty to enquire if the rules, which were founded on the Act of Parliament, had been properly carried out in this instance; and if not, upon whom the responsibility of the neglect was imposed. They found that no means of ventilation beyond the natural means had been employed from Saturday to Wednesday while the pit was standing. If it were necessary that the butty should use a lamp on Wednesday morning, beyond all doubt the butty had failed in his duty; and as the fire which he took undoubtedly caused the explosion, that neglect of duty amounted so far as he was concerned to the crime of manslaughter. It was of course competent for them to return such a verdict against him (Baker). Having ascertained who fired the pit, they have to would have to ask 'who charged it?' The Coroner pointed out the first general rule, which said that an adequate amount of ventilation should be produced, &c, and went on to say that one could hardly think the rule was intended to mean that the pit should be left to rely upon the mode in which the workings were constructed, and thereby be allowed and expected to ventilate itself; such was sometimes the custom in this district it seemed. He held that it was not to be tolerated that a dangerous occupation, wherein the danger was capable of being lessened – wherein the mode of working was known to be capable of being carried on with a decreased amount of danger to a very material extent by established and known means – that they should come to the conclusion that all those men should be overlooked, and that until some extraordinary occurrence takes place, and some explosion has happened, and an enquiry took place, that all means of ventilation should be disregarded. It was not for them to enquire whether the parties in management of it had a right to suppose it was in a condition to ventilate itself; bearing in mind the proved fact, that the ventilation had not always been good. If the necessity for having a fire had been once established, somebody had been guilty of violating the rule referred to, in not keeping one constantly burning. Upon whom did the rule impose that responsibility? They would consider whether

it was not the duty of 'the owners or their agents.' They would satisfy themselves whether the ground bailiff was not the responsible individual in this case. If it devolved upon the butty, as Mr. Spruce had said, then all the onus of charging as well as of firing the pit would devolve upon that unfortunate man. They all disowned the responsibility except the dead man (Baker). If they considered that the ventilation of the pit was bad, because of an error of human judgement on the part of the manager (whoever he might be), and that he adopted the same means as the principal portion of his neighbours, then he would be liable to no criminal charge.

The jury said that they found that the deceased men had come to their death by the wilful conduct of Thomas Baker, in not attending to the call of the men at the bottom for the lamp, and his reckless conduct in taking fire down, which caused the explosion.

The verdict was Manslaughter against Thomas Baker."

#### Hereford Times 8/8/1857 - Advert

"Wanted, by an experienced person, a situation as Barmaid in a Commercial Hotel or Refreshment Rooms. Unexceptionable reference will be given.

Address, E. D. H, Mrs. *Nock's*, CROSS GUNS HOTEL, Oldbury, Worcestershire."

#### Birmingham Journal 7/10/1857

"An inquest on the bodies of Abraham Sherwood and Daniel Chinn, two of the eight men killed at Messrs. Mills and Sons pit, near Rowley, on the 10<sup>th</sup> ult, was held on Thursday afternoon last, at the house of Mr. *Philip Nock*, of the CROSS GUNS, Oldbury, by R. Docker, Esq. Mr. Brough, the Government Inspector, was present, as also was Mr. Edward Aston, the ground bailiff of the pit. The Coroner having been furnished with the depositions taken by Mr. Hinchliffe, who held a similar enquiry last week, read the evidence to the Jury, who only asked a few questions, and examined the plans and the safety lamp. The Coroner, in his summing up, said that Mr. Mills was to blame for not having carried out the direction of the Inspector [for improved ventilation] but he thought the evidence would not sustain any criminal charge. The Jury consulted for about half an hour, and then returned a verdict of Accidental Death, with an addition that there was great blame to be attached to Messrs. Mills, the proprietors, for not carrying out the Government Inspector's instructions."

[Other inquests were held at the CROSS GUNS, West Bromwich, the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath, the COCK, Rowley, the FOX HUNT, Old Hill and the GATE HANGS WELL, Darby Hand.]

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 25/11/1857

"An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the house of Mr. *P. Nock*, the CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury, before R. Docker, Esq, on the body of a man unknown, which was found on the previous day in an old coal pit belonging to Mr. Richard Haines, and situated near the SYCAMORE INN, Oldbury. A pony having been lost, the pit was searched, and the remains of a human body were found in a very advanced state of decomposition. The clothes were entire, and seemed to indicate that the deceased had been a farm labourer. In one of the pockets were found part of a gunlock, a lead pencil, part of a cigar, and a brass tobacco box, with the words 'D. Jones' engraved on the outside of the lid. The inquest was adjourned for a week.

It has since been discovered that the deceased was Daniel Jones, from Willenhall, near Wolverhampton, aged 38, who left his home five weeks last Saturday night to come to Oldbury, and nothing had been heard of him since till his body was found in the pit."

#### Birmingham Journal 26/12/1857

"The Inquest in the Body of Mr. Collins.

We have already given the full facts of this melancholy case. An inquest was commenced on the body of Collins on Saturday last, at the SPON LANE TAVERN, Mr. S. Underhill's, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, and that was adjourned until Wednesday last. We note in this state of things, that after hearing the evidence of Mr. Davies, surgeon, who under the Coroner's precept had made a post mortem examination of the body of Mr. Collins, the jury, under Mr. Hinchliffe's direction, returned a verdict that death had ensued from disease of the heart. It is unfortunately clear that deceased, formerly in very good circumstances, has for some years

given himself up to habits of intemperance, and at the adjourned inquest, from the testimony of a little girl, named Sarah Howley, it was shown that Mr. Collins was at the CROSS GUNS, in Oldbury, so late as eleven o'clock on the night of his melancholy death, and was then very much intoxicated. This case had excited much painful interest in West Bromwich, the more so from the fact that the widow of the deceased, left with five children, is herself not a sober woman."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/3/1858

"On Friday afternoon, at the house of Mr. *P. Nock*, the CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury, R. Docker, Esq, coroner, held an inquest on John Perry, aged about forty years, one of four men who were killed on the previous Tuesday afternoon while at work in one of Mr. Thomas Davis's pits at the Lodge Colliery, West Bromwich. The names of the three other unfortunate men were Joseph Ingram, John Hendley, and Topley. Mr. Brough, the Government Inspector of coal mines, was in attendance and gave evidence.

From the testimony of a man named Jacob Griffiths, it appeared that about half past three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon the four men were at work in 'the band,' in a part of the pit about eighty yards from the bottom, when what is known as a 'bump' came in upon them and buried them. He (Griffiths) and another man were at work near the place, and had a very narrow escape. The deceased were completely covered with earth, &c, of which about fifty tons had fallen in. The other men in the pit were set to work to recover the bodies, which they succeeded in doing after nearly three hours' labour. The bodies were fearfully mutilated. The Inspector gave evidence to the effect that he had been down the pit and found that it was and had been in a very dangerous state; it had been an old mine. There was, he said, plenty of timber for propping – enough, to use his own expression, to build a man-of-war; but the mine was in that state that no amount of timber would render it safe. Within four days of the accident he had posted a letter to the proprietor informing him of the insecurity of the pit; he having, prior to the accident, been down several times. He said that within the last eighteen months ten men had been killed at different times in the same mine. Mr. Brough regretted that he had not power to close such dangerous places, but he intimated that he would place a notice on the bank cautioning colliers from going down. But, he added, men in this part of the country were so fond of large wages, that they were ready to risk their lives anywhere.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, expressing a hope that Mr. Brough's opinion would be forwarded to the proprietors.

By the accident four wives are made widows, and eleven or twelve children orphans."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/3/1858

"An inquest was held yesterday (Tuesday) evening, at the house of Mr. *Philip Nock*, the CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury, before R. Docker, Esq, Coroner, and a Jury, on the body of Elizabeth Felton, aged about 17, who met with her death on Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, in consequence of her brother, George Felton, a lad aged about 13, having thrown a stone at her, which struck her just beneath the left ear, as previously reported. The affair, it will be remembered, took place at a stone pit near Oldbury, belonging to Mr. W. H. Dawes, on the bank of which the deceased and her brother were employed.

Philip Williams, a man employed at the pit, gave particulars as to how the deceased and her brother were employed on Friday; the former having to drive the horse which drew the skips of stone from the mouth of the pit to the edge of the bank, and the latter having to pick up the stones afterwards. He then said: George Felton came in a great hurry with one skip, and his sister then said to him, 'You young devil, if you come here hurrying and scurrying, I'll knock your head off; you have been lying down at the pit, talking to James Williams, and I won't have your hurry.' George Felton replied, 'No I arn't, red head,' and then drew in his skip, upon which she threw a handful of dirt in his eyes. He stooped to avoid the dirt, and as he rose he picked up a stone from the ground and threw it at her, but it missed her. She then went to him and hit him tremendous heavy about the head with her open hands, and then with her fists, exclaiming, 'You young devil, I'll kill you if you come here bully-ragging me about,' She then loosed him, and the lad struck her with the small whip which he had in his hand. The whip went round her loins, and the lash smacked in front of her. It did not hurt her, but she took it off him and threw it away, and then pushed him down and beat him very much with her open hands and her fists about the head. After this she left him on the ground, and was coming towards her work, when the lad, who was crying very much, raised himself on one knee, and picking up a bit of dirt about as big as a walnut he threw it, and it caught her behind the left ear. It was a piece

of hard dirt, but it was not a stone, for I noticed it particularly. It was about the substance of fire-clay unground. She was standing about five or six feet from him when he threw at her. As soon as she was struck she turned round to look at her brother, and stood for two or three seconds. She then put her hand to her head, and in a moment fell upon her knees and then to the ground. The lad at once cried, 'Oh Lord, Philip do come here!' but when I went and reared her up she was dead. The lad cried enough to alarm the whole place, saying, 'Oh, my sister is dead!' and 'Oh, our Betsy, do rise!' He was very much distressed. I called Parkes, the doggy, to my assistance, and we removed the body nearer to the pit, and I went for a doctor, but she was dead in a minute after she fell. She was afterwards carried to Furnace Row, where she and her brother lived with their mother and father. The witness said the female was always very passionate with her brother, but he added, in answer to a Juror, that if he had interfered and given each a box of the ears he would have had to appear before the Magistrates for it. The witness said the lad threw the dirt immediately after his sister had beaten him.

Mr. Cooper, surgeon, said: I saw the body about twelve o'clock on Friday, and life must have been extinct for about an hour. He had made a post-mortem examination. He found a small superficial bruise just over the right temple. He found that a small blood vessel had given way, and that this corresponded as regarded position with the outward injury behind the left ear. The brain was in a diseased state; in fact he hardly ever saw a brain more diseased. The immediate cause of death was pressure of blood over the surface of the brain, which blood came from the ruptured vessel described. He could not say that the rupture was produced by the blow described, but it was such an injury as might have been so produced. The degree of violence which the abrasion or bruise indicated, was sufficient to account for the rupture accruing by concussion, but in a healthy brain he hardly thought such a blow would be attended by similar consequences. In answer to a Juror, Mr. Cooper said he did not think that medical aid, if immediately rendered, would have been of any avail.

The Coroner: Excitement, Mr. Cooper, may have produced that rupture as well as a blow.

Mr. Cooper: Oh, yes, certainly.

Maria Ansill gave evidence similar to that of Williams.

The Coroner put the case very clearly before the Jury, who, after some consultation, returned a verdict of Homicide by Misadventure."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 25/3/1858

"The Boiler Explosion at Messrs. Hingeley's. Inquest on the One of the Sufferers.

We have given some time since the full facts attendant upon this sad affair. On Monday last, R. Docker, Esq, Coroner, held his adjourned inquest at Mr. *P. Nock's*, CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury, on the body of Charles Southwick, who was so severely injured by the explosion that his death took place in consequence on Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. The evidence went to show that the exploded boiler was new twelve months ago, but that it had leaked ever since it was put up. Having been repaired, it still leaked; and when it exploded the deceased, who was near the spot, was very seriously injured and scalded. The sufferer had been attended by Mr. E. Moore, surgeon, of Hales Owen, but gradually sank, and died as previously stated, from the effects of the accident.

Mr. Adam Dixon, of Smethwick, civil engineer, had been called in to make a professional examination of the exploded boiler, and this gentleman gave his usual careful account of the results of such examination. We need now only refer to the concluding paragraph of his report. 'I am of opinion,' says Mr. Dixon, 'that the boiler exploded from want of stiffness in the flue, which was rendered still weaker by the plates of which it was formed being of inferior iron.'

After hearing the observations of the Coroner, the jury, many of them practical men, and acquainted with the using and construction of boilers, said they agreed entirely in the opinion expressed by Mr. Dixon, and their verdict was in accordance with the view thus taken."

#### Worcester Journal 23/10/1858

"On Wednesday evening an inquest was held before Mr. Ralph Docker, on the bodies of Thomas Weobley, and Charles Thomas, two boatmen, who were found drowned, on Tuesday morning, at the Flash Arm of the Low Level Canal, near the Railway Carriage Works, Oldbury.

As John Morris, a sawyer, working at the carriage establishment, was following his employment looking for

some timber by the canal side, about seven o'clock, he perceived a body partly doubled up in the water, the head and feet being down, and the back visible above the surface. He called for a boat-hook, and the body, on being pulled out, proved to be that of Charles Thomas who was connected with a boat belonging to Mr. South, of Ledbury, which was lying near. As Weobley, who was also employed with Thomas on board the same barge, was not seen anywhere about, a search was made, and his body was also found about ten feet from the place.

The night of Monday was very stormy. The deceased were in the CROSS GUNS public house, Oldbury, about nine o'clock, and left in the direction of the canal; and it is thought that as the path to the boat was slippery, and dangerous, they must have slipped into the canal, and been drowned.

A verdict of Found Drowned in both cases was returned. Weobley has left a wife and four or five children."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/3/1859 - Advert

"Oldbury, Worcestershire. Freehold Dwelling Houses, near the NEW INN, Birmingham Road.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. F. Houghton and Newey, on Monday, the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March instant, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Philip Nock*, the CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, Oldbury, a short distance from the Oldbury and Bromford Station, on the Stour Valley Railway, unless previously disposed of by private contract (of which due notice will be given), subject to such conditions as shall then and there be produced....."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 4/4/1859 - Advert

"Wanted, a thorough good Servant, where a Kitchen Girl is kept, not under twenty-four years of age. Apply personally, CROSS GUNS, Oldbury."

#### Western Daily Press 7/7/1859

"On Tuesday afternoon an inquest was held at the CROSS GUNS TAVERN, Oldbury, before R. Docker, Esq, on the body of a collier named William Williams, twenty-two years of age, who was killed on Wednesday morning last, in one of the pits at the Lodge Colliery, West Bromwich, belonging to Caleb Griffiths and others.

Emanuel Thomas, who was about a yard off the deceased at the time of his death, and who with him resided at Langley, stated that deceased was a pikeman, engaged in getting 'sawyer' in the thick coal measure, and while sitting down, about half a ton of coal – slips and swancull – fell upon the deceased, and killed him on the spot. The coal overhung the place where deceased and witness were sitting, but had been repeatedly tried and 'knocked hard.' It could not be got down, and was considered quite safe.

The accident being so simple in its nature a verdict of Accidental Death was immediately returned."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1859

"On Monday evening last, an inquest was held at the CROSS GUNS INN (Mr. *Nock's*), Oldbury, before R. Docker, Esq, (Coroner), on the body of Benjamin Price, eighteen months old, the son of a labourer residing at Oldbury, who was drowned in a ditch on Sunday last. The mother saw the child run out of the house, and almost immediately followed it. She found it in a ditch containing about eighteen inches of water, quite dead. A verdict of Accidental Death was accordingly returned."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/12/1859 - Letter

"The Coroner and his Partiality in Oldbury.

Sir. Knowing your readiness to give publicity to suppress partiality in the administration of justice, allow me to give you the following interesting information.

On Monday, November the 14<sup>th</sup>, I was called to attend a man of the name of Guest, at nine o'clock at night. I immediately went and found that life was extinct. I sent a note to the Coroner by his summoning officer, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, to apprise him of the death, and expressing my readiness to perform a post mortem examination if required, but received no reply. To my great surprise I heard of an inquest on Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, being held at the CROSS GUNS, Oldbury, on the body of the man Guest, which I attended without a summons, when I found another surgeon had received the Coroner's precept for a post mortem examination, at which myself and the jury felt much surprised; upon which I wrote to the Coroner for an explanation, but received no

reply. If such a course is to be pursued, what encouragement would it be for any medical man to leave the social circle of his friends, or arouse from the slumbers of repose to attend and endeavor to relieve the pains of suffering humanity? Would it not at once start in his mind, let them send for him, or them, who are likely to (if the case prove a fatal one) to receive the Coroner's precept; so that through the reluctance of the one, and the recklessness of the other, nature is left to struggle with disease without any assistance, and through such a course would it not be likely for many a kind husband to be torn from the affections of a wife, and many a happy home left destitute? If you will please let this appear under the Oldbury news I should be greatly obliged.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, J. Brown, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/2/1860 - Advert

"Wanted, to Purchase, some Pump Trees, about 150 yards of from 10 to 12 inch, with working barrels and T bobs.

Apply to Mr. *Nock*, CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury, stating price, &c."

#### 1861 Census

Church Street – CROSS GUNS

- [1] *Philip Nock* (49), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Elizabeth Nock* (42), wife, born Kidderminster;
- [3] *George Walters* (47), visitor, traveller, born Kidderminster;
- [4] *Louisa Gilbert* (20), waitress, born Kidderminster;
- [5] *Harriet Antchley* (23), barmaid, born London;
- [6] *Susan Socket* (30), cook, born Tipton;
- [7] *George Day* (24), boots, born Birmingham:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/10/1861

"On Friday last an inquest was held at the CROSS GUNS INN (Mr. *Nock's*), before R. Docker, Esq, upon the body of an infant child that was found in the canal. Dr. Cooper made a post mortem examination, and found that the child was born alive, and had received various bruises. It had died from cold, exposure, and want, before it was thrown into the water. No clue could be ascertained as to who its parents were. The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence adduced. From the appearance of the body, it seemed to have been thrown into the canal out of an outhouse."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1862

"On Monday evening, at the CROSS GUNS INN (Mr. *Nock's*), R. Docker, Esq, (Coroner) held an inquest upon Edward Lloyd, aged 67, who was killed by a fall of coal in the Sampson Pit, on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst, and also upon the body of Henry Slade, aged 25, who died on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst, from injuries received on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, by a fall of coals in the Ramrod Pit. In both these cases Accidental Death was the verdict.

An adjourned inquest was also held on the body of James Ingram, aged 28, who died on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, from injuries received by burning in the Lamb Pit, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same month. In this case Accidental Death was returned as the verdict."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1862 - Advert

"Wanted, an active, sober, and steady Man as Groom, to live in the House, and make himself generally useful.

Apply at the CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/9/1862

"On Monday last, an inquest was held at the CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury, before Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, upon the body of Richard Edmund Grominett. Deceased resided in Church Street, Oldbury, and was machine man in the employ of Captain Bennitt, at the Oldbury Furnaces. He was at his usual work on Saturday afternoon, and had just passed a wagon over the machine, when he suddenly dropped down in his office, and died before medical aid could be rendered. Verdict, Death from Natural Causes."



AND

“On Monday, an inquest was held before Mr. Docker, Coroner, at the CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury, touching the death of a collier named Henry Higgatt. Deceased was employed at Mr. Joseph Hackett’s colliery, called The Black-bat Colliery, at Oldbury. On the 15<sup>th</sup> inst he had been holing the thick coal in the slips, and had gone into the gate road, when suddenly a mass of coal, weighing 12cwt, fell upon him and crushed him very severely. He was extricated almost immediately, but only survived an hour or two.

Mr. Baker, the Government Inspector, expressed himself satisfied with the general arrangements of the pit, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/2/1863 - Advert

“Wanted a respectable young Person, as Chamber Maid and Waitress, age about twenty-five. None need apply but those used to the business.

Apply to Mrs. *P. Nock*, CROSS GUNS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/6/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, who understands plain Cooking; also a respectable Person as Chambermaid and Waitress, accustomed to Business. Age 20 to 25.

Apply to Mrs. *Nock*, CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/8/1866 - Advert

“Wanted, a Waitress, not less than 24; also a good General Servant.

CROSS GUNS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/10/1867 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable young Person, not under 21. Must be a quick Waitress, and make herself generally useful. Also, a good Cook.

Apply, Mrs. *Hill*, CROSS GUNS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 21/3/1868 - Advert

“Peremptory Sale of Compact and Desirable Freehold Property, situate in Freeth Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Clarke and Barrows, by order of the Mortgagee, on Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April next, at the house of Mrs. *Hill*, the CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury, at Six o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 18/4/1868 - Advert

“Brewer and Ostler Wanted. Must be willing to make himself useful.

CROSS GUNS, Oldbury.

Worcester Journal 6/3/1869

“Worcestershire Lent Assizes.....

Mary Joyce (not in the calendar), was indicted for stealing a shilling, the property of George Dyer, at Oldbury, on Mach the 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Griffiths prosecuted. Prosecutor and prisoner were at the CROSS GUNS, Oldbury, and prosecutor alleged that the woman took a shilling from his pocket. When a policeman came and searched her a shilling was found in her pocket, which prosecutor said resembled his. Prisoner alleged that prosecutor gave her the shilling, and the jury acquitted her.”

1871 Census

3, Church Street – CROSSED GUNS

[1] *Mary Hill* (42), widow, innkeeper, born Worcester;

[2] *Florence Hill* (7), daughter, born Aston;

[3] *Phoebe Bate* (20), general servant, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/7/1871

“On Saturday afternoon an inquest was held before Mr. Ralph Docker, at the CROSS GUNS INN, Bromford Lane, on the body of a collier named Richard Jones, 49 years of age, living close to the Whymsey Bridge, who met with his death on the 17<sup>th</sup> ult, at the Pressure Pit of Mr. Thomas Price, of Titford, under the following circumstances.

David Cox, collier, stated that he worked with the deceased, who was a pitman, at about three o’clock on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> ult. He was about six feet from the deceased (in the back), who was ‘thinning’ some coal off the side of the knob. While he was doing this a quantity of the roof measure of the top stratum of the thick coal, about a ton in weight, fell upon him and killed him on the spot.

Leonard Walker, who was at work within three or four yards of the deceased, was of opinion that the coal fell in, in consequence of what the deceased was doing – in getting it away from the pillars.

Samuel Dyas, the night ‘doggy,’ stated ..... he believed that the spot was safe without timber. The witness was severely cross-examined by the Coroner and Mr. Baker (the Government inspector, who was in attendance to watch the case), from which it appeared that the doggy sent the men to work, and when they got there knew the place was not safe, but got some timber, and by his behaviour almost compelled them to work.

The jury found a verdict that the deceased met his death through an accident, but that the doggy was guilty of great neglect, and requested the Coroner to admonish him. The Coroner did so severely, and Mr. Baker told the doggy that he had not adhered to the rules, and that he was not fit to be in charge of a pit at all.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/9/1874

“On Saturday evening last about fifty of the workpeople employed by Messrs. Dawes at the Bromford Works dined together at Mrs. Hill’s, the CROSS GUNS, Oldbury, in celebration of the recent marriage of Mr. George Augustus Dawes. This was one of a series of dinners given by Mr. G. A. Dawes; in all about 700 workpeople being the recipients of his generosity. Mr. Henry Weston was appointed chairman, and Mr. Joseph Shakespeare vice-chairman. In the course of the evening the following toasts were proposed and duly honoured: ‘Mr. W. H. Dawes and family,’ ‘Mr. G. A. Dawes and Mrs. Dawes, and Success to Bromford Works,’ ‘Mr. Joshua H. Dawes,’ ‘Success to the coal and iron trade,’ and the ‘Health of Mr. C. Arkinstall, manager.’ A testimonial, of the value of 200 guineas, was presented to Mr. Dawes by the workmen just before his marriage, and on Saturday evening Mr. Frank Arkinstall, secretary of the committee; Mr. John Dorrall, treasurer to the testimonial fund; and Mr. Cleobury were in attendance. The proceedings were enlivened by the interspersions of songs and recitations, and the evening was spent in a convivial manner.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 4/11/1874

“An inquest was held on Monday, at the CROSS GUNS public house, Oldbury, on the body of Harriet Tilley (53), who was found in the canal, near Wheeler’s Foundry, Bromford Road, by Job Millership. The verdict was Found Drowned.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/5/1880 - Advert

“Mare. Stolen or Strayed, on Tuesday, May 18, from a field between the Dudley Port and Albion Stations, a grey Mare, lame; and also a dark-brown Cob, about 14 hands.

Whoever will bring or send word to the CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury, will be paid for their trouble.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 5/2/1881

“John Francis (28), of respectable appearance, and described as a clerk, of Lincoln, was charged with breaking into the dwelling-house of *Thomas Price*, CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Mr. *Price*, landlord, deposed that on Friday night, the 21<sup>st</sup>, about 12 o’clock, he was aroused by hearing a noise downstairs, which seemed like a key dropped on a brick floor. He went down stairs into the bar, and saw the prisoner trying to open the door. He was in the act of unbolting the top bolt of the door. He succeeded in drawing the bolt, the door stuck through the frost. When he found that the door was fast and escape impossible, he came back to get through the other door. He (witness) caught hold of him as he was trying to escape through the door. Prisoner then put his hands up in the most imploring manner and asked witness to forgive him as he had not touched anything. He (prisoner) said he got through the cellar window. He asked for his hat, and on looking for this witness found a jemmy. Mrs. Hill expressed sympathy with the prisoner,

and said she was sorry a respectable looking young man in such trouble. Prisoner then said he was a clerk, and that he had done it through poverty. PC Nash was then called in, and the prisoner handed over to his custody. He afterwards found that the cellar doors had been wrenched open.

Prisoner: I pulled the door open with my hands.

Mary Price, wife of the last witness, said the last time the cellar doors were used they were fastened, and they had not been opened since by any members of the family.

PC Nash said about twelve o'clock the prisoner was handed over to him by Mr. Price. He found two handkerchiefs tied around the prisoner's shoes. The prisoner said, 'Lord have mercy on me, I wish I were dead.' On searching him at the station he found a knife, containing a screwdriver, wax candles, matches, screw, a yard measure, and one farthing in money. He charged him, and he said, 'I plead guilty to all; I have done it in poverty; that has caused me to do it.' He had found there was a conviction against the prisoner five years ago at Stafford, when he was sentenced to six months imprisonment for stealing a watch and 6s 6d. On the first occasion he gave the name of John Francis, but on the 25<sup>th</sup> prisoner said to him (witness), 'I told you the wrong name, and I am very sorry for it.' He said, 'My name is James Frederick Northall,' and added that Mr. Shakespeare knew him. On enquiring at Mr. Shakespeare's he found that the prisoner some years ago was a clerk in the employ of Mr. Haywood, Cape, Smethwick.

Prisoner, who in answer to the charge pleaded that he was driven to it by cold and hunger, was committed to the Assizes for trial."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 30/4/1881

"The Spring Assizes ..... Pleaded Guilty.....

John Francis, alias James Frederick Northall (32), burglary at Oldbury; a former conviction; 12 months' imprisonment, without hard labour."

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 17/9/1881

"To Be Let – CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, Oldbury. Immediate possession. Apply on premises. Incoming easy."

#### London Gazette 4/8/1882

"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 *Alfred Wall*, of the CROSS GUNS, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Public House Manager, formerly of the Falstaff Brewery, Henley-street, Stratford-on-Avon, in the county of Warwick, Common Brewer, and afterwards of 4, Alexandra-road, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Brewer.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. George Thomas Sheridan Plant, of 22, Cannon-street, Birmingham, on the 14th day of August, 1882, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 28th day of July, 1882.

G. T. Sheridan Plant, 22, Cannon-street, Birmingham, Solicitor for the Debtor."

#### Birmingham Mail 15/8/1882

"Meeting of Creditors. Re *Alfred Wall*, of the CROSS GUNS, Church Street, Oldbury, licensed victualler and public house manager, formerly of the Falstaff Brewery, Henley Street, Stratford-on-Avon, brewer, and afterwards of 4, Alexandra Road, Birmingham, brewer.....

The receiver read the statement of affairs, showing total liabilities £1,998 18s, and assets £89 13s. It was unanimously resolved to wind up the estate in liquidation; Mr. Walter Clulee being appointed trustee, with a committee of inspection, the debtor's discharge being also granted. Mr. Sheridan Plant was entrusted with the registration of the resolution."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/12/1889

"Yesterday, at the Police Court, *Kate Clarkson*, landlady of the CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, Oldbury, was charged with keeping open during illegal hours.

Police-constable Hottom and Police-sergeant Clarke stated that about two o'clock on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult they found defendant's premises open, and defendant and a man named William Barnsley in one of the rooms asleep. The defence was that there was no offence against the Licensing Act, as it was not proved the premises were kept open for the sale of liquor, and that Barnsley was there as a friend. The Bench, in dismissing the case, said they considered there were suspicious appearances which justified the police in taking the proceedings."

#### 1891 Census

47, Church Street – CROSS GUNS

- [1] *Samuel Baker* (48), publican, born Rowley;
- [2] Catherine Baker (52), wife, born Pensnett;
- [3] John Baker (18), son, horse driver, born Oldbury;
- [4] Annie Baker (16), daughter, barmaid, born Oldbury;
- [5] Isaiah Baker (14), son, clerk, born Oldbury;
- [6] Sarah Baker (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Mail 8/9/1891

"At Oldbury Police Court, today, *Samuel Baker*, landlord of the CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, Oldbury, was charged with keeping his licensed premises open during prohibited hours, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. Police-sergeant Cooper stated that at 12.30am on the date named he was on duty near the defendant's house, in company with Police-constable Holtum, when they saw a number of persons coming from the direction of the wake ground, some of whom went into the CROSS GUNS INN through a side door. Going in they found two men named Jones and Nicholas in one of the rooms. Jones rapped the table, and defendant's daughter came in and supplied them with something to drink, for which Jones paid. Police-constable Holtum gave corroborative evidence. Mr. Sharpe, for the defence, did not dispute that the beer was supplied to Jones, but said the point disputed was as to whether the beer was actually paid for at the time. The defendant stated that on the night of the 31<sup>st</sup> ult, which was Oldbury Wake, he had a great pressure of business, and was compelled to engage extra waiters, and those were the persons who were found on his premises, he having invited them to supper after the house was closed. He denied that the beer was paid for. Annie Baker also denied that she received any money from either Jones or Nicholas. Jones and Nicholas denied paying for it. *Baker* was fined £1 4s, including costs, and Jones was also fined £1 0s 6d, including expenses, for being upon the premises."

#### London Gazette 5/4/1892

"Receiving Orders.

*Samuel Baker*. Formerly the CROSS GUNS INN, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, now residing at the house of Joseph Baker, the BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson-street, Oldbury aforesaid. Date of filing, 31/3/1892."

AND

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/4/1892

"The Bankruptcy Acts 1883 and 1890. Receiving Orders.

*Samuel Baker*, formerly CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, residing at the BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson Street, both Oldbury, late licensed victualler and miner, now miner."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/5/1892

"Bankruptcy Proceedings. Re *Samuel Baker*, of Oldbury.

This debtor, formerly of the CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, Oldbury, licensed victualler, and formerly carrying on business as a colliery proprietor at Oldbury and Tividale, came up for his public examination at the West Bromwich County Court, yesterday, before Mr. Registrar Watson.

The statement of affairs showed liabilities of £262 10s 4d, and a deficiency of £248 0s 4d.

In reply to Mr. L. J. Sharp (official receiver), it was elicited that the debtor commenced business about 1885,

at Tividale, in partnership with his brother John, as colliery proprietors. The debtor's capital amounted to about £700. They traded together until 1889, when the debtor retired from the concern after losing the capital he had placed in it. He subsequently joined John Beasley, at the Old Sycamore Colliery, Oldbury, where he lost £230, which he received from the sale of a public house. Then he took on the CROSS GUNS INN, Oldbury, and in June last the landlord distrained the rent. Since then the debtor had not traded. The insolvency was attributed to bad trade, want of capital, and losses in business. Mr. T. R. Ponser represented the debtor, who was allowed to pass."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/11/1892

"On Saturday night the annual dinner and meeting of the Oldbury Lodge of the West Bromwich Amalgamated Miners' Association was held at the CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, Oldbury. Mr. D. Parkes, of West Bromwich, presided over a large company.

The Secretary (Mr. W. Hughes) presented the annual report, which showed that the funds and the membership had increased considerably during the past year.

Mr. H. Rust (agent) delivered an address, and resolutions were passed in favour of the eight-hours working day for miners from bank to bank, improved organisation, and continued adherence to the Coal Trade Wages Board."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/11/1895

"On Saturday night a meeting of miners in connection with the West Bromwich Miners' Association was held at the CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

Mr. W. Hughes (the chairman) spoke of the value of unionism in protecting the interests of the men, and mentioned that the funds in connection with the West Bromwich Miners' Association amounted to £3,357 16s 0½d, and the Oldbury Lodge was worth £19 1s 3d.

Mr. G. Carter and Mr. H. Rust (agent) also addressed the meeting. The latter referred to the deputation which a few days ago waited upon the Home Secretary, and urged the need for more inspectors. In Great Britain there were 4,150 pits and fourteen inspectors, while in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire there were 315 pits and two inspectors. It was impossible for these two officials to thoroughly inspect such a number of pits, and it was time the miners raised their voices on this important subject.

A resolution deciding to support the Wages Board was passed."

London Gazette 23/2/1897

"*John William Price*, the CROSS GUNS INN, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Licensed Victualler. Date of Public Examination, March 3, 1897."

*Samuel Downing* – see also MALT SHOVEL, Low Town.

Smethwick Telephone 1/12/1900

"A bankruptcy petition was presented in the West Bromwich County Court on Tuesday, on behalf of *Walter Weaver*, now residing in lodgings at 127, High Park Road, Smethwick, coal dealer, and formerly residing and carrying on business at Furnace-yard, Dudley Road, Oldbury, and also at the CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, Oldbury, and the BEEHIVE INN, Whimsey Bridge, Oldbury, as a beer retailer. The usual receiving order and adjudication in bankruptcy were granted."

*Walter Weaver* – see also BEEHIVE, Portway Road.

Birmingham Daily Post 20/8/1900 - Advert

"Fully-Licensed House, main street; five minutes from station; possession £60, fixtures, stock at valuation. Rent £52.

Apply, CROSS GUNS, Oldbury."

*Henry Steventon* was fined 20s and 49s 6d costs, on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1900, for permitting drunkenness.

West Bromwich Weekly News 26/1/1901

“Mr. Herbert Jeffries made an application for the temporary transfer of the license of the CROSS GUNS INN to Mrs. *Treglown*. The case, he said, was adjourned a fortnight ago in order that the agreement between her and Messrs. Thompson, the owners, might be produced. This he now handed to the Magistrates. Superintendent Sheriff asked Mrs. *Treglown* if she was aware there were two convictions against this house, and that the license had been endorsed since the last annual licensing sessions. – Mrs. *Treglown*: I am. Superintendent Sheriff: And knowing this you still wish the license transferred to you? – Mrs. *Treglown*: I do.

Superintendent Sheriff: So long as you do it with your eyes open, I have no objection. The transfer was then granted.”

Smethwick Weekly News 31/8/1901

“Mr. J. W. Clulow, of Birmingham, appeared on behalf of Samuel Thompson and Sons, the owners of the above house, the renewal of the license of which was opposed on the ground of a conviction against the occupier of the house.

Mr. Herbert Jeffries, instructed by the Rev. J. Tollady and Mr. G. E. Simonds, asked for the consideration of the renewal of this license to be deferred until the adjourned licensing sessions, and for the holder of the license to personally attend the Court.

Mr. Clulow urged that the necessary notice of objection had not been served to Mr. Jeffries, and consequently his clients could not be heard. To adjourn the case till the adjourned licensing sessions would cause Mr. Thompson great inconvenience.

Mr. J. M. Wilson said the magistrates were willing to grant Mr. Jeffries’ application for an adjournment, and would also make an order for the holder of the license to personally attend the Court.

The adjourned licensing sessions have been fixed to take place on September 10<sup>th</sup>.”

The license renewal was refused at the Adjourned Licensing Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1901.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/9/1901

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. Clulow made application for the renewal of the licence of the CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street, owned by S. Thompson and Sons, Smethwick. Mr. Herbert Jeffreys appeared to oppose on behalf of Mr. G. E. Simonds, but on a technical point of law he was ruled out of Court.

Superintendent Sheriff urged that the premises were dilapidated, that there were two convictions within a month for permitting drunkenness last October and November, and that there were eleven other licensed houses within a radius of 200 yards, so that the house was altogether unnecessary.

Mr. Clulow said if it was necessary to reduce the number of licences he thought the NOAHS ARK INN, opposite, which the police described as a ‘dog kennel,’ and against which there was a conviction, should have been refused.

Major S. N. Thompson said there had been no complaints against the house except during one month last year, when they had difficulties with regard to tenants. Since January, 1897, there had been £261 12s 11d spent on the house in repairs.

Edward Briggs, architect, Birmingham, gave evidence as to the condition of the house and the repairs, and Mrs. *Treglown*, the tenant, said the takings averaged £10 or £12 a week. She had very much improved the class of customers the last ten months.

After retiring to consider their decision, Mr. Wilson explained with reference to the NOAHS ARK that it was only a beerhouse, and whatever their views in regard to it might be they would still be in the same position. The justices were agreed they must decline to renew the licence of the CROSS GUNS INN.

Mr. Clulow intimated that they would appeal against the decision.”

Smethwick Weekly News 14/9/1901

“.....It had been a licensed house over 100 years ..... Mrs. *Treglown* was in court when Thompsons’ were last convicted with the object of applying for the transfer of the license, but when she heard the case she said she would not go in. He doubted whether Mrs. *Treglown* had made the house pay, and there was an object

in her remaining there. Youths visited this house more than any other neighbouring houses. He could not say whether it was the oldest licensed house in Oldbury or not, but it was an old license. It was a house that could very well be spared.....”

## CROSS KEYS

20, (11+12), (115), Tat Bank Road, (Stoney Lane), Tat Bank, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

William Downing, Holly Lane, Smethwick  
Frederick Smith, 249-251, Lichfield Road, Aston  
Messrs. T. C. Duce & Son, Wednesbury [1886]  
John Jordan and Co. Ltd. [1900], [1909]  
William Edward and Thomas Lee Downing, Spon Lane, Smethwick  
T. A. Sadler, Windsor Castle Brewery, Oldbury (acquired c.1919)  
Mitchells and Butlers Limited [1928], [1931]

## LICENSEES

George Welch [1846] – [1870]  
William Stevens [1870]  
Ann Welch [ ] – **1871**;  
Thomas Glazebrook (**1871** – [1872])  
Thomas Adams [1873]  
Joseph Wilkinson [1879] – [1881]  
William Phillpotts [1884] – **1886**;  
Joseph Hayward [1886]  
Daniel Ellis (**1886** – **1888**);  
Isaac Fisher (**1888** – **1889**);  
Thomas Perkins (**1889**);  
Frank Brown (**1889** – **1895**);  
Enoch Bunn [1891] ?  
John Price (**1895**);  
William Hewitt (**1895** – **1897**);  
Harry Patterson (**1897**);  
Job Hughes (**1897** – **1898**);  
Ernest Hopkins (**1898**);  
Alice Williams (**1898** – **1900**);  
John Jordan and Co. Ltd. (**1900** – **1911**);  
Ellen Lawley [1901] manager  
Palmer [1905] manager  
Mary Raden [1911] manager  
Samuel Thomas Whale (**1911** – **1921**);  
Harry Webster (**1921** – **1922**);  
Samuel Edwin Firm (**1922** – **1923**);  
Ernest ‘Ernie’ Allen (**1923** – **1928**);  
Joseph Thomas Steadman (**1928** – **1930**);  
Richard Howard Mahood (**1930** – **1932**);

Frederick William Absalom Haywood (1932 – 1933):

## NOTES

115, Tat Bank Road [1880]

11+12, Tat Bank Road [1881]

20, Tat Bank Road [1891], [1896], [1912], [1921]

It had a beerhouse license.

*George Welch* = George Welsh

### Birmingham Journal 1/8/1846

“Last Saturday, a young man named John Smith, who lived at Tividale, and worked in Mr. Yates’s colliery, was sent on horseback to fetch a bottle of ale from his master’s residence, at Oldbury; but when he had got as far as Potter’s Bridge, the horse took fright at a load of bricks which were being turned out of a cart, and threw the unfortunate young man off, dreadfully fracturing his skull. He was carried to his sister’s house near at hand, where he was attended by Mr. Cooper, surgeon, but after lingering till Thursday, he expired in great pain. An inquest is to be held this day on his remains, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, at Mr. *G. Welch*’s, the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank.”

*George Welch* was also a grocer. [1850]

### 1851 Census

Tat Bank

[1] *George Welch* (39), victualler and grocer, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Ann Welch* (36), wife, born Wellington, Shropshire;

[3] Sarah Socket (22), general servant, born Tipton;

[4] Eliza Whitehouse (10), general servant, born Tewkesbury:

### Worcestershire Chronicle 21/1/1852

“On Wednesday last an adjourned inquest was held before George Hinchliffe, Esq, at the house of Mr. *George Welch*, the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, on the body of a miner named William Morris, thirty-nine years of age, who came by his death under the following circumstances.

He was employed at a pit situated in Newbury Lane, belonging to Messrs. Taylor and Farley, and on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, was, with six others, lowered down the pit, for the purpose of commencing their day’s work. When about half-way down (the shaft being more than a hundred yards in depth) they suddenly began to descend at a fearfully rapid rate, and on reaching the bottom the concussion ‘bounced’ them all out of the skip, with the exception of the deceased, upon whom the heavy pit chain fell, killing him almost instantaneously. His six comrades escaped without any injury. It turned out that the accident had arisen from the machinery being thrown out of gear by the breaking of several of the teeth of a cog wheel. One of the teeth had been fractured some time back, and in repairing it, instead of having it secured in the usual way by a dove-tail joint, it was only fastened on the surface by the process known as ‘gob and cotter.’ On the morning of the accident the engineer found that this tooth was loose, and having driven a nail into it, he deemed it safe enough; but hence the occurrence by which seven men might have lost their lives.

Mr. J. Mills, engineer, of Great Bridge, who had been summoned to give evidence, being questioned by the jury, stated that he did not think it safe to work with a wheel one of the cogs of which was secured in such a manner; on the contrary, they ought to have new castings.

After deliberating for more than an hour, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, being of opinion that the engineer had done all he could to make the wheel safe. At one period of the inquiry they appeared inclined to return a verdict of Manslaughter against the lessees of the pit, but this idea was abandoned after listening to the coroner’s exposition of the law bearing on such cases. The lessees were represented by Mr.



Holland, solicitor, and one of them stated that a new wheel had been ordered.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/5/1854

“On Tuesday a meeting took place at the house of Mr. *Welch*, CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, of delegates from the Oldbury and West Bromwich Order of Odd Fellows. The chair was taken by Mr. Thomas Field, QC; the vice-chair by Mr. Thomas Wall, SQ. The chief business was to audit the accounts of the previous half-year. There was a numerous attendance of delegates and gentlemen from the different lodges. Mr. Cooper, surgeon, of Oldbury, and several others, were in attendance. The business of the evening was conducted to the greatest satisfaction of all present, and all separated at an early hour.”

Birmingham Journal 5/11/1856

“An inquest was held by R. Docker, Esq, on Saturday, at the CROSS KEYS, Oldbury, on the body of a boy, ten years old, named Emanuel Green, who died on the preceding day in consequence of injuries received on Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup> ult, by an explosion of gunpowder in a blacksmith’s shop, in one of the collieries belonging to Captain Bennitt. The lad, it seemed, was sent from a pit’s mouth to a storehouse for three or four pounds of powder. On returning with it in a powder-can, he called at the shop where the smiths were at work. While here it is supposed that a spark from the fire came in contact with the gunpowder, as an explosion then took place. The lad was much burnt on the face, throat and arms. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Morning Advertiser 8/11/1856

“On Monday Mr. R. Docker held an inquest at the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury, on the body of an infant female child, the circumstances attending whose death has caused the apprehension of the mother, a single woman, named Ellen Gould, aged 24 years; of her father, an old man, John Gould aged 57, and also the wife of the latter and mother of the former, Elizabeth Goud, aged 57.

Mr. Beatty, surgeon, having on Thursday had his attention drawn to an afterbirth found in a yard adjoining Gould’s house, he examined it, and while doing so Elizabeth Gould requested him to go and examine her daughter, lest she should hereafter be suspected. He found Ellen Gould in bed, and that she had recently been delivered of a child. She and her mother, however, denied it. Mr. Beatty again said she had been so delivered, when the mother said, ‘Then we are condemned.’ Mother and daughter were then taken into custody, and Ellen, while in the cell, said to Sergeant Humphreys, ‘Master, I will tell the truth; the child is mine, and I have hid it up the chimney in the bed-room.’ He at once went to the house, and upon removing some straw in the chimney, and thrusting his arm some distance up, found a stick; pulling this down, there fell from the chimney a calico bag, containing the body of a full-grown female child.

Mr. Beatty said that, having made a port mortem examination, he found that the child was born at maturity. Appearances indicated that the child had lived after birth. He was of opinion that death was caused by suffocation.

The jury found a verdict of Wilful Murder against the mother and daughter, and of accessory after the fact against the father.”

[It was reported (Worcestershire Chronicle 17/12/1856) that at the Winter Assizes held at Worcester, Ellen Gould was charged with ‘child murder’ and Elizabeth Gould was charged with ‘concealing the birth of a child.’ Ellen was found not guilty of wilful murder, but was found guilty of concealing a birth, and sentenced to three months’ imprisonment (the Court records show that she was found guilty of child murder and received three months). No evidence was offered against Elizabeth and she was discharged.]

1861 Census

Stoney Lane North – CROSS KEYS

[1] *George Welch* (49), victualler and grocer, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Ann Welch* (46), wife, born Wellington, Shropshire;

[3] Ann Bowen (14), niece, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] Sarah James (14), scholar and domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[5] James York (19), labourer and domestic servant, born Bromsgrove:

Worcestershire Chronicle 11/6/1862

“An inquest has been held at the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, Oldbury, on the body of a newly born male child found in the canal near there, with its throat cut. There was no proof to whom the child belonged, or by whom the injury causing death had been inflicted. The jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against some person or persons unknown.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1866 - Advert

“A Public House and Shop to be Let.  
Apply, *G. Welch*, CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/11/1866 - Advert

“CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.  
By Mr. A. Aintree, on Monday Next, November 26, commencing at Eleven.  
An Assortment of useful Household Furniture; capital Brown Draught Horse, 5 years old; fast black Pony, two sets Harness, two Spring Traps, pair Coal Scales, iron Sack Trolley; three-pull Ale Machine, Hogshead, and other Barrels; Portable Bagatelle, and Public-house Effects, &c, &c.”

Birmingham Journal 22/12/1866

“At the Birmingham County Court, on Thursday, the case of *Powell v Chance* was heard.....  
The action was brought to recover damages for a nuisance occasioned by Mr. Chance and his partners, who are large manufacturers of alkali and other substances, at Oldbury.....  
Mr. *George Welch*, a publican at Oldbury, lived about 100 yards from Messrs. Chance’s works. He had frequently seen light blue gas coming over Messrs. Chance’s palings into his house. It caused coughing, and almost took his breath away sometimes. During the last eighteen months he had noticed that the gas burned the linen in the house. When they washed the linen they found little holes in it. His wire window-blinds had been burned and caused to decay by the action of the gas. He saw Mr. Chance about twelve months ago, and he said that he was willing to pay if he had done any damage. Witness sent in a claim for £23 10s. He had not been paid.....”  
[Verdict for the plaintiff for the amount claimed, £4.]

Birmingham Daily Post 7/6/1869 - Advert

“By Parkes and Walker, This Day (Monday), at Eleven o’clock.  
The Household Furniture, Fixtures, Stock-In-Trade, &c, at the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

*George Welch* and *William Stevens* are here in the same 1870 directory.

1871 Census

Stoney Lane – CROSS KEYS INN

- [1] *Thomas Glazebrook* (39), publican and smith, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary F. Glazebrook* (32), wife, born Paddington, London;
- [3] *Catherine Glazebrook* (4), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *James Glazebrook* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Mary E. Glazebrook* (11 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Joseph Caddick* (55), boarder, carpenter, born Tipton;
- [7] *Walter Caddick* (17), boarder, labourer, born Tipton;
- [8] *Ellen Reynolds* (21), boarder, general servant, born Oldbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/6/1871

“At the Stipendiary’s Court, West Bromwich, yesterday, before Mr. I. Spooner, at the instance of Mr. Henry Ward, a number of Oldbury offenders against the Vaccination Act appeared in answer to summonses issued against them.....  
*Thomas Glazebrook*, CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank, did not himself appear in answer to the summons. The

Stipendiary was willing to adjourn the matter for his attendance, but his wife (who was in Court for him) said she was willing to settle the matter now by paying the fine. Fined accordingly, 10s and costs.”

#### Sporting Life 30/8/1879

“A match has been made and articles signed between D. Gough, of Tat Bank, and F. Blackham, of Oldbury; neither lad to exceed thirteen years. £1 a side is now down in the hands of Mr. *Wilkinson*, of the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank, is stakeholder and referee. They run on September 15.”

#### 1881 Census

11+12, Tat Bank Road – CROSS KEYS INN

- [1] *Joseph Wilkinson* (33), coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Emma Wilkinson* (30), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] *Joseph Wilkinson* (13), son, born Brierley Hill;
- [4] *Emila Wilkinson* (8), daughter, born Rowley;
- [5] *Freeman Wilkinson* (6), son, born Rowley;
- [6] *Minnie Wilkinson* (4), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Ernest Wilkinson* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Sarah Wilkinson* (5 months), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 15/7/1881 - Advert

“Oldbury. To Let, CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank; full licensed. In-coming low. Apply, W. Hickman, Valuer, West Bromwich.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 6/8/1881

“James Edwards, blacksmith, Langley, was charged with stealing 3lbs of peppermints, value 2s 6d, belonging to Edward Waterhouse junr, Oldbury.

Prosecutor said on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1879, he went to the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, to sell tobacco, he had with him 3lbs of peppermints for another person. He left the public house, but shortly afterwards missed the sweets. He went back to the CROSS KEYS and found them under prisoner’s coat.

PC Williams said he received the prisoner in custody from the Pontefract Police, on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.

In answer to the charge of stealing bacon for which he was arrested, prisoner said he did not steal the bacon. Teddy Waterhouse sent me for the horse and cart. I know the two ‘chaps’ who stole the bacon.

Superintendent Hardman asked for a further remand for seven days in order to enable the clerk to communicate with the public prosecutor. The remand was granted.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 18/7/1885

“*William Phillpotts*, landlord of the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank Road was summoned for selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours.

PC Ball stated that on Sunday morning, the 5<sup>th</sup> instant, at 10.30am, he watched the premises and saw the defendant’s daughter come out of the back door and hand over the wall to the canal side a bottle and can containing beer to a man who passed the money back for it.

Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, urged that the vessels did not contain any beer, and called the defendant, his wife and daughter, who supported this statement.

The Bench gave the defendant the benefit of the doubt, and dismissed the case.”

*William Phillpotts* issued tokens from here.

#### Gloucestershire Echo 15/4/1886

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. R. Docker, Coroner, held an inquest at the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank, respecting the death of Martin Shannon (53), of Low Town, whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal at Tat Bank on Sunday last. Annie Shannon, daughter of the deceased, stated that her father left home about three o’clock on Sunday afternoon, taking with him a prayer book. Some time ago deceased was an inmate of the Queen’s Hospital, and recently when under the influence of drink he frequently threatened to kill his rela-

tives and commit suicide. The mind of deceased had been affected by several accidents. It was stated that a razor and prayer book were found in deceased's pocket. The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned."

#### Smethwick Telephone 17/7/1886

"*Joseph Hayward*, landlord of the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank, was summoned for having committed a breach of the licensing laws by permitting gambling upon his licensed premises on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst.

A witness named John Higgins was called, and stated that he went into the defendant's house upon the day named, when he saw some men playing at cards for a pint of ale. A dispute arose, the result of which was that a bet was made for a half-sovereign, and he (witness) contended that he won the money, but the landlord, who held the stakes, returned the amounts to the parties.

Defendant pleaded guilty to the charge.

Mr. Thursfield appeared on behalf of Messrs. T. C. Duce & Son, Wednesbury, the owners of the property, and urged that his clients were anxious that the house should be properly conducted, and that the defendant had hitherto borne a very good character.

The Bench considered the case to be a serious one, and inflicted a fine of 40s and costs, the license not to be endorsed."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1887

"At the Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. W. E. Chance and B. T. Sadler – *Daniel Ellis*, landlord of the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank, was summoned for being drunk on his own licensed premises on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst.

Police-constable Stanton stated that on the above date he visited the defendant's house, and found the defendant drunk. The officer stated that previous to that the defendant came to the police station and made a complaint about a person having defrauded him. Witness declined to listen to such a statement, and advised him to call next day.

For the defence Mr. Shakespeare urged that the defendant was at the time greatly excited, and had been very ill.

The Bench considered the case proved, and fined the defendant 10s and costs."

*Daniel Ellis*, beer retailer, Tat Bank Road. [1888]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/9/1888

"The adjourned annual licensing session for the Oldbury Division took place yesterday. There were three cases that had been adjourned from the annual meeting.....

*Daniel Ellis*, CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank. *Ellis* made no application for a renewal, but the Bench granted a transfer to *Isaac Fisher*."

#### 1891 Census

20, Tat Bank Road

[1] *Enoch Bunn* (30), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Alice Bunn* (28), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *William Bunn* (11), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Thomas Bunn* (10), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[5] *Alice Bunn* (3), daughter, born West Bromwich:

*Job Hughes* was convicted of larceny and his license was forfeited on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1898.

#### Smethwick Telephone 19/2/1898

"On Tuesday, at Oldbury Police Court, *Job Hughes*, landlord of the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank, was charged with stealing coal, of the value of 1d, the property of the Rowley Station Colliery Company, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst.

Police-constable Tennant stated that on the date named he was on duty on the canal side at Tat Bank, near the back premises of the CROSS KEYS INN, when he saw a boat laden with coal passing through the locks

in charge of William and Ernest Comley. He observed the defendant step off the boat, and upon going to the place found two large lumps of coal on the canal side. He asked defendant what it meant, and he replied, 'It is all right, it's a bit William Comley put off for me.' Comley, however, denied having done so, and defendant then asked the officer not to let anything come of it, and wanted him to go back to the public house and settle it.

William Comley said, although the prosecutors did not want to press the case, they wanted the practice of stealing coal from boats in transit stopped.

Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 40s including costs, or 28 days' hard labour.

Superintendent Chare intimated to the defendant that as he had been found guilty of larceny, he could no longer hold a license, and the house must be closed."

*Alice Williams* was fined 60s and £3 11s 6d costs, on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1900, for permitting drunkenness.

#### 1901 Census

20, Tat Bank Road – CROSS KEYS INN

[1] James Lawley (44), engine fitter and erector, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Ellen Lawley* (47), wife, manageress of licensed house, born Birmingham;

[3] Harry Taylor (12), step-son, born Oldbury;

[4] Mary Ann Evans (22), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Coventry Herald 16/1/1903

"At Oldbury Police Court on Tuesday a young man named John Lloyd, residing at Station Road, Langley, was fined 15s 6d, including costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment, for being drunk in the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank.

Mr. Chance pointed out that defendant had been convicted twice before for drunkenness, and if he were brought up again before September next he would be placed upon the black list. He advised him to turn over a new leaf, as the new Act would be rigidly enforced in that district."

#### Birmingham Mail 12/12/1905

"Today, at Oldbury Police Court, Ernest Warwick (19), of Low Town, Oldbury, was summoned for using threats towards *Millie Palmer*, of the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank.

Mr. F. Dawes, who appeared for complainant, explained that for something like eight or nine months *Miss Palmer* had walked out with the defendant. She, however, broke off the engagement some two months ago in consequence of hearing that there were certain proceedings in that Court. During the last two months the complainant's life had been a perfect misery owing to the defendant's conduct. When complainant told defendant two months ago that she did not intend to walk out with him again, the latter replied that if he did not have her nobody else would, and that if he saw her with another man he should kill her and the man. At the same time he produced a revolver from his pocket, remarking, 'This is what I shall give you.' Afterwards he visited the CROSS KEYS INN, where complainant's mother resides, and created a disturbance, and also accused complainant's mother of being the cause of the trouble, and on that occasion he repeated his threat to shoot complainant if he saw her keeping company with another man. Police-sergeant Pegg was called in, and he ordered defendant to leave the premises.

On Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, complainant went to the door about 11.30 at night to look for her brother. Defendant, who was hiding in an entry on the opposite side of the street, rushed across the road and attempted to force open the door. He also shouted, 'If I get hold of you I will kill you.'

Complainant gave evidence in support of this statement, and a witness deposed to hearing the threat on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The defendant, who did not appear, was ordered to enter into recognisances to keep the peace for six months, himself in £10, and two sureties of £5 each, or in default one month's hard labour. He was also ordered to pay the costs, 14s 6d, or an additional fourteen days' imprisonment."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/5/1906

"A Smethwick man named Edward Powell, of Oldbury Road, was sent to prison for two months with hard

labour for obtaining 2s by false pretences from the wife of the licensee of the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank, on April 27. Prisoner, it appears, went to the house and said that he had got eight fowls to sell for a Warley farmer. Complainant offered to buy four of the fowl, and paid 2s on account, but it was ascertained subsequently that the statement was false, nothing further being seen of the man. When arrested he said that he thought that he would be able to get some fowl or pay back the money when he commenced work.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

CROSS KEYS.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1909.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation.....

CROSS KEYS, alehouse, Tat Bank, owner Messrs. Jordan and Co.....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee’s investigations.....”

The license was renewed on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1909.

#### Evesham Standard 10/7/1909

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee sat on Saturday to continue consideration of the 25 licenses which had been referred to them as the compensation authority by the local justices.....

Mr. Shakespeare, for the Oldbury justices, supported the reference of the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, Oldbury, on the ground of redundancy, and Mr. Dawes opposed it on the ground that it was a better house than neighbouring ones. He said the house was largely used by boatmen who took barges along the canal.

The Committee renewed the licenses of the ..... CROSS KEYS.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/10/1910

“Matthew Queeney, a boot-black, of no fixed abode, was charged at Oldbury yesterday with doing wilful damage to the extent of £4 to a plate-glass window at the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, and was sentenced to fourteen days’ imprisonment.

It was stated that prisoner had to be ejected from the public house on the night of September 27 because he was creating a disturbance. When outside he threw his shoe brush at the plate-glass window, smashing it. Queeney pleaded that he did it while excited because three of his brushes had been stolen while he was in the house.”

#### 1911 Census

20, Tat Bank Road

[1] *Mary Raden* (58), widow, manageress, public house, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Lizzie Raden* (24), daughter, assisting in business, public house, born Tividale;

[3] *Sarah Ann Asbury* (36), daughter, married, private means, born Tividale;

[4] *Edwin Asbury* (13), son, school, born Oldbury;

[5] *Annie Asbury* (3), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[6] *Sarah Crumpton* (28), visitor, barmaid, born Oldbury;

[7] *Rebecca Crumpton* (22), visitor, general servant, born Oldbury:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 15/2/1913

“A grand smoking concert was held at the CROSS KEYS INN, Tat Bank, on Friday evening, last week, for the benefit of Mr. Simeon Harris, who recently had the misfortune to break his leg. The chair was taken by Mr. L. G. Harrison, and a very enjoyable evening was spent, a first class musical programme having been arranged. Excellent arrangement had been made by the host (*Mr. S. T. Whale*), and as a result there should be a satisfactory amount for the object stated.”

*Harry Webster* – see also WHIMSEY.

In March 1928 the removal of the licence of the CROSS KEYS to premises proposed to be erected in Hagley Road West, Quinton, was refused.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1930

“After a hearing lasting the whole day, Oldbury licensing magistrates yesterday refused an application by Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers for the removal of the license of the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, to premises to be erected at the junction of Albert Road, and the new road at Warley.” [WERNLEY]

#### Smethwick Telephone 7/3/1931

“Matters of great importance were under consideration with the application of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers for permission to erect a hotel on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton Road at a point near the Smethwick and Oldbury housing schemes.....

Mr. Hurst said he had the honour to apply to the Bench on behalf of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, a fully licensed public house, to a site at Warley, on the new main Wolverhampton Road, at the corner of Albert Road ..... The application was in respect to a removal of a licence to a district which was a new centre of population and the house would be in a teeming and busy district.....

The Bench considered the matter in private for a long time. Eventually the Chairman said that the application would be granted subject to the surrender of two full licences in the centre of Oldbury – the BROWN LION, Birmingham Street, and the ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street – and also subject to certain minor alterations to the plans.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 2/5/1931

“Worcester Licensing Committee on Monday confirmed the provisional order granted to Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, sanctioning the removal of the publican’s licence from the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, Oldbury, to premises to be erected at the corner of the Wolverhampton-Birmingham arterial road and Albert Road at Warley, in the Oldbury division.

Mr. J. G. Hurst, KC, who appeared with Mr. M. Holdsworth to make the application said that since the construction of the arterial road there had been remarkable building development at the site of the proposed licence. In addition to closing the CROSS KEYS, his clients would surrender two more full licences in the district of Oldbury. It was mentioned that these licenses would be the BROWN LION in Birmingham Street, and the ENGINEERS ARMS in Stone Street. The estimated cost of the new building was stated to be £14,000, exclusive of the site.”

It closed at 10pm on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1933.

### Smethwick Telephone 27/1/1934

“Preliminary Announcement. Sale By Auction on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1934, of Freehold Investment Properties ..... by Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon.....

Lot 3. Tat Bank Road, Nos.20, 22, and 24. The Delicensed Premises, the CROSS KEYS and two Lock-up Shops with Vacant Possession.....”

### CROSSWELLS

Whyley Walk (Street), (1, (15), Station Road), (55, Hobicus Lane), Five Ways, Langley Green, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Thomas Brook Snr, Langley

William Smith [1890]

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1890)

Ind Coope and Allsopp (acquired in 1936)

Ansells Ltd. (acquired in 1960)

Holt, Plant and Deakin (acquired in 1984) [1989]

Paul Archer [2006]

Enterprise Inns

### LICENSEES

William Barlow [1849]

Thomas Birch [1851] – [1855]

Frederick Henching\* [1857]

Frederick Kinchin\* [1858] – [1862]

Francis Garbett [1868] – [1870]

William Wincott [1871] – [1877]

William Smith [1877] – **1898**);

Mary Ann Smith (**1898 – 1904**);

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1904 – 1907**);

Thomas George Cartwright (**1907 – 1910**);

Thomas Jones (**1910 – 1921**);

Albert Edward Cotterill (**1921 – 1924**);

Frank Onions (**1924 – 1925**);

William Vaughan (**1925 – 1927**);

Alexander James Davis (**1927 – 1929**);

Albert Edward Cotterill (**1929 – 1950**);

Thomas Edward Hutton (**1950 – 1953**);

Wilfrid **Boss/Bass** (**1953 – 1956**);

Horace William Powell (**1956 – 1957**);

Daniel Charles Boden (**1957 – 1960**);

George Stanley Rogers (**1960**);

Henry Cecil Hayes (**1960 – 1961**);

Henry Herbert Higgins (**1961** – [1962]

Geoffrey Onions (**1970** – [ ]

Roy Snape (**1984** – [1988]



Harry Gilmore [1989]  
Stephen Bruton [1993]  
Sandra Cooke [1996] – [1999]  
Paul Archer [2004] – [2014]

## NOTES

55, Hobicus Lane [1873]  
Five Ways [1911]  
1, Station Road [1912], [1916]

\*probably the same person

### Birmingham Journal 2/5/1857 - Advert

“Worcestershire. Whyley Street, Langley Green, near Oldbury. To Capitalists and Others. Valuable Freehold Property, for Sale by Auction, by Joseph S. Parkes, on Friday Next, the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, at the house of Mr. *Frederick Henching*, the CROSSWELL INN, Langley Green, at Seven o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions which will be then produced – all those Three new, well, and substantially built Butcher’s Shop and Dwelling Houses, with Gardens and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at Whyley Street, Langley Green, near Oldbury, in the occupation of William Hurlston and others. For further particulars, and to view the same, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Land Surveyor, and Appraiser, Oldbury.”

*Frederick Kinchin* married *Mary Ann Birch*, the daughter of *Thomas*.  
He later became a foreman at Albright and Wilson.

### 1861 Census

Hobicus Lane – CROSS WELLS INN

- [1] *Frederick Kinchin* (30), victualler, born Northfield, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Mary A. Kinchin* (28), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Alfred Kinchin* (7), son, scholar, born Langley;
- [4] *Thomas Kinchin* (5), son, scholar, born Langley;
- [5] *Richard Kinchin* (3), son, born Langley;
- [6] *Frederick Kinchin* (2), son, born Langley;
- [7] *Susan Cooper* (15), general servant, born Langley:

### Birmingham Journal 17/8/1867 - Advert

“CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, near Oldbury.  
To be Disposed Of, that noted Old-licensed Inn, commandingly situated, with Provision Trade attached. There are three Societies held at the house; and it is to be let in consequence of ill-health. In-coming £100. Apply to A. Atree, Church Square, Oldbury.”

### County Express 8/8/1868

“The following persons were fined for keeping open their houses for the sale of beer during prohibited hours.....  
*Francis Garbett*, CRESWELLS [sic] INN, Langley, 2s 6d and costs.”

### 1871 Census

Hobicus Lane

- [1] *William Wincott* (40), butcher and innkeeper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Mary A. Wincott* (44), wife, born Alcester, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Ann Hillman* (74), mother-in-law, widow, born Henley in Arden, Warwickshire;

[4] Stephen Duffield (22), cousin, brewer and waiter, born West Bromwich;

[5] Mary A. Wincott (3), daughter, born Langley:

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1871

“The Fatal Accident at the ‘Nine Apostles’ Colliery.

Yesterday afternoon an adjourned enquiry was held at the CROSS WELLS INN, Langley, before Mr. R. Docker, Coroner, into the circumstances attending the death of William Bird (17), Langley.

John Spires, a collier of twenty years’ experience, said the deceased was employed as a horse driver in a pit at Mr. Jos. Collins’s colliery at Titford, and he also worked there. On the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> April, whilst the deceased was driving an empty tub along the gateway, and when he (witness) was not many yards away, he heard a ‘bump’ followed by a heavy fall of slack and coal, and directly afterwards found the deceased was partially covered, and unable to move away. He rendered all the assistance he could, and with the aid of another workman, got the deceased out, but not before he was dead. He understood a ‘bump’ to be the result of a ‘moving of the earth,’ which no one could prevent or guard against.

The deceased’s mother said she did not think anyone was to blame, and her son often assured her that the workings in the pit were as ‘safe as our house.’

Mr. Davies, the ground bailiff, produced a plan of the workings, and the Jury were unanimous in the opinion that the occurrence was purely accidental, and returned a verdict accordingly.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/8/1877

“Oldbury Annual Licensing Session.....

The following new licenses were granted.....

*William Wincott*, foreign wines for consumption on the premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/9/1877 - Advert

“Youth Wanted, about 18, to Look After Horse and Gig, and make himself generally useful.

Apply, *Wm. Smith*, CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, near Oldbury, any morning before 9.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/1/1880 - Advert

“General Servant. Wanted, one who can undertake the domestic duties of a public house, and do the cooking; no ordinaries; no brewing; good wages. Also, a respectable Youth Wanted, every Saturday, to make himself generally useful.

Apply any evening between 6 and 8, to CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, near Oldbury.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 1/1/1881 - Advert

“*William Smith*, CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, Agent for Walter Showell’s Celebrated Crosswells Ales.

Special attention having been devoted to the Wine and Spirit branch of this business, has rendered it one of the Most Noted Houses in the Black Country, for the purchase of these goods, where the public may obtain an article of uniform strength, combined with purity and excellence of quality, at a Reasonable and Moderate Charge.

John Power & Sons’ Fine Old Irish Whisky, 18s per Gallon, and 4s 6d per Quart, is acknowledged to be perfection. All other Goods of equal value in proportion to prices charged.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 1/1/1881 - Advert

“Langley Permanent Money Society.

By joining the above, mutual benefits may be obtained alike to the investor and the borrower.

At the Annual Meeting, held at CROSSWELLS INN, March 1, 1880, the numerous members then present were unanimous in their approval of the accounts for the year.

For particulars and Copy of Rules apply to *Wm. Smith*, President; or *A. H. Smith*, Secretary.

Quarter Commences Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1880.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 1/1/1881

“Mr. J. Hartill applied on behalf of Mr. *William Smith*, of the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, for permission

to extend the premises by the addition of a bed and billiard room. He said the plans have been submitted to the Bench, and Mr. Kemp, superintendent of police, had inspected the premises and expressed his satisfaction with the alterations. Mr. Hartill subsequently explained that it was not necessary to make the application, and it was accordingly withdrawn by the consent of the Bench.”

#### 1881 Census

Hobicus Lane – CROSSWELLS INN

[1] *William Smith* (39), licensed victualler, born Shareshill, Staffordshire;

[2] *Jane Smith* (39), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Joseph Smith* (18), son, brewer’s clerk, born Smethwick;

[4] *George Harding* (18), barman, born Northamptonshire;

[5] *Amelia Jane Keene* (18), visitor, born Smethwick;

[6] *Hannah Thompson* (19), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[7] *John William Keene* (42), visitor, licensed victualler, born Smethwick:

#### Dudley and District News 19/11/1881

“It has been suggested by a number of Gentlemen in the Town and District, that as a mark of sympathy and respect for Mr. John Allsop, of the CASTLE HOTEL, that a Testimonial should be got up and presented to him. It is well known that the present painful position of Mr. Allsop has not been brought on by any act or negligence of his own, but is purely a misfortune, brought on by bad trade, and very heavy expenses. Mr. Allsop has tried for years to cover this, but the action taken a few days since by his landlord has completely ruined him. It is hoped that from the manner in which strong sympathy is expressed that a hearty response will be given, and a sufficient sum obtained to enable Mr. Allsop to make another start in life.

Subscriptions will be received by the following gentlemen, and duly acknowledged in this paper.

*William Smith*, Esq, SWAN HOTEL; *Thomas Llewelyn*, Esq, Old Hill; *Mr. B. Davies*, Oakeywell Street; *Mr. J. Turner*, Eve Hill House; *Mr. J. Sadler*, Salop Street; *Mr. G. Brown*, Bourne Street; *Mr. J. Naylor*, High Street; *Mr. Philip Oakden*, Cawney Hill; *Mr. Herbert Humphries*, Brierley Hill; *Mr. W. Smith*, CROSSWELLS INN, Langley Green, Oldbury; *Mr. W. H. Smith*, King Edmund Street.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 2/12/1882 - Advert

“Dog. For Sale, smooth-haired St. Bernard. First-class breed.

*William Smith*, CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 20/10/1883 - Advert

“Youth (strong, respectable) Wanted, to look after Horse and Gig, and make himself generally useful.

*William Smith*, CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/5/1884 - Advert

“Youth (16 or 17) Wanted, to Mark Billiards and make himself generally useful. Must produce first-class references.

*William Smith*, CROSSWELLS INN, Langley.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 21/6/1884 - Advert

“Barmaid Wanted; to assist in light household duties.

*Smith*, CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, Oldbury.”

#### The Sportsman 13/1/1885

“Billiards. Fixtures for January.....

15. *F. White v H. Coles*, CROSSWELLS INN, Langley.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/5/1886

“At the Oldbury Police Court yesterday – before Messrs. T. Avery, W. E. Chance, and B. T. Sadler– *John Hearne* (16), back of 128, Duddeston Mill Row, Birmingham, and *Edgar Whitehouse* (16), 142, Ashted Row,

Birmingham, respectably dressed youths, were brought up on a charge of having in their possession a number of skeleton keys with intent to commit a felony, on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant.

Mr. *Smith*, the landlord of the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, stated that Hearne had been employed by him as a stable boy. He had lived with him some weeks, and he never had to complain of his conduct. He had a friend named Whitehouse, whose mother came yesterday and brought a letter written by Hearne to him. From what was stated he thought it advisable to give information to the police, who arrested the prisoners. He considered the whole to be a 'boys' joke.' The Bench adjourned the case for a week, in order that the police might investigate the matter.

It appears that the lads were recently employed together at Mr. Altham's tea warehouse in Aston Street, Birmingham, but Hearne changed his situation for his present one at Oldbury. Whitehouse's mother had ground to believe that her son's association with Hearne was leading him into ways of dishonesty, and she thought that the latter going to Oldbury would break off the companionship. The lads, however, appear to have kept up a correspondence, and on Sunday last Mrs. Whitehouse intercepted a letter addressed by Hearne to her son, giving details as to a contemplated robbery at the establishment of Messrs. Altham, in Aston Street. The communication was written in the most approved 'cracksman' style, referred to skeleton keys which they intended to use to break into the place, and wound up by stating that although they might, as a consequence of their conduct, be landed at the finish in Winson Green goal, he (the writer) was 'determined to do it.' This communication Mrs. Whitehouse, in order to prevent anything occurring in the nature indicated, handed to Mr. *Smith*, of Langley, by whom Hearne was employed. The result was that information was given to the police, and both boys were arrested.

The juveniles, it is asserted, have for a long time past been preparing themselves for the committal of the robbery, and have been manufacturing the skeleton keys and arming themselves with pokers with the intention of resisting anyone who might interfere with them whilst engaged in their felonious work. One of the boys was found to be in possession of some glasswork and money of which he could not give a satisfactory account. This may or may not be the proceeds of a robbery which was perpetrated at the establishment of Mr. Altham on Saturday night, when entrance was obtained to the premises – upon which nobody resides at night – by the removal, in a very workmanlike manner, of a number of bricks at the back of the house. Some glass and about 4s in money were then taken away, but whether that found in the possession of the prisoners is the same the police are unable to state.”

[At the adjourned hearing John Hearn and Edgar Whitehouse, charged with being in possession of housebreaking tools, were found guilty and were each sentenced to two months' imprisonment.]

*William Smith* was the local agent for Walter Showell and Sons' brewery. [1887]

West Bromwich Weekly News 12/3/1887

“Oldbury Licensed Victuallers' Trade Protection Society. The quarterly meeting of the above society was held on Wednesday at the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley under the presidency of *William Smith*.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 13/8/1887

“The annual dinner in connection with Court Crosswells Pride, Ancient Order of Foresters, was held on Tuesday evening at the CROSSWELLS INN, when an excellent repast was served by the host, Mr. *William Smith*. After the removal of the cloth, Bro. James Beach, chief ranger, was voted to the chair.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/4/1890 - Advert

“General Wanted. CROSSWELLS INN, Langley Green.”

County Advertiser 19/7/1890 - Advert

“To Brewers, Spirit Merchants, Publicans, and Others.

Highly Important Sale of Valuable Freehold and Leasehold Public Houses and Land, situated at Langley and Oldbury, in the County of Worcester.

Bill and Son have been favoured with instructions from Mr. *William Smith* (the owner) to Sell by Auction, at the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1890, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale, incorporating the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.....

Lot 1. All that Valuable and Well-accustomed Leasehold and Fully-Licensed Public House, the CROSSWELLS INN, Five Ways, Langley, now and for many years past in the occupation of Mr. *William Smith*. The House is at present held on Lease, expiring Michaelmas, 1891, at a rental of £70, under which it is tied to Messrs. Walter Showell and Sons Limited, of Oldbury. From Michaelmas, 1891, there is a further lease for a term of seven years, at a rental of £70 per annum, free from any trading clause whatever.

The takings of this House average upwards of £40 weekly, and are steadily increasing. It is without doubt the best Inn in this rapidly improving neighbourhood.

The Premises consist of spacious Liquor Vaults, Smoke Room, Bar Parlour, Club Room, Billiard Room, Seven Bed Rooms, Yard, Stabling, and all the necessary Domestic Offices and Outbuildings.

Immediate possession can be had. Valuation will amount to about £300.....

A large portion of the Purchase Money of any of these Lots could remain on Mortgage.

As opportunities of purchasing Freehold Licensed Properties are daily becoming rarer, the Auctioneers beg to call special attention to this Sale.

For plans and further particulars, apply to William Shakespeare, Esq, Solicitor, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneers, Grenville Buildings, Cherry Street, Birmingham.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 17/1/1891

“Last night a billiard supper took place at the CROSSWELLS INN, in connection with the recent match. A full company sat down to an excellent spread provided by Mr. *W. Smith*, the host. After the removal of the cloth the evening was spent in recreation, several toasts being duly honoured.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 7/3/1891

“Last evening an inquest was held, before Mr. E. Docker (coroner), at the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, concerning the death of Elizabeth Lowe (50), widow, formerly residing in Arden Grove, Langley, who died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst.

The deceased left her son’s house, in Edward Street, Langley, on the day in question, to return to her home, being accompanied by a grandson, about five years of age. Shortly afterwards the boy ran into deceased’s house and told her daughter that the old woman had fallen down in Arden Grove.

Ellen Lowe, daughter of deceased, went to look for her mother, and found her lying in the road in a partially unconscious condition. Dr. Sharpe was called in, but deceased did not recover, and expired shortly afterwards.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, and requested the coroner to write to the Oldbury Local Board of Health concerning the dangerous state of the road at Arden Grove, where the deceased fell.”

#### 1891 Census

Hobicus Lane – CROSSWELLS INN

- [1] *William Smith* (49), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Mary A. Smith* (41), wife, born London;
- [3] Ernest Smith (6), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] Jessie Smith (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] John Grosvenor (81), step-father, widower, born Claverley, Shropshire;
- [6] Mary Windmill (31), barmaid, born Brierley Hill;
- [7] Eliza Clark (12), nurse, born Oldbury:

*William Smith* issued tokens from here.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/3/1892

“Last evening Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, respecting the death of George Collins (11), of Whyley Street, Langley, who met with his death under shocking circumstances on Friday last.

It appeared that deceased was spinning a top on the footpath near his home. A companion struck at him with a small whip, and deceased overbalanced himself and fell in front of a horse and cart belonging to Messrs. J. Bagnall and Sons, Langley Forge, which happened to be passing. The wheel passed over his head, causing

instant death.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and exonerated the driver from all blame.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/5/1893 - Advert

“Wanted, second-hand, light spring, covered Parcels Van.  
Give full particulars, where and when can be seen, price, &c.  
*William Smith*, CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/4/1894

“On Saturday night, a well-attended meeting of men in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company at Langley, Smethwick Junction, Rowley, and Oldbury was held at the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, when certificates were presented to the members of the local ambulance class. Mr. W. Smith presided, and there were also present Mr. E. Murphy, (superintendent of the Birmingham division), Captain Wayte (West Bromwich), Mr. W. Shoemack (secretary), &c.

Captain Wayte mentioned that out of twenty candidates presented for examination none failed. Mr. E. Murphy, in presenting the certificates, said he hoped every member of that class would become efficient to render first aid to the injured. It afforded him great pleasure to see the men with the ambulance badge, and he impressed upon them the necessity of displaying it on the right arm. (Applause.) He was pleased to see that the classes in that district were rapidly increasing. His own district was the first to make a move in ambulance work, and their example was followed by others, and at the present time it was well known that the Great Western Ambulance Society was both large and efficient. They were about to form two sections of the society, to be called brigades, one to have its headquarters at Snow Hill, whilst the other would be located at Stourbridge Junction. Mr. Mapperley (Birmingham) also addressed the meeting. Votes of thanks to the chairman, Mr. Murphy, and Captain Wayte brought the meeting to a close.”

Smethwick Telephone 15/9/1894

“On Wednesday, the annual meeting of the Oldbury Licensed Victuallers Association was held at the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley. Mr. *William Smith* occupied the chair. On the motion of Mr. W. Marigold, seconded by Mr. H. Whitehouse, Mr. *Smith* was re-elected president for the coming year.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/3/1895 - Advert

“Langley Green, near Oldbury. Attractive Sale of Freehold Property.  
Messrs. Bill & Son are instructed to Sell by Auction, at the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley Green, on Wednesday, April 3, 1895, at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read.....”

*William Smith* – see also ODDFELLOWS ARMS and WHITE LION.

1901 Census

15, Station Road, Five Ways

- [1] *Mary A. Smith* (51), widow, public house manageress, born London;
- [2] Ernest Smith (16), son, apprentice cabinet making, born Langley;
- [3] Jessie Smith (13), daughter, born Langley;
- [4] Norah Smith (7), daughter, born Langley;
- [5] Alfred Blackesley (33), brother, public house manager, born Langley;
- [6] Mary A. Allen (21), barmaid, born Langley;
- [7] Elizabeth Collins (20), domestic servant, born Langley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/9/1907

“An interesting presentation took place yesterday at the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, a wedding gift of a magnificent set of cutlery, every piece of which was suitably inscribed, being made to Miss Showell, only daughter of Mr. Walter Showell, managing director of Messrs. Showells Brewery, Ltd, Langley, and Mr. Claude Mitchell, son of Mr. Henry Mitchell, of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers Brewery, Ltd, Cape Hill, who are to be married tomorrow at Kinver.

Mr. W. T. Dawes presided, and the presentation was made by Mr. F. J. Zellar. They were supported by representatives of other parts of the Crosswells Brewery. Mr. Claude Mitchell and Mr. Walter Showell responded.”

A billiard room was opened in March 1909.

#### 1911 Census

Five Ways, Langley – CROSSWELLS INN

- [1] *Thomas Jones* (39), public house manager, born Wigan;
- [2] *Mary Ann Jones* (40), wife, born Smethwick;
- [3] *Robert William Jones* (7), son, schoolboy, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Reginald Thomas Jones* (5), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Philip Sydney Jones* (3) son, born Oldbury;
- [6] *John Stephens* (28), lodger, labourer, GWR goods station, born Wombourne;
- [7] *Elizabeth Hollings* (32), servant, bar assistant, born Langley;
- [8] *Ada Richards* (20), general servant, born Rood End;
- [9] *Christina Barber* (20), barmaid, born Aston:

*Thomas Jones* was born on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1872 in Aspull, near Wigan, Lancashire. He was the son of Robert Jones (brick setter / furnace builder) and Phoebe Charlton. He married Mary Ann Chambers on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1902 at Harborne Parish Church. See also ALBION, OLDE BULLS HEAD and WHITE SWAN. He died in 1925.

*Albert Edward Cotterill* was born in 1884 at Brasshouse Lane, Smethwick.

He was married to Mary.

He was originally a wheelwright at Crosswells Brewery.

He served in WW1 in the Royal Artillery from which he was given a medical discharge.

See also NAVIGATION.

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 1/3/1913

“Wanted, a strong Girl, 19 to 20.

Apply, CROSSWELLS INN, Langley.”

It was demolished in the 1920s.

Rebuilt

#### 1939 Register

Station Road – CROSSWELLS INN

- [1] *Albert E. Cotterill*, date of birth 20/10/1884, public house manager, married;
- [2] *Mary Cotterill*, dob 28/2/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Arthur J. Cotterill*, dob 19/11/1917, clerk, chemical works, single;
- [5] *Eva G. Bowen*, dob 10/2/1902, bar general, widowed:

*Albert E. Cotterill* – see also NAVIGATION.

#### Lichfield Mercury 4/12/1953

“At Lichfield City Magistrates’ Court yesterday (Thursday) the license of the Three Tuns, Lichfield, was transferred from Mr. Frederick Henry Shilcock to Mr. *Thomas Edward Hutton*, of the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley.”

Plans for alterations to the dining room were approved on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1956.

*Daniel Charles Boden* – see also GRANGE, Rowley Regis.

Warley News Telephone 10/12/1970

“Oldbury is not generally regarded as the music centre of the West Midlands, but the new licensee at the CROSSWELLS INN, Five Ways, Langley, has other plans.

For Mr. *Geoffrey Onions*, who was previously licensee of the PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley Regis, feels that if more entertainment were provided, more people would use the pub.

Mr. *Onions* says, ‘At the moment there are discotheques for our younger customers on Fridays, Sundays and Saturdays, but there is not much to attract the older people.’ He continued, ‘I am hoping to organise something for Sunday lunchtimes – perhaps a small band or something like that. At the moment, although trade is fairly hard work, we still depend largely upon our weekend trade and the only way to improve it is to offer customers something that they will not find in other pubs in the area.’

Promotion came quickly to Mr. *Onions*, who first entered the brewery industry 10 months ago, and both he and his wife, Christine, feel that the industry offers a good career.”

Closed

It reopened in 1984 as a Holt Plant and Deakin pub.

*Roy Snape* was married to Gail.

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/4/1986

“Regulars at a Langley public house ‘shared a jar’ and gave a children’s charity a £300 boost. The money was raised by drinking pals at the CROSSWELLS INN in High Street, Langley after just 12 months of putting their spare change in a huge glass jar on the counter. Sum total of the collection – to buy play equipment for handicapped children at Tipton – was £193.74 but a raffle and further donations brought the final amount to £300. No sooner had play scheme organisers from the Sandwell Adventure Playground Association received cheques for the amount, than licensee *Roy Snape* and his wife, Gail, started a further collection for the same project. ‘All our customers believe this to be a very worthwhile scheme, so we have put another jar on the counter to carry on collections. We hope to raise even more money next time,’ said Mrs. *Snape*, who is pictured with her husband giving a cheque for £300 to the association’s field officer Kathy Williams.”

*Harry Gilmore* = Harry Gilmour

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/2/1989

“More power to your elbow! Strongarm John Lowe holds aloft his trophy for winning three straight bouts in a sponsored arm-wrestling contest. Two Black Country pub teams got to grips to raise money for a hospital appeal. John, John Hipkiss and Dave Smith, representing the cream of the arm-wrestling contingent at the CROSSWELLS pub, Langley, beat a visiting trio from the MANCHESTER STORES in Oldbury 2-1 in the contest. CROSSWELLS pub landlord *Harry Gilmore* is pictured with John. It is hoped the event will raise about £400 for Birmingham Children’s Hospital. Mr. *Gilmour* said a darts challenge against a team of local workmen had also been arranged.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/7/1989

“The CROSSWELLS pub at High Street, Langley, is to get its own car park despite objections from nearby residents who are concerned at losing a grassed area between the pub and their homes.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 1/11/1991 - Advert

“Early Evening Pint Savers. Holts Bitter 99p per pint. Holts Entire 105p per pint.

Special offer prices for the month of November only.

Available Mon-Sat evenings 5.30-8pm.

Only from these Holts pubs ..... CROSSWELLS, Five Ways, Langley, Oldbury.”

Halesowen News 19/12/2011



“Sandwell publicans have been given a crash course in their new responsibilities by local police. The vexed issues of assault, noise nuisance, fire safety, underage selling and temporary event notices were discussed by the publicans, police, trading standards and council officers. Sandwell police constable Jim Potts said, ‘Licensees and bar staff are more likely to become victims of violent crime because of the environmental conditions of their workplace and the consumption of alcohol by their customers. We felt that by showing licensees what support is available to them and by working together we can contribute to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and help to make people feel safer.’

The event was the first of its kind in Sandwell and was attended by over 50 licensees and bar staff. Steph-  
anie Cox from the BELL AND BEAR in Rowley Regis said, ‘The day has been really informative. It was good to meet up with other licensees and partner agencies.’

*Paul Archer* from the CROSSWELLS in Oldbury added, ‘It was very useful to hear about the new legisla-  
tion on licensing regulations.’”

It was declared winner of the Enterprise Community Heroes award (£5,000) in 2014.

#### Halesowen News 23/3/2016

“An intrepid Rowley Regis woman is hoping to reach dizzy heights with a climb of Africa’s highest moun-  
tain, Kilimanjaro, to raise thousands of pounds for charity. Jade Wood is in training for the challenge which  
will take six days, trekking more than 90km, in August. The 25-year-old lab technician, of Summer Road,  
hopes to raise £3,000 for Dig Deep, a charity which provides basic necessities to Kenya’s poor. She has  
already organised a fundraising night at CROSSWELLS pub, Langley, which raised more than £800 for the  
charity. It featured Dave Scott-Morgan, of ELO fame, with his band Morganisation, dancing Stormtroop-  
ers, Penelope Pitstop and Deadpool lookalikes. Miss Wood is joining a team of students from Birmingham  
University, where she used to study, for the mountain climb.

She said, ‘Being able to combine my passion of outdoor adventure with a charity, which provides so much to  
these communities, is an amazing opportunity – and also a huge personal achievement.’

Halesowen company Less4Office Supplies has given £100 in sponsorship and Miss Wood hopes other firms  
will also support her.”

#### Halesowen News 12/5/2016

“A three-hour Zumbathon is being held in Oldbury on Sunday to raise funds for national cancer charity the  
Lymphoma Association. The event, organised by Melissa Bennett, will take place at the CROSSWELLS  
INN in Whyley Walk, from 2.30pm.....”

[2021]

### **CROWN AND ANCHOR**

33, (55), Birmingham Street, Oldbury Green, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

James Potter

Messrs. Cross and others, Smethwick

William Marigold

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1898]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1929]

#### LICENSEES

Collins [1827]  
James Potter [1829] – [1839]  
Edward Walker [1841] – [1843]  
David Taylor [1845]  
Matthew Moore [1847] – [1849]  
John Smith [1850] – **1858**;  
William Clift (**1858 – 1869**);  
Joseph Southwick (**1869 – [ ]**)  
Thomas Perry [ ]  
George Goode [1880] – [1881]  
William Marigold [1884] – [1890]  
Elisha Beddoe [1891] – **1893**;  
Thomas Wright (**1893**);  
William Harrison (**1893 – 1896**);  
Emma Harrison (**1896 – 1898**);  
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (**1898 – 1907**);  
William H Blackford [1901] manager  
James Healey (**1907 – 1911**);  
John Thomas Iddles (**1911 – 1912**);  
Oliver Mark Murcott (**1912 – 1915**);  
Frederick ‘Fred’ Skipp (**1915 – 1921**);  
John ‘Jack’ William Harris (**1921 – 1923**);  
Frank Stevens (**1923 – 1925**);  
William Heath (**1925 – 1926**);  
Charles Henry Bradley (**1926 – 1930**);

## NOTES

55, Birmingham Street [1884], [1888]  
33, Birmingham Street [1901], [1911], [1912]

It was also known as the BUSTLE HOUSE.

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 9/4/1827 - Advert

“Timber, Rood End, near Oldbury, Salop.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April instant, at four o’clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Collins*, the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Oldbury, subject to conditions to be produced – twenty-one capital Oak Timber Trees, growing on a Farm at Rood End, near Oldbury, in the occupation of Mrs. Thompson, either together or in the three following lots.

Lot I. Seven Trees, numbered from 1 to 7 inclusive, standing on the Barn Close and Horse Leasow.

Lot II. Seven trees, numbered from 8 to 11 and from 19 to 21, both inclusive, standing on the Pingle, Bissel’s Meadow, Calves Leasow, and Hilly Field.

Lot III. Seven Trees, numbered from 12 to 18 inclusive, standing on the Pit Meadow, the Meadow, and Highway Hilly Field.

Most of the above Timber is of large dimensions, is situate near good roads, the canal, and the works, and a short distance from Birmingham.

Mrs. Thompson will cause the same to be shewn; and for particulars enquire of the Auctioneers, New Street, Birmingham.”

### London Gazette 29/6/1827

“To be sold by auction, pursuant to an Order of his Honour the Vice-Chancellor, at the CROWN AND

ANCHOR Public House, in Oldbury, in the County of Salop, on Tuesday the 17th day of July next, between the hours of Four and Six o'Clock in the Afternoon (before Thomas Goode, of Dudley, in the County of Worcester, Gentleman, being a Solicitor appointed to attend the sale by the major part of the Commissioners named in a Commission of Bankrupt issued against John Levett, of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Farmer and Nail-Ironmonger).

All that freehold building lately used by the said Bankrupt as a nail-warehouse, situate in Oldbury aforesaid, adjoining the towing-path of the Birmingham Canal.

For further particulars apply to the said Thomas Goode.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/12/1829 - Advert

“Valuable Land and Mines, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. S. Walker, on Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> day of December inst, at the house of *James Potter*, the CROWN AND ANCHOR, in Oldbury aforesaid, at three o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions as shall then and there be produced.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/8/1831 - Advert

“Town of Oldbury. Freehold Building Land, with all Mines of Coal, &c.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Jeremiah Mathews, on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1831, at the house of *James Potter*, at the Sign of the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Oldbury, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be there and then produced – various lots of valuable sound Building Land, being the remainder of the Waste Land called Oldbury Green.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/9/1831 - Advert

“The Freeholders of the Manor of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, county of Salop, are requested to attend at the house of *James Potter*, CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Oldbury, on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of September inst, at four o'clock in the afternoon, to take into consideration a Proposition for expending a part of the monies arising from the sale of Waste Land.  
Joseph Collins. William Parkes.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/9/1839 - Advert

“Blue Gates, Smethwick.

To be Sold by private Contract, all those twelve newly erected Freehold Dwelling Houses, with the Shops, Outbuildings, Garden Land, and Pump of good water, next adjoining the BLUE GATES INN, and fronting and adjoining to the Turnpike Road from Birmingham to Dudley, in the occupations of Charles Parker, John Collins, and ten others, with the Mines and Minerals under the same.

The above will be found to be a desirable investment for Capitalists requiring ample interest for the outlay. For particulars apply to Mr. *James Potter*, CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Oldbury, if by letter, post paid.”

Birmingham Journal 6/3/1841 - Notice

“The following Insolvent Debtor will be heard, upon his petition, at the Court House, at Shrewsbury, in the county of Salop, on the twenty sixth day of March next, at the hour of ten in the morning precisely.

*James Potter*, late of Oldbury, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Salop, carpenter and joiner, and formerly of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury aforesaid, licensed victualler and carpenter and joiner.  
Henry Jones, Shrewsbury, Attorney for the said Insolvent.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/8/1841 - Advert

“*James Potter's* Insolvency.

The Creditors of *James Potter*, late of Oldbury, in the county of Salop, Licensed Victualler, Carpenter and Joiner, and who was lately a prisoner for debt confined in the goal of Shrewsbury, in the county of Salop, an Insolvent Debtor, are requested to meet the Assignees of the estate and effects of the said insolvent on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August inst at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. Parish, the TALBOT INN, in Oldbury aforesaid, in order to consult and determine when, at what place, and in what manner the reversionary estate and interest of the said insolvent of and in a certain messuage or public house, with

shops, stables, buildings, and premises thereto belonging, situate at Oldbury, and other the real estate (if any) of the said insolvent, shall be sold and disposed of pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided; and also to assent to or dissent from the said Assignees commencing and prosecuting any action or actions at law against any person or persons for the recovery of the insolvent's estate, moneys, and effects, and on other special affairs.

W. Fellowes, Jun, Dudley, Solicitor to the Assignees.”

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/9/1841 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Property, consisting of Public House and Premises at Oldbury. Free of Auction Duty. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Isaac Allen, at the CROWN AND ANCHOR Public House, at Oldbury, on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September inst, at five o'clock in the evening, by direction of the Assignees of *James Potter*, an insolvent debtor, under conditions to be then produced.

The Reversion in Fee (the tenant for life being about 66 years of age), of that old-established Public House, called the CROWN AND ANCHOR, at Oldbury, in the county of Salop, fronting the turnpike road leading from Birmingham to Dudley, contiguous to the Birmingham Canal, in the occupation of Mr. *Edward Walker*; and a Small Tenement adjoining, with Stable, Carpenters' Shop, Piggeries, Garden Land, and requisite out-buildings belonging thereto.

The Public House consists of six bed-rooms, lodge-room, extensive ball-room, parlour, tap-room, cooking kitchen, larder, bar, capital ale-vaults, bakehouse, brewhouse, Stabling, Yard, Piggeries, Kitchen Garden, and other out conveniences, adjoining the towing-path of the canal.

The above-named Tenement and Shop is let to a respectable tenant, forming an extensive Nail Warehouse. There is a carriage-drive to the premises.

The situation of the Premises in the midst of a very populous district, and the house having been well-accustomed for a long series of years, renders the property a desirable investment.

Further particulars may be obtained of I. Allen, Auctioneer, or Messrs. Arnold and Haines, Solicitors, both of Birmingham; of Mr. Wm. Fellowes, jun, Solicitor, Dudley; of Mr. T. N. Fuller, Distiller, Birmingham, or of Mr. Round, Timber Merchant, Tipton, the Assignee.”

#### 1841 Census

Birmingham Street

[1] *Edward Walker* (35), horse dealer;

[2] Rebecca Walker (35);

[3] Harriett Walker (1);

[4] Elizabeth Milward (15) fs;

[5] John M'Keough (25), carpenter;

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/4/1842 - Advert

“The CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury.

To be Let, by Mr. Newbold, the above well-frequented and old-established Public House, now in full business, and in one of the best situations in the rapidly improving town of Oldbury.

There are two excellent Societies attached, which is a valuable acquisition.

Mr. *Walker*, the present proprietor, is leaving solely in consequence of his attention being required in his other business (as Horse-dealer).

The Premises are exceedingly convenient and well arranged for business, and any person qualified to take a house of this description would find this a most desirable opportunity.

The Stock of Ale and Spirits, Casks, Brewing Vessels, and Effects, to be taken by valuation.

For further particulars and to treat, reference to be made to Mr. Newbold, Auctioneer, Appraiser and Commission Agent, Dudley or Stourbridge.

Auction Offices, April 15, 1842.”

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/4/1843

“Samuel Smith, of Oldbury, will run Webb, of Gornal, one mile, for from £5 to £10 a side. His money is ready at Mr. *Walker*'s, the ANCHOR, Oldbury.”

*David Taylor* was also a steel refiner. [1845]

Birmingham Journal 27/9/1845

“On Friday week an inquest was held at the NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath Gate, in the parish of Hales Owen, on the body of William Jones, aged twenty-two years, who was injured on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July last, in Messrs. Houghton’s pit, by the fall of a quantity of coal. The deceased lingered till the 18<sup>th</sup> inst, when death put an end to his sufferings. The unfortunate man had his thigh broken, and three of his ribs were forced in. No blame could be traced to any party, the mine being properly and carefully worked.

On the following day another inquest was held at the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury, on the body of William Madeley, aged twenty-two, who was also injured a few days before by a fall of coal in Mr. Horton’s pit, in the parish of West Bromwich.

In both cases verdicts of Accidental Death was recorded.”

Birmingham Journal 25/12/1847 - Advert

“Notice.

The General Quarterly Meeting of the Filesmiths of Birmingham, and the Oak Farm Works, will take place on Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1847, at the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury. Chair to be taken at half-past Ten in the morning.

By the order of the Committee. F. Jackson, Secretary.

Committee Rooms, Turks Head Inn, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/8/1848 - Advert

“The First and Only Excursion Train to Liverpool, will start from Birmingham, on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 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. *Moore*, CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury.....

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.”

London Gazette 4/12/1849

“Whereas a Petition of *Matthew Moore*, now and for nine months last past residing at Blacklake, West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, carrying on business there as a Retail Brewer and Blacksmith, and for three weeks immediately preceding thereto residing at Lambeth’s-end, in West Bromwich aforesaid, out of business, one year and seven months immediately preceding thereto residing at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham-street, Oldbury, and carrying on the business of a Licensed Victualler and Blacksmith, an insolvent debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, at the Court-house, at Oldbury, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *Matthew Moore*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Matthew Moore* is required to appear before Nathaniel Richard Clarke, Esq, Judge of the said Court, on the 15th day of December instant, at one of the 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 *Matthew Moore*, 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.”

Birmingham Journal 22/12/1849 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire at Oldbury. The 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1849.

In the Matter of the Petition of *Matthew Moore*, now and for nine months last past residing at Black Lake, West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, carrying on business there as a Retail Brewer and Blacksmith, and for three weeks immediately preceding thereto residing at Lambeth’s End, in West Bromwich aforesaid, out of business, one year and seven months immediately preceding thereto residing at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, and carrying on the business of a Licensed Victualler and Blacksmith.

Notice is hereby given, that Nathaniel Richard Clarke, Esquire, the Judge acting in the matter of the said Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January next, at One o’clock in the afternoon precisely, at the Court House at Oldbury aforesaid, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

Thomas Harding, Moor Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Journal 11/1/1851

“CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Oldbury.

The ball at this house, which took place on Wednesday last, was, we are happy to say, well attended, and an excellent spread was provided, which did great credit to Mr. and Mrs. *Smith*. We understand it is their intention to have this festivity annually; and from the general satisfaction manifested, together with the convenience of a splendid and spacious ball room, we have no doubt as to the success of such a seasonable entertainment.”

1851 Census

Birmingham Street on Oldbury Green

- [1] *John Smith* (49), victualler, born Handsworth;
- [2] *Mary Smith* (33), wife, born Linbury, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Mary King* (16), general servant, born Wolverhampton:

*John Smith* issued tokens from here.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/6/1853

“Bailey and Meers. The whole of the money, £20 a side, for this race of 120 yards had been deposited with Mr. *John Smith*, of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury, and the match is to come off tomorrow (Monday), between twelve and two o’clock, at Aston Cross. Both men, it is said, are in first-rate condition, but Bailey is the favourite at 5 and 6 to 4.”

Worcester Journal 5/7/1856

“Worcestershire Midsummer Sessions. ....

Jane Parkes, 38, tailoress, Sarah Jane Parkes, 13, tailoress, Mary Ann Hodgetts, 39, dressmaker, and Eliza Hunt, 39, brickmaker, were indicted for uttering counterfeit coin at Oldbury on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Streeten prosecuted, and Mr. Richards defended the prisoner Hodgetts.

Mary Ann Basford, wife of the keeper of the BLACK BOY beershop, Oldbury, stated that on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult, about eight o’clock in the evening, the four prisoners came to her house; Jane Parkes had a pint of ale; Hodgetts and Hunt left about ten minutes afterwards; one of them said they should not be long before they came back. Jane Parkes stayed till after eleven o’clock. Sarah Jane Parkes left the house several times during the evening; on two occasions of her return bringing with her some cakes and flowers; she gave some coppers to Jane Parkes, who put them into her basket. During the evening the latter asked witness to give her three half-crowns for some small change, which she did. Hodgetts and Hunt were strangers, but the Parkeses were known to witness. Hodgetts and Hunt were not in the house during any of the transactions stated.

Mary Deakin was at her daughter’s shop at Oldbury, on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult, when Sarah Jane Parkes came in and asked for a pennyworth of cakes, tendering a shilling in payment. Witness gave her the change, but before

witness could pick up the shilling Parkes decamped, and the shilling was given to PC Simmonds on the following morning, as counterfeit.

On the evening in question the prisoners Hodgetts and Hunt went to another house, the BROWN LION, Oldbury; there was a third person with them, whom the landlady, Sophia Portman, could not identify. In payment for some port and sherry a shilling was tendered, change being given in coppers. The shilling was on the following morning found to be counterfeit, and given to PC Simmonds.

*John Smith*, landlord of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury, stated that on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>, the prisoners Hodgetts and Hunt went to his house, and in payment for some sherry, Hunt tendered a shilling, which witness returned to her as bad. She then went to Hodgetts, returned, and gave witness half-a-crown. Witness afterwards went to the PARROT ARMS, and there saw Hodgetts and Hunt, whom he asked if they knew him. They replied 'Yes.' On asking them if they recollected trying to pass a bad shilling at his house, Hunt said she did not know it was bad. Witness gave the change for the half-a-crown to Hunt, who he believed passed it to Hodgetts.

At the PARROT ARMS the prisoners had two glasses of sherry, a shilling being tendered in payment by Hunt. Fanny Proctor, waitress, gave the shilling to the landlord.

Sarah Jane Parkes went to the shop of Reuben Green, and in payment for some cakes produced a shilling. Green told her it was bad, when she said she had it from her mother's. It was returned to her. In consequence of what he had heard, Green went to the BLACK BOY, where he saw the prisoner Parkes.

Daniel Darby, a constable, was at the PARROT ARMS, about half-past ten at night, when the prisoners came in. A person also came in and said the prisoners had been passing a bad shilling at *John Smith's*. The landlord then produced the shilling he had taken from them, and it was found to be counterfeit. Witness then asked them how many more they had like that; they said none – they did not know it was bad. On asking them if they had been at *Smith's*, they said they had not, but on *Smith* being sent for they admitted being at his house. Darby received the shilling, and thereupon took the prisoners into custody.

PC Simmonds went to the BLACK BOY and found the prisoners Parkes there. He charged them with passing counterfeit coin. He said he should search them and told them to get up. When Sarah Jane Parkes got up and walked across the kitchen a handkerchief was dropped, which on being picked up was found to contain nine bad shillings and a crown-piece. Jane Parkes gave Tilsley a small bag containing 11d. Moved her on one side and found in her hand a purse, containing three bad shillings and five good sixpences. There was a basket on the screen, which prisoner said at first was not hers, but subsequently said it was her daughter's (Sarah Jane Parkes). Took them to the station house and there Sarah Jane Parkes said she picked the handkerchief up in a field at Rowley. Hodgetts said that Parkes lodged with her. While in the station Jane Parkes said she came from Dudley, and that Hodgetts gave her the purse to hold for a little while.

Mr. J. M. Skarratt proved the money passed and found in the possession of the prisoners to be counterfeit. Jane Parkes's statement taken before the Magistrates was read, which was to the effect that she received the purse and its contents from her daughter. The statement of the latter was that she picked the handkerchief up in a field, but did not let her mother know anything about it.

A victualler, named Harper, of Dudley, spoke to the excellent character of Hodgetts, whom he had known for 20 years, and she had worked for his family ten years. Hunt also produced two letters as to her character. The chairman minutely summed up the evidence, and the jury found all the prisoners guilty, but recommended Hodgetts and Hunt to mercy on account of their previous good character.

Hodgetts was sentenced to nine calendar months, Jane Parkes to twelve months, Sarah Jane Parkes to twelve months, and Hunt twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour, each."

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/12/1856

"John Burton and Rd. Tonks (both of Oldbury) are matched to run 120 yards, for £10 a side, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, at Aston Cross, Birmingham. The final deposit is to be made at *John Smith's*, CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury, Jan 10."

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/8/1857

"Pigeon Flying.....

Smith's blue hen of Oldbury and Milward's blue cock are matched to fly from Brandon station, on Monday, the 24<sup>th</sup> inst, for £5 a side. £1 a side is down in the hands of *John Smith*, CROWN AND ANCHOR, and the

final deposit of £5 a side is to be made good on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/4/1858

“Worcestershire Easter Sessions.....

Stephen Joyce, a miner, of sinister look, was charged with having on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, assaulted a married woman named Maria Bates, and robbed her of six half-crowns. A second count charged the prisoner with intent, &c. Mr. Chance prosecuted; Mr. Streeten defended the prisoner.

Mrs. Bates, a respectable-looking woman, the wife of James Bates, deposed that she and her husband on Saturday evening, the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, left their home at West Bromwich, and proceeded as far as the BUSTLE public house, Oldbury, where her husband, after giving her some market money, left her. Prisoner was there, and after purchasing what eatables she required in the town, she returned to the public house, but as her husband had not returned, prisoner offered to escort her home. They left shortly before twelve o'clock, and on the way prisoner, as she declared, took improper liberties with her, threatened to throw her over a bridge if she resisted, or called out, and then took from her the money she had in her possession. While this was going on, the noise of people approaching alarmed the prisoner, who made off, and she, with her hair and dress dishevelled, returned to her home, and at once communicated the man's proceedings to her friends, and to her husband when he returned home.

Joyce was consequently apprehended, but emphatically denied the statements of the woman, which he said were perfectly untrue.

The jury, after a lengthened consultation, and being locked up, returned a verdict of not guilty on the first count. Prisoner was then arraigned on the second count, with intent, and the trial was proceeding when our parcel was despatched.”

AND

Worcester Journal 10/4/1858

“Worcestershire Easter Sessions.....

Stephen Joyn, 26, miner, was indicted for having, on the 6<sup>th</sup> March, at West Bromwich, stolen from the person of Maria Bates, six half-crowns, the property of her husband. Mr. Chance prosecuted, and Mr. Streeten defended the prisoner.

Mrs. Bates stated that on Saturday night, March 6<sup>th</sup>, she and her husband left home shortly after eleven o'clock, for the purpose of purchasing some necessaries at Oldbury. They visited the BUSTLE INN, where they had some refreshment. Prisoner was there drinking at the time, and her husband, giving her some money for marketing, she left, and returned in about an hour, but her husband had gone. As she wished to reach home, the prisoner offered to accompany her, and they proceeded as far as Burnford Bridge, when he seized her, took improper liberties, and robbed her of six half-crowns, threatening to throw her over the bridge if she resisted his importunities. The noise of people approaching scared the prisoner away; but when apprehended some little time afterwards, he declared his innocence, and said that the statement made by the woman was in fact a fabrication.

The jury, after hearing the evidence, were unable to agree, and were locked up. Eventually a verdict of not guilty was returned; and prisoner was then indicted for having committed an assault, with intent. He was found guilty, and sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/6/1858

“At the Petty sessions, yesterday, before Edward Chance, Esq, Mrs. Mary Ann *Smith*, wife of Mr. *John Smith*, the landlord of the CROWN AND ANCHOR public house, Oldbury, preferred a charge of being drunk and disorderly against Alfred Hawkins, an officer of the County Constabulary stationed at Oldbury. Mr. Plunkett, who appeared in support of the complainant, detailed the circumstances under which the charge was brought. He said that between three and four o'clock on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> of May Mrs. *Smith* was going to bed, when, hearing a noise in the street, she looked out of her room window, and saw the defendant Hawkins rolling about the street quite drunk. She then went down stairs and out of doors, when the defendant came up to her, raised his arms in a threatening attitude, and sparred at her. She being alarmed, ran into the house and shut the door, and then returned to her station at the room window, when the defendant assailed her with abusive language, and said he would 'pay her off' if she would come down. Mr. Plunkett stated that about six weeks ago Mrs. *Smith* was summoned for keeping a disorderly house, and



the fact of the defendant being upon that occasion subjected to a rather sharp cross-examination might afford an explanation of his abusive conduct towards Mrs. *Smith*.

The witnesses called in support of the case were Mrs. *Smith*, a very smartly attired lady, of blasé aspect, and Charles Davies, a hair dresser, both of whom swore positively that the defendant was drunk, and used abusive language.

The defendant denied being drunk, and alleged that the only abusive language was used by Mrs. *Smith*. He also called Sergeant Simmons, who stated that between two and three o'clock on the morning in question he, Hawkins, was sober. The public houses were then closed.

Police-constable Thomas Bradshaw deposed that he also saw the defendant at two o'clock on that morning, and that he then appeared sober. At four o'clock the same morning he again saw him in the police station, and he was then perfectly sober.

Before deciding on the case, Mr. Chance determined to hear a charge of a similar character, and also a charge of wilful damage, preferred by Mrs. *Smith* against Police-constable Charles Barnfield. The offences charged in this case were alleged to have been committed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, when Barnfield and Bradshaw, the witness in the last case, came into the CROWN AND ANCHOR. The defendant, according to Mrs. *Smith*, was drunk, and she ordered him out. He refused to go, upon which Bradshaw endeavoured to induce him to leave the house, but did not succeed. Bradshaw then left him, and angry words ensued between him and Mrs. *Smith*. In the course of the dispute the defendant struck with his stick a mahogany table, and damaged it to the extent of sixpence. Ultimately Sergeant Simmonds came and took him away.

Mrs. *Smith* gave very positive testimony; and to corroborate her a man named Henry Lawton was called. In reply to questions from the defendant, Lawton said he did not perceive that Mrs. *Smith* was intoxicated on the occasion.

Defendant denied the accusations, and called Sergeant Simmonds, who stated that about eleven o'clock on the night in question he saw Barnfield talking to Mrs. *Smith*, opposite her house. He was not drunk, but appeared very 'irritable.' Mrs. *Smith* was not sober. He saw the defendant several times in the course of the night, and was satisfied he was sober. Mrs. *Smith*'s husband told him she was drunk, and her conduct demonstrated it.

Mr. George Elwell, butcher, deposed that he saw Barnfield between twelve and one o'clock on the night in question, and he was then perfectly sober.

Mr. John Miller, innkeeper, stated that Barnfield called him up at twenty minutes past twelve o'clock on the night in question, in consequence of his having gone to bed, and left the house door open. Barnfield was then sober.

Mrs. Simmonds stated that at a few minutes past ten o'clock on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May the defendant was at the police station, and was perfectly sober; he could both talk and walk.

Bradshaw, the officer who entered Mrs. *Smith*'s house with Barnfield on the 11<sup>th</sup>, deposed that he did not perceive that the defendant was intoxicated on that occasion.

In the case of Hawkins, Mr. Chance said he was satisfied that Mrs. *Smith* was actuated by the most malicious motives; but he had no doubt that the defendant was affected by drink to such an extent that he misbehaved himself. So also in the case of Barnfield, he was evidently excited by drink, and must to pay 5s, and the amount of damage done to the table."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1859 - Advert

"To be Sold, a handsome Phaeton, with moveable Rumble. Price £15.

Apply, Mr. *William Clift*, CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury."

#### Worcester Journal 20/8/1859

"At Oldbury petty sessions, on Tuesday, Sarah Brewin, from West Bromwich, was charged with picking the pocket of Mary Jones, on Monday night last, in the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Oldbury, and stealing therefrom £2 1s. The prisoner was remanded till Tuesday next, at Halesowen."

[At Worcester Michaelmas Quarter Sessions on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1859, Sarah Brewin was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment]

#### 1861 Census

Birmingham Street on Oldbury Green – ANCHOR INN

[1] *William Clift* (34), widower, victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Sarah Jane Clift (7), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[3] William James Clift (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] Jessie Clacherty (25), barmaid, born Ayrshire;

[5] Matilda Taylor (23), servant, born Darlaston;

[6] Benjamin Ingram (50), widower, servant, born Shifnal, Shropshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/3/1864 - Advert

“Oldbury. To Carriers and Others.

Sale of two capital half-bred Horses, excellent covered Carrier's Van, with double Shafts, upon Springs, with Patent Axles, nearly new built, by Hopkins; a well-built covered Cart, with Patent Axles, upon Springs, nearly new; Dog Cart, 4-wheel Phaeton, with turn-down Seat, Spring Trap, set of Gig Harness, two sets of Thiller Harness complete, two pairs of double and one pair of single Reins, Nose Bags, Horse Clothing, together with the goodwill of the Business and other Effects, in the Yard of Mr. *William Clift*, the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Oldbury.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, to be Sold by Auction, by the direction of Mr. Charles Gibbs, Oldbury and Birmingham, Carrier, who is declining the Carrying Business, on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1864, at Eleven o'clock in the morning, unless previously disposed of by private treaty.....”

Birmingham Journal 13/4/1867 - Advert

“The OLD CROWN AND ANCHOR, in the centre of the town of Oldbury.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the OLD CROWN AND ANCHOR, very old-established Inn and Liquor Vaults, fronting and in the centre of the town of Oldbury, now doing an excellent in and out-door Trade.

The House consists of a Front Liquor Vaults, Tap Room, Bar Parlour, six Bed Rooms, Sitting Room, Club Room (to seat 200 persons), Cooking Kitchen, Larder, excellent Cellaring, and Brewery, Stabling, Piggery, Garden, and Yard, with a never-failing supply of excellent Water.

The House has changed hands but once for the last twenty years. Rent and in-coming low. Satisfactory reasons can be given for giving up the Business. Immediate possession may be had.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Hotel Valuer, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 19/9/1868 - Advert

“CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

On Wednesday Next, September 23, commencing at Eleven – Household Furniture, capital Ale Barrels, Store Casks, Brewing Vessels, Malt Crusher, Bagatelle Board, mahogany Office Table, M.U. Lodge Regalia, &c.

A. Atree, Auctioneer and Valuer, Oldbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/2/1869 - Advert

“Oldbury. To be Let, with immediate possession, the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, situated in the centre of the Town. Rent and In-coming low.

Apply on the Premises.”

County Express 4/9/1869

“Job Dudley, a boy of thirteen, was charged with stealing a sheet, the property of *Joseph Southwick*, on the 24<sup>th</sup> August.

Elizabeth *Southwick*, wife of plaintiff, said her husband kept the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. On the 24<sup>th</sup> ult she hung a sheet on a line in the garden, and missed it in the afternoon. It was worth four shillings. That produced was the same.

Thomas Sanders, pawnbroker, said between three and four in the afternoon of Tuesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> ult, prisoner brought the sheet produced to his shop. Lent him 1s 6d on it.

Police-constable Cartwright proved bringing the sheet from Mr. Sanders's shop, and apprehended the prisoner the same day, when he said he had lost the ticket.

He was ordered to be locked up twenty-four hours, and to receive twelve strokes with a birch rod."

*Thomas Perry* issued tokens from here.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1878 - Advert

"Oldbury. Wanted, a good General Servant, age about 18.

Apply, CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury."

#### Dudley Herald 8/11/1879

"On Wednesday, the annual meeting and dinner in connection with the Oldbury Licensed Victuallers' Association was held at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Oldbury. Captain S. N. Thompson presided, and Mr. A. Thompson occupied the vice-chair . . . . The Chairman said the society was in a very flourishing condition. During the past year the names of about half a dozen honorary members had been added to the roll of the society, and the same number of ordinary members had been added. The funds were in a very prosperous condition, a circumstance for congratulation, he thought, when they considered the depressed state of trade in the district. . . ."

#### 1881 Census

Birmingham Street

- [1] *George Goode* (30), victualler, born Langley;
- [2] *Harriett Goode* (28), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Nellie L. Goode* (6), daughter, born Langley;
- [4] *Sarah S. Goode* (4), daughter, born Langley;
- [5] *George P. Goode* (8 months), son, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Harriett Wardle* (20), servant, born West Bromwich:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 13/8/1881

"Mr. R. Docker held an inquest on Tuesday, at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, touching the death of Sarah Gibbs, whose body was found in the canal on Thursday.

Esther Gibbs said she was a daughter of the deceased.

About half past ten o'clock on Thursday night she sat in the house when she heard her mother come into the kitchen. Her mother always came in the back way. She was in the habit of staying out late nights and very often got drunk. Her brother came in about eleven o'clock, and she asked him if he had seen his mother, and he said he had not. She then went down into the kitchen and found her clothes lying all about the room. She called her brother up and searched for her.

PC Williams was fetched, who found the body in the canal, about half past eleven o'clock the same night.

Dr. Cunningham was called and said he found no marks of violence on the body, and the appearance of the body was consistent with death by drowning.

Clara Hackett, domestic, at the CROWN AND ANCHOR, said she saw deceased at half past ten o'clock on Thursday night, when she was standing near the yard gate. She was then under the influence of drink.

The Jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned."

#### London Gazette 17/2/1882

"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 *George Goode*, of the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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. Wright and Company, in Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 2nd day of March, 1882, at two o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 15th day of February, 1882.

Wright and Co., Solicitors for the said Debtor.”

Evening Star 3/3/1882

“On Thursday a meeting of the creditors of *George Goode*, of the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, was held at the offices of Messrs. Wright and Co, solicitors, Oldbury; Mr. J. Jordan, brewer, presiding. The statement of accounts showed liabilities of £848 7s 9d, and assets £100. It was resolved to liquidate the estate.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/3/1882 - Advert

“CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, just rebuilt and fitted regardless of cost; splendid roomy premises; main street. Rent £65. In-coming low. Apply to W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Public-house Valuer, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/5/1882 - Advert

“CROWN AND ANCHOR, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, to be Let; just rebuilt and refitted regardless of cost. Easy terms may be had.

Apply to W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Public-house Valuer, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/9/1882 - Advert

“Brewing Plant. For Sale, Malt-crusher, Boiler, and quantity of Barrels. CROWN AND ANCHOR, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

It was put up for sale (freehold) in March 1883.

Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1886

“Last night a meeting of representatives from the various friendly societies in the Oldbury district was held at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham Street, for the purpose of considering a proposal which had been made for raising funds for the relief of the poor in the district. Mr. T. Blount presided.

It was explained that a committee had been appointed to collect subscriptions from the manufacturers and tradesmen in the town, and also to enquire into extreme cases of poverty and distress, and distribute relief to them from the fund. Before the committee commenced their work the scheme for providing halfpenny dinners for children was inaugurated. It was further pointed out that some of the leading manufacturers had stated publicly that they preferred to support one comprehensive scheme rather than a number of movements. Several delegates complained that the matter had been delayed unnecessarily, and it was contended that the scheme suggested by the friendly societies should have been carried out before the cheap dinner movement was set on foot. Other delegates argued that the cheap dinners for children would not provide for the distress which the friendly society fund was intended to relieve, and that efforts should be made to collect funds to assist the widows, orphans, and poor people of Oldbury. Ultimately a committee was appointed to collect subscriptions.”

Smethwick Telephone 1/1/1887

“Last night a meeting of representatives from the various friendly societies in Oldbury and district was held at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham Street, to receive a report from the deputation appointed at a meeting held a fortnight ago to wait upon the manufacturers and tradesmen of the town to solicit subscriptions for the relief of the distress prevailing amongst the poor. Mr. T. Frost presided.

The deputation reported that they had waited upon Mr. A. M. Chance, who decided not to assist them, and also informed them that the other large firms had decided to subscribe to one comprehensive scheme, such as the cheap dinner movement, rather than support a number of smaller funds. Under those circumstances, it was deemed useless to proceed with the canvas.

After considerable discussion it was decided to distribute the sum of £7 2s 1d, already collected, amongst the poor members, widows, and orphans connected with the nine lodges that had taken part in the movement.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/1/1887

“Last night a meeting of miners was held in the Assembly Room at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Mr. T. Owen presided.

Mr. E. Edwards (president of the Midland Counties Miners’ Federation) delivered a long address, in the course of which he urged the importance of combination, and pointed out that, if it was necessary for miners to be united in time of good trade, it was much more important that they should seek to strengthen their union now that trade was depressed and employment scarce. He also dwelt upon the necessity of organizing a powerful federation of miners throughout the country, and contended that the local branches should be made as strong as possible in order to avoid reductions in wages, curtailment of privileges, and strikes. Referring to the conference in Birmingham, he remarked that they had been discussing the question of restricting the output of coal. That was a huge subject, and one that was considerably misunderstood by many miners, and the whole of the mining community did not yet see their way clear to act upon any given line. Alluding to the short hours question, he said he believed seven hours per day was long enough for men to work in the pit, but owing to the weakness of their organization, they were unable to commit themselves to the scheme for seven hours. It was the indifference of men in the past that had caused their wages to fall, and the federation was started for the purpose of assisting the various districts and lodges in increasing the power and influence of the union.

Mr. H. Barnes (miners’ agent) also addressed the meeting, after which a resolution was passed in favour of the objects of the conference and the meeting.

Mr. Hughes announced that during the past quarter there had been an increase of 708 members in the district, and £60 in the income.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 12/11/1887

“On Thursday a large and representative meeting of miners was held at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, for the purpose of considering the wages question.

Mr. J. Hollyhead, who presided, urged the miners to unite and contended that combination would be advantageous to both employers and employed.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/12/1888 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted, for public house. Good character. Apply, Mrs. *Marigold*, CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury.”

#### 1901 Census

33, Birmingham Street

[1] *William H. Blackford* (50), publican, manager, born Bewdley;

[2] *Mary H. Blackford* (50), wife, born Wormsley, Herefordshire;

[3] *Rose H. Blackford* (23), daughter, pawnbroker’s assistant, born Eaton Bishop, Herefordshire;

[4] *Alice E. Blackford* (21), daughter, born Madley, Herefordshire;

[5] *Miriam F. Blackford* (18), daughter, born Bewdley;

[6] *Albert E. Blackford* (16), son, grocer’s apprentice, born Smethwick:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 20/4/1901 - Advert

“Sergeant *Blackford* has been waiting for someone to make a start to get something ready so that we can give the boys at the Front a Grand Reception when Sergeant Darby, and his noble and gallant comrades, return safe from South Africa. I hope to see all of them before the end of May, so look out for the Grand Concert, on the 27<sup>th</sup>, in the Long Room, at the CROWN AND ANCHOR VAULTS, where some of the finest Talent of the Day will appear. I thank the numerous friends I have had in Oldbury, and hope they will still increase, and rally round and give them a bumper. You will see the names of the talent on the bills later on. Thanking old and new friends for their past patronage. Allow me to remain your old friend, *Blackford*.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/9/1933

“The Funeral took place at Oldbury Cemetery yesterday of Sergeant *W. H. Blackford*, of 3, North Street, Smethwick, who for well over 50 years was a member of the Worcestershire Volunteer Regiment and various Midland rifle clubs, the principal mourners being his five daughters and son.....

Sergeant *Blackford* was the son of a mill-owner at Wribbenhall, near Bewdley, and at a very early age became a member of the local Volunteer Band. He was a well-known builder later, and carried out important undertakings when he removed to Smethwick, including the re-conditioning of Smethwick Hall. Although in the licensed trade, in what was then the village of Smethwick, he was also superintendent of a church Sunday school, and was a very prominent member of a skittle alley club at Hill Street Mission, where he won the cup twice.

Sergeant *Blackford* made the first fish-tail coffin that was borne into Holy Trinity Church, Smethwick, and by his own wish, his body was placed in a coffin of similar design. Leaving Smethwick, he was connected with various hostelrys at Oldbury, while for the past 20 years he had been at Stourport, until his retirement from the trade in March last, at the age of 82.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/6/1905

“Freddy Lawrence opened his billiard campaign on behalf of our Albion Shilling Fund on Monday night at the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury, meeting Mr. J. T. Judge, whom he conceded 250 points in a match of 700 up. The boy champion won by 262, his best breaks being 65, 51, 43, 42, and 41, while his opponent made a number of 20 breaks. There was a very large company present, and the young cueist had a hearty reception.”

#### 1911 Census

33, Birmingham Street – CROWN AND ANCHOR

- [1] *James Healey* (53), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Charlott Healey* (53), wife, married 8 years, assisting in the business, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Charlotte James* (50), cook, born Oldham, Lancashire;
- [4] *Florence Williams* (32), servant, born Cookley, Worcestershire;
- [5] *Arthur Walker* (22), barman, born Sheffield:

*John Thomas Iddles* – see also OLDE BULLS HEAD.

*Oliver Murcott* was married to Annie.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/1/1916

“There are over a million and a quarter Soldiers in the fighting line. What are you doing for them?..... We have pleasure in making the following acknowledgments..... Mr. *Skipp*, CROWN AND ANCHOR (the BUSTLE HOUSE), Oldbury, 8s 5½d. ....to pay for Cigarettes and other Comforts for Midland Soldiers and Sailors.”

#### Birmingham Mail 24/7/1918 - Advert

“General (good, strong) Wanted, good wages.  
CROWN AND ANCHOR, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 16/10/1920

“At the Oldbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Cyril Harold *Skipp* (23), clerk, whose address was given as the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Oldbury, was charged with obtaining by false pretences a motor-cycle combination, valued at £126 5s 3d, from Watson and Sons, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. There were several previous convictions against prisoner, who was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/8/1921

“William Willetts, living at a lodging house in Birmingham Street, Oldbury, was sent to prison for six weeks by the local magistrates yesterday for loitering on the premises of the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, on Sunday, 16 August. It appeared that the accused was found at a late hour trying to force the door of the inn. He could give no explanation of his conduct.”

Smethwick Telephone 10/12/1921

“Boxing. Boxing. Boxing.

Crippled Children’s Fund. Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Matinee, Smethwick Empire.

Tickets may be obtained from the following gentlemen.....

Mr. *Jack Harris*, BUSTLE HOUSE, Oldbury.”

*Charles Henry Bradley* – see also PERROTT ARMS.

An Order of Removal was granted to the LONDONDERRY, Smethwick, at the Adjourned Licensing Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1928.

Smethwick Telephone 19/3/1928

“After a hearing occupying four hours, and a conference in private of another hour, the Magistrates decided to grant the application of Mitchells and Butlers in respect of the proposal to erect a hotel at the corner of Basons Lane and Queens Road, Londonderry. Mr. Hurst, KC, and Mr. Eaton were counsel for the applicants.....

Mr. Hurst said the firm desired a provisional order to sanction the removal of the full publican’s license from the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, to the house about to be erected at the corner of Basons Lane and Queens Road.....

The application was granted, two inns at Oldbury being surrendered.”

It closed at 10pm on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1930.

Dudley Chronicle 15/5/1930 - Advert

“Oldbury and Langley. Sale by Auction of Freehold Dis-Licensed Property, Freehold Shop Property, and Dwelling Houses, on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1930, by Jones, Son & Vernon, FAI, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.

Sale to commence at 7pm (subject to Conditions of Sale to be then produced and read).....

Lot 4. Birmingham Street, Oldbury. (With Possession on Completion.)

The commodious, centrally situate Freehold Dis-Licensed Premises, formerly known as the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Bustle Bridge, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. The Premises are situate in the centre of the main street in Oldbury, having a frontage to the road of 34ft 7in.

The Property would profitably convert into Shops.”

Demolished

Site later occupied by Woolworths.

**CRYSTAL PALACE**

11, (90), Birmingham Road, (90, Birmingham Street), Oldbury Green, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Charles Roberts, Birmingham Street, Oldbury

Messrs. Showell and Sons

William Parsons, 7, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury

Mrs. S. F. Taverner, 10, Braithwaite Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham

Edgbaston Brewery Co. Ltd. (leased?) [1894]

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (leased) [1896], [1909]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

## LICENSEES

Richard Moore [1867] – [1873]  
James Lines [1880] – [1881]  
W Bate [1883]  
John George Dexter [1884] – **1885**;  
John Guest (**1885 – 1887**);  
John Jackson (**1887**);  
George Allen White (**1887 – 1889**);  
Arthur Ames (**1889 – 1890**);  
James Thomas Smith (**1890 – 1891**);  
Emma Southall (**1891 – 1892**);  
George Michael Allen (**1892**);  
Daniel Wright (**1892 – 1893**);  
Edgbaston Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1893 – 1895**);  
William Parsons [1894] manager  
North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (**1895 – 1906**);  
Thomas Little [1896] manager?  
Manasseh Clee [1901] manager  
Arthur John Griffin (**1906**);  
Harry John Boulton (**1906 – 1907**);  
John Beasley (**1907 – 1908**);  
Sarah Horton (**1908 – 1910**);

## NOTES

90, Birmingham Street [1873]  
90, Birmingham Road [1881]  
11, Birmingham Road [1891], [1901]

### Birmingham Journal 13/4/1867 - Advert

“Dingle Street, Rounds Green, Oldbury. Valuable Freehold Property.  
To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. S. Parkes, at the house of Mr. *Richard Moore*, the CRYSTAL PALACE  
INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, on Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1867, at Six o’clock in the evening.....”

### County Express 14/9/1867

“John Downs, a fierce-looking fellow, of pugilistic proclivities, was charged by Police-constable Turner with assaulting him, at the CRYSTAL PALACE, Oldbury. Prisoner pleaded guilty, but attempted to excuse himself because he had had a little beer. Fined 40s and costs, or 21 days’ imprisonment.”

### County Express 15/8/1868

“Thomas Holland was charged by Messrs. Gilbert, Cheshire, and Cooper, with giving a certificate for the death of a child of Thomas Cleaver, of Oldbury, although not a properly qualified medical practitioner. Mr. Shakespeare prosecuted, and Mr. Jackson defended.

Mr. Shakespeare, in opening the case, said the present charge was brought against defendant under an Act of Parliament which provided that ‘any person pretending to be a physician, surgeon, doctor of medicine, apothecary, &c, would be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.’ On the 29<sup>th</sup> of May last, a child of Thomas Cleaver, of Oldbury, died of convulsions. As defendant had attended the child, the mother, at its death, applied to him for a certificate, stating the cause of its death, which she presented to the registrar of births and deaths. (Mr. Parish, the present registrar, here produced the certificate, which read, ‘Died of convulsions,



Thomas Cleaver, infant. Thomas Holland, surgeon.’) Another section of the Act before referred to provided that, ‘the printed Register containing a list of the surgeons, &c, possessing diplomas should be recognised as an authority in Courts of Justice, and might be referred to on oath.’ It also provided that ‘no person whose name did not appear in the Register for the current year could be recognised as a properly qualified medical practitioner until he could produce evidence to the contrary.’ The summons had been issued sometime against defendant, but, unfortunately, the registrar took ill, and could not appear, in consequence of which the case had been postponed; but now he was dead. It was of importance to the public generally that defendant should be punished, in order to prevent the public from being imposed upon by unfit persons, and to the medical profession especially, as they had spent large sums of money in their education, and were certainly entitled to the benefits he was not.

Fanny, wife of Thomas Cleaver, Heath Street, Oldbury, said her child died on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May last. Mr. Holland had attended it. He gave her a certificate, showing the cause of its death, at her request. She believed the one produced was the same.

Cross-examined: She could not say on oath it was the same, but it was like it. She had not seen it since June.

Henry Parish, deputy-registrar of births and deaths for Oldbury, said his father, who had been registrar, died on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. Witness took possession of his papers a fortnight before his death, including the certificate produced. He believed it to be in Mr. Holland’s handwriting.

Cross-examined: The register was entered in the book, but not certified.

Mr. Jackson said his friend had made an unnecessary flourish when he had talked about the protection of the public and the interests of duly qualified men. Mr. Holland had resided in Oldbury for thirty-five years. The late Mr. Cooper, surgeon, father of complainant, had many times requested him to go and see his patients, in proof of which he held in his hand a number of letters. If any doubt existed, it was the duty of the Bench to give the defendant the benefit of that doubt. The first witness could not swear whether the certificate produced was the same or not; she only believed it was. The one produced was no certificate; it was merely a memorandum that somebody had died. A certificate should begin ‘I hereby certify,’ while this was merely ‘Died from convulsions,’ &c. According to the Act of Parliament his friend had referred to, it was not sufficient to prove a man was not a surgeon to show that his name was not in the Register. Proof must be given that he was not duly qualified. Not a tittle of evidence had been brought to show this. In support of this he referred to a case recently decided by the Court of Excheque.

Mr. Shakespeare answered that the Register was evidence in all courts, and a person could not be recognised as a surgeon whose name did not appear therein until he could prove it.

Defendant was ordered to pay costs.

Thomas Holland was also charged with acting as the doctor of a club, although he was not a properly qualified surgeon. Messrs. Gilbert, Cheshire, and Cooper were the complainants, the same solicitors as before being retained.

Mr. Shakespeare said he had been a paid surgeon of a club some years, and called Thomas Matthews, secretary of the Miners’ Refuge Friendly Society, held at Mr. *Moore’s*, the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Oldbury, who said the surgeon and other officers were elected every six months. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 1868, it was proposed and carried that ‘the surgeon be re-elected.’ He received 2s per member. No receipt was given by him.

Mr. Jackson said the objection he should raise was that the summons charged his client with being surgeon for the club on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, which had not been proved. It was only shown that he was such on and after the 6<sup>th</sup> of July.

The Bench proposed re-calling the witness to prove his having being surgeon in June, but Mr. Jackson objected. A most astute solicitor had been employed, and the prosecution was backed by the whole of the medical profession for Oldbury. He therefore hoped the Bench would thus not struggle to obtain a case for the prosecution. He argued that the case was defective, as there was no evidence to prove the charge. The Bench, after a short consultation, considered the case proved, as witness had said defendant was ‘re-elected,’ implying he had been before a surgeon. He was fined £5 and costs.

Nine other similar charges were brought against the defendant, but were withdrawn.”

[See also JOLLY COLLIER, Albert Street, and QUEENS HEAD (MODEL), Langley.]

County Express 17/7/1869

“The Friendly Briton’s Lodge, No.2271, of the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows Friendly Society, celebrated its usual anniversary on Monday last, July 12, when upwards of fifty members partook of an excellent dinner, provided by Bro. *Richard Moore*, of the CRYSTAL PALACE, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, PG Peter Shaw presiding, and DGM Titus Davis occupying the vide-chair.

After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been given and heartily responded to, the Chairman gave the ‘Independent Order of Odd Fellows,’ and success to the ‘Friendly Briton’s Lodge,’ which was responded to by Bro. Underhill, the secretary, who gave a very encouraging report of the workings of the society, and urged upon the members the necessity of doing their utmost for the good of the society. Numerous songs were given during the evening by members, and after votes of thanks were passed to the chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary, the meeting was brought to a close at ten o’clock with the National Anthem.”

Dudley Herald 16/7/1870

“On Monday last the Friendly Briton Lodge (2271) of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Odd Fellows held their annual dinner at the CRYSTAL PALACE INN ..... Host Mr. *Moore*.”

1871 Census

Birmingham Street

- [1] *Richard Moore* (40), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Susannah Moore (38), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Mary A. Tomlinson (15), niece, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] Rebecca Tomlinson (6), niece, scholar, born Oldbury:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/4/1871

“W. Timmins of Oldbury, in answer to Baker, wishes to inform him that if he really wants to run he will take six yards in 120, or Nicols of Langley can have a match on the same terms; or he will allow Smith of Smethwick two yards in 140, for £25 or £50 a side. Man and money ready at Mr. *R. Moore*’s, the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/4/1873 - Advert

“To Let, and may be entered upon immediately – all that well-known old-licensed Public-house, known as the COTTAGE OF CONTENT, and situate at The Stop, Smethwick. The house is situate in the midst of large works, and offers an excellent opportunity for any person desirous of entering into the public trade. The business has been established many years, and an energetic person may realise a fortune. In-coming small.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *Richard Moore*, the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Oldbury.”

Dudley Guardian 4/4/1874

“On Wednesday a meeting of the miners on strike in the Oldbury district was held at the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Oldbury. Mr. Samuel Walding presided, and there was a good attendance.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, expressed his deep regret that there was a strike existing in the neighbourhood, saying he was sure the whole of the colliers in that district were in favour of the peaceable settlement of all disputes. He did not feel at all pleased with the parties who had brought about the strike (hear, hear). The masters had not been treating them rightly, as they had been raising the prices of coal without raising the wages in the same proportion. He believed the men had acted very charitably towards the masters, as they had not treated them hastily when they were receiving such treatment at the hands of the masters. He, however, exhorted the men to make the best of their present position, and to go on quietly, when they would be sure to win. Both parties would suffer something in the struggle; but he had no doubt that if the men conducted themselves in a peaceful manner the strike would result in their benefit.

Mr. Thomas Griffiths next addressed the meeting. He said the coalmasters during the last year or two had been reaping a rich harvest. Some of them, the year before last, gained £60,000, some £100,000, and some of them had cleared as much as their whole collieries, and plant, and everything connected with it cost them. The Earl of Dudley had realised £254,900. He (the speaker) pointed out that whilst the masters were making

these great profits the men had received comparatively little benefit. They, however, were unwilling to submit to any reduction of their wages, and they were prepared for a long and protracted struggle. He was sure that they did not care about a week or a fortnight, or a month, or even two months' holiday (hear, hear). The masters said they could outstand the association, which they called a petty association. He denied that there was anywhere a better organisation than the miners, which was now in such a position that however long the struggle might last its funds would not be exhausted. There were now 120,000 members in it, each of whom would pay 1s a week in order to support the men of South Staffordshire in their struggle (cheers).

The masters had a private meeting last week, and passed a vote of censure on the gentleman whom the miners had selected to be their arbitrator, saying that he was not qualified for the office. That gentleman was, perhaps, as well qualified as they were. The masters would not have arbitration because they were ashamed of the enormous profits they had been realising during the last two or three years, and they did not want the public to know. They were also ashamed of letting the public know that they had not properly paid their workmen. The consequence was that the strike had resulted, and if it lasted two or three years it would not hurt the men. Their association was determined to come off victorious in the struggle, and no one need be afraid, so long as he conducted himself properly, that his pay would be forthcoming. Some of the masters were now conceding the old price, and asked that their men should return to work. The men had done so, and each master could have two or three sets of men if they liked, for the miners were determined to help them.

Mr. Griffiths concluded by advising the men to conduct themselves in a quiet and peaceable manner, and not to go gathering in lots about the streets or holding little meetings, because they might, under the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, be prosecuted for conspiring together to press someone to join their union.

Mr. Henry Rust moved, 'That this meeting is of opinion that the reduction is unjust and uncalled for, and that we resist to the bitter end.' This motion was seconded by Mr. Perry, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Griffiths then moved, 'That it is the opinion of this meeting that the masters' statement in reference to the arbitration, to the effect that they had no guarantee that the working men would abide by arbitration, is without foundation, seeing that the men had always abided by the decisions of the arbitrator, even when they were against them; and that the masters' reasons for not accepting arbitration were that they were ashamed to expose the enormous profits they had been realising from the coal trade during the last three years.'

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Henry Rust, and carried, *nem con*.

The meeting then dispersed."

#### County Express 16/5/1874

"On Monday morning a mass meeting of colliers was held at the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Oldbury. After a chairman had been elected, Mr. Thomas Griffiths, the miners' agent, addressed the meeting. He denied the statements, made in a contemporary, to the effect that the men's funds were exhausted, and that in consequence, they would have to submit to the masters' terms. The miners' funds in that district were not exhausted, neither were the miners tired of the struggle. On the contrary, the funds were being strengthened every week....."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/4/1875

"A meeting of miners was held at the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Oldbury, last night. Mr. H. Rust was elected chairman, and, in opening the meeting, alluded to the question of the allowance of coal, and strongly condemned the action of the mining engineers at Dudley, who, he said, had advocated that the allowance should be withdrawn from miners when disabled from work by sickness or injury. He regretted that attempts were being made to extend the hours of labour, and contended that as the reduction of hours had only been effected by means of amalgamation, so that concession could only be maintained through the association....."

#### Dudley Herald 14/10/1876

"A meeting of miners was held on Monday night at the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Oldbury, in accordance with a resolution passed at a recent district meeting of lodge representatives at Great Bridge, to consider the wages question and the present condition of the amalgamation....."

"That the time has arrived when the masters are justified in so advancing the price of coal that they can give

the miners back the 6d and 3d a day which were taken from our wages; and this meeting trusts that an arrangement will be made with the employers to this end' was carried unanimously."

County Express 11/11/1876

"On Tuesday night a large meeting of colliers was held at the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Oldbury. Mr. Henry Barnes occupied the chair, and addressed the men on the necessity of agitating for an advance. It was unanimously resolved, 'That this meeting regrets the decision come to at the coalmasters' meeting, at Dudley, in reference to the wages question, and pledges itself, in conjunction with other districts, to continue the present agitation until the wages sought are received – viz, 6d per day for thick coal and 3d per day for thin coal.' On Thursday night the same resolution was passed at the THREE CROWNS INN, Hill Top, West Bromwich, and at the CROSS INN, Tipton."

West Bromwich Weekly News 26/2/1881

"On Saturday evening last the annual supper of the Cricket Club took place at the CRYSTAL PALACE, Birmingham Street. We were pleased to see that about thirty members and friends sat down to the excellent repast provided by the worthy host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Line*. On the cloth being removed, the chair was taken by Mr. W. G. Jones, while the vice chair was occupied by Mr. J. Watts....."

It was put up for sale (freehold) in March 1883.

1881 Census

90, Birmingham Road

- [1] *James Lines* (42), victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Sarah Lines* (44), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *James Lines* (18), son, coach builder, born Oldbury;
- [4] *William Lines* (13), son, born Kentish New Town, Middlesex;
- [5] *Charlotte Harrold* (13), servant, born Oldbury;
- [6] *George E. Aldridge* (26), lodger, coach painter, born Biggleswade, Bedfordshire:

London Gazette 8/7/1881

"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 *James Lines*, of the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Birmingham-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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 office of Messrs. Wright and Co., Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 19th day of July, 1881, at half-past eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 4th day of July, 1881.

Wright and Co., Solicitors for the said *James Lines*."

West Bromwich Weekly News 23/7/1881

"A meeting of the creditors of *James Lines*, of the CRYSTAL PALACE, Birmingham Street, licensed victualler, was held at the offices of Messrs. Wright and Co, solicitors, Church Street, on Tuesday last. It was resolved to liquidate the estate."

*James Lines* – see also ASH TREE, Broadwell Road, and NAGS HEAD.

West Bromwich Weekly News 30/7/1881

"To Be Let or Sold, an old-licensed Public House and Liquor Shop, known as the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Oldbury Green. Immediate Possession can be had.

For particulars apply to Richard Moore, Birmingham Road, Oldbury."

Sporting Life 9/5/1883

“Banks and Goodman. Mr. *W. Bate*, of the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Oldbury, holds articles and £2 a-side for a match in which C. Banks, of Smethwick, had agreed to give H. Goodman, of Stourport, one yard start in 120 on Monday, May 28, at the Burnt Tree Running Grounds, Wednesday.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1885 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Liquor Vault, with Early Possession, in Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

By Roderick and Son. To be Sold by Auction, at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, on Tuesday Next, September 15, at 6 o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

An important Freehold Fully-Licensed Public House and Retail Wine and Spirit Establishment, known as the CRYSTAL PALACE, in Birmingham Street, one of the principal business thoroughfares of the town of Oldbury, now in the occupation of Mr. *Dexter*, who will give early possession to the Purchaser.

The Premises include an attractive modern Liquor Vault, two Smoke Rooms, large Club Room, capital Cellars, and other ample accommodation.

The valuation will be about £250.

This is an excellent Freehold Public-house, in a prominent business position, and is well worth the attention of Brewing Firms.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. William Shakespeare, Solicitor, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneers, 3, Temple Row West, Birmingham.”

*John George Dexter* – see also STORES, WHITE LION and BLACK BOY, all Birmingham Street.

*George Allen White* – see also BROWN LION.

West Bromwich Weekly News 13/8/1887

“A dinner was held last night (Friday) at the CRYSTAL PALACE, Birmingham Street, in connection with the Oldbury Town Crosswells Football Club. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. James Swallow presided.....”

Athletic News 10/7/1888

“It was scarcely to be expected that the formation of the Football League and the subsequent alteration of rules by the Football Association would be heartily relished by the second and third-class organisations, whose members are complaining very loudly – and not without some show of reason, I must admit – against the new law compelling them to play twice as many matches as the tip-top clubs in the Cup competitions, and I understand that a meeting has been called by the secretary of the Oldbury Town FC, at the CRYSTAL PALACE, Oldbury, for this (Tuesday) evening to consider what steps shall be taken to counterbalance the action of League No.1 of the Football Association.”

Smethwick Telephone 2/11/1889 - Advert

“CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.

Mr. W. H. Pass will Sell by Auction upon the above Premises on Friday Next, November 8<sup>th</sup>, a large quantity of Household Furniture and Effects removed for convenience of sale.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/12/1890 - Advert

“Full-Licensed House to Let (free).

The CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Yearly or on lease. Easy rent. Immediate possession may be had.

Apply, William Parsons, 28, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/12/1890

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, Joseph Bowen (24), of Green Street, Oldbury, was charged with being upon the licensed premises of the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, during prohibited hours, on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst.

Police-constable Bibb stated that he found defendant on the licensed premises named at 10.25pm.

Defendant admitted being there, but pleaded that he had occasion to be there, as he was courting the barmaid. The barmaid was called, and in reply to the clerk, said defendant was courting her. The Bench dismissed the case.”

#### County Express 14/2/1891

“A destructive explosion of gas occurred at the CRYSTAL PALACE INN on Sunday. The landlord, Mr. H. Blackford, was about to open the house at 12.30, and going through the smoke room he struck a match with the intention of lighting his pipe. A terrible explosion followed, forcing the landlord through a plate-glass door leading into the bar, and shattering the panels of the doors in all directions. The large plate-glass windows in the front were completely smashed, the pieces being carried right across the road. The roof in the back kitchen was completely lifted about six inches. Mr. Blackford appears to have had a marvellous escape, for after the shock he was found lying outside the door with his whiskers and hair burnt, but not otherwise injured.”

#### 1891 Census

11, Birmingham Road

- [1] Saul Southall (71), engineer, retired, infirm, born Rowley;
- [2] *Emma Southall* (60), wife, publican, born Cricklade, Wiltshire;
- [3] Rose Edith Southall (23), daughter, born Rowley;
- [4] Marria Gale (17), domestic servant, born Dudley;
- [5] Alice Timmins (23), domestic servant:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1891 - Advert

“To Brewers, Publicans, and Others. CRYSTAL PALACE, Birmingham Road, Oldbury. Alford & Crosbie have received instructions to Sell by Auction, on the Premises as above, on Tuesday Evening Next, June 9, at Six for Seven o’clock prompt – the Free Lease, Goodwill, Licenses, and Possession of the above well-known Spirit Vaults. The House is situate in the best part of the town, is doing good trade, capable of great extension, and is held on lease for 14 years from December last, at the low rent of £40 per annum, the whole presenting an opportunity of rare occurrence for small capitalists. Auctioneers’ Offices, 19, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

Horace Charles Darby (the holder of a temporary authority) was fined £3 and 13s costs, on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1891, for selling intoxicating liquor to a drunken person. The license was endorsed.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 15/7/1891

“Horace Charles Darby, landlord of the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, was summoned for supplying beer to a drunken person, viz, William Hadley, on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, and, further, with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises. Mr. Colbeck (Birmingham) defended.

Sergeant Hill stated that at about 8.50pm he called at the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, and then saw William Hadley sitting at a table with a pint of ale before him. He was very drunk. Witness afterwards called in company with Police-constable Dance, and again saw Hadley at the table, with a jug of beer before him. Witness called defendant’s attention to the man, and he remarked, ‘I did not notice he was drunk in the house; but I see he is drunk now.’

Police-constable Dance corroborated.

It was urged in defence that Hadley sat near the door, and that beer was supplied to his wife, who then took it to him. The drink thus supplied was only two pints, which was not enough to make a man drunk. Several witnesses were called to prove that defendant was known to have had drink elsewhere. Defendant was fined £3 and costs, and the license to be endorsed. Hadley was ordered to pay 13s.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1891

“The annual licensing session for Oldbury petty sessional division was held yesterday at the Court-house. Superintendent Speke presented his annual report, which showed there were now in the division 4,340 in-

habited houses, compared with 3,930 in the year 1881, being an increase of 410 during the last ten years, and there was one house for the sale of intoxicants to about each 154 inhabitants. The Sunday evening services of sacred music and song held at various licensed houses in the division, and to which he called their attention at the last licensing meeting, were now entirely suppressed.....

The Superintendent opposed the application of Horace Charles Darby for a permanent transfer of the license of the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, on the ground that whilst he was holding a temporary authority in respect of the same house he was fined £3 and costs and the license was endorsed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July last, for supplying drink to a drunken person.

Mr. W. Shakespeare addressed the Bench on behalf of the applicant.

The magistrates declined to grant the transfer to Darby, but ultimately, on the application of Mr. Shakespeare, who appeared for the owner of the house, a temporary authority was granted to Henry James Pollard, subject to the character of the applicant being satisfactory.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1894

“The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held yesterday.....

Superintendent Chare called attention to the fact that the CRYSTAL PALACE INN belonged to the Edgbaston Brewery Company, and that company not being in existence, he requested that the question should be raised again at the adjourned licensing meeting.

Mr. W. Shakespeare said the company was in liquidation, and was not actually wound up. It was being carried on by the manager.

Mr. Wilson said the justices required some responsible person as the holder of a license.....

The cases of ..... CRYSTAL PALACE INN ..... were adjourned until the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday, at the Court-house.....

With regard to the license of the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Birmingham Street, which was deferred, Mr. A. Young explained that the company holding the house had arranged to surrender the lease and license to Mr. *William Parsons*, the lessor of the property, who was prepared to grant a new lease to Messrs. Donnes Limited. A temporary authority was granted, on the understanding that an application would be made by Messrs. Donnes for a permanent transfer.”

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. were fined 40s and 52s 6d costs, on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1896, for permitting drunkenness.

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 5/1/1901

“On Thursday evening last the prizes were distributed in connection with the Oldbury Pigeon Show, held at Mr. *Clee*’s CRYSTAL PALACE, Birmingham Street.....”

#### 1901 Census

11, Birmingham Road

[1] *Mannasah Clee* (35), engine fitter and tavern manager, born Dudley;

[2] Sarah A. Clee (34), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] Theresa Parton (18), cousin born Wolverhampton;

[4] Sarah Taylor (16), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

#### Tipton Herald 5/9/1903

“The North Worcestershire Brewery Company Ltd. were summoned at Oldbury on Tuesday for permitting drunkenness on their licensed premises of their CHRYSTAL [sic] PALACE, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe, who appeared to prosecute, explained that a man named Tolley was found on the premises in a drunken condition. The landlord, when spoken to afterwards, admitted that the man was drunk, and said he had been in and out all the evening.

The offence was admitted, and a fine of £4 12s. 6d, including costs, was imposed. For being drunk on the licensed premises, William Tolley (28), of no fixed abode, was fined 15s. 6d, including costs, or 14 days; whilst for being drunk in New Street on August 8<sup>th</sup> he was sent to gaol for a month. It transpired that there were 50 previous convictions against him, 33 being for drunkenness.”

County Advertiser 26/1/1907

“*John Beasley*, haulier and landlord of the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, was charged with cruelty to a horse by causing it to be worked whilst in an unfit state on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. Police-constable Walton said he met a boy employed by defendant in charge of a horse and cart at Tividale. The animal was lame, and was suffering from two old sores on the back, one of which was rubbing against the harness. Police-constable Heatherley and Mr. F. Waddington (veterinary surgeon) also gave evidence. Proceedings had not been taken against the driver on account of his youth. Defendant was fined 40s including costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

CRYSTAL PALACE.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1909.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation.....

CRYSTAL PALACE, alehouse, Birmingham Road, owner North Worcestershire Brewery Company.....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee’s investigations.....”

The license was refused on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1909.

Evesham Standard 10/7/1909

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee sat on Saturday to continue consideration of the 25 licenses which had been referred to them as the compensation authority by the local justices.....

In the case of the CRYSTAL PALACE, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, Mr. Thomson, representing both the freeholders and licensees, consented to the refusal to renew.”

Evesham Standard 18/12/1909

“Compensation for Licenses. Worcestershire Committee ..... CRYSTAL PALACE, Oldbury.

Mr. Thomson appeared in this case, and called Mr. Whitfield, secretary to the Dudley Brewery Company, to prove the sales. The Committee allowed £884, against £1,666 claimed.”



Compensation was paid on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1910.  
The license was extinguished on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1910.

Birmingham Daily Mail 18/11/1944 - Advert

“Sale by Auction of Freehold Investment Properties at Oldbury by Jones, Son and Vernon, FAI, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Monday Next, November 20.....

Lot 7. The Freehold Premises formerly known as the CRYSTAL PALACE INN, No.11 Birmingham Road, Oldbury. A Valuable Building Site for reconstruction or rebuilding of Central Business Premises. Good main road frontage, near the centre of the Town. Frontage 28ft 3in; 9ft 0in. Right of Cartway from New Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1944

“Prices secured at recent auctions in Birmingham and the Midlands are as follows.....

By Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon at Oldbury.....

CRYSTAL PALACE INN, 11, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, £200.”

**DEVONSHIRE RING OF BELLS**

Birmingham Street, (New Street), Oldbury Green, OLDBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Hulse [1853]

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 5/2/1853 - Advert

“Improving Freehold and Leasehold Properties, Oldbury Green, and Halesowen Street, Oldbury, Worcestershire; and Blue Gates, Smethwick, Staffordshire.

Messrs. Hammond and Oldfield have received instructions from the Executors of the late Edward Darby to Submit to Auction, on Wednesday, the 16th day of February inst, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at Six o'clock in the evening, in the following or such other lots as may be arranged at the sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced.....

Oldbury Green. New Street.

Lot 3. Two Freehold Public Houses, known as the DEVONSHIRE RING OF BELLS and the BLACK BOY; together with a Retail Shop, in the several occupations of *James Hulse*, Ann Jackson, and Isaac Bassford; together with the Bakehouse and Brewhouse at the back thereof, and the Right of Road down the Gateway.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/1/1854

“J. Preston, of Oldbury, who never ran for a shilling, will run Wm. Bailey of the same place 120 yards, or will give 10 yards start in 440, for £5 a side. A match can be made at the DEVONSHIRE RING OF BELLS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

## DOG AND PHEASANT

30, (15), Flash Road, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

J. W. Lines, Birmingham Street, Oldbury

Thomas Lines, grocer, Oldbury

J. A. and A. Thomson, Oldbury

Isache and Clark, 82, New Street, Birmingham (acquired in 1921)

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (leased)

William Butlers and Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1946)

### LICENSEES

James Smalley [1861] – [1862]

Robert Burrell [1864] – [1870]

William Bent [1871]

James Lines [1872] – [1873]

James Smith [1880] – [1882]

Mark Gibbs [1883] – **1892**;

George Horton (**1892 – 1893**);

Arthur Duffield (**1893 – 1897**);

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1897 – 1907**);

George Herbert Crabtree [1900] – [1901] manager

John Henry Williams (**1907 – 1918**);

Lewis Stephen Foster (**1918 – 1919**);

Thomas Poole (**1919 – 1920**);

Edith Mary Poole (**1920**);

Albert Rose (**1920 – 1927**);

Harry Keen (**1927 – 1954**);

William Henry Selby (**1954 – 1957**);

Leonard Savage (**1957 – 1958**);

Charles Frederick Faulkner (**1958**);

Leonard Harold Hall (**1958 – 1959**);

Frank Alfred Pratley (**1959 – [1962]**)

### NOTES

15, Flash Road [1881]

30, Flash Road [1891], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1939]

#### 1861 Census

Flash Road – DOG AND PHEASANT

[1] *James Smalley* (38), victualler and carpenter, born Sutton Bassett, Leicestershire;

[2] *Pheabe Smalley* (34), wife, born Somerby, Leicestershire;

[3] *Thersa Rollason* (13), house servant, born Oldbury;

[4] *William Swift* (29), lodger, iron moulder, born Marchwood, Hampshire;

[5] *William Keyes* (19), lodger, carpenter, born Tewkesbury;

*James Smalley* – see also RAILWAY, Bromford Lane.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/5/1864

“H. Howell and G. Baily (both of Oldbury) are matched to run 100 yards, Howell receiving two yards start, at Aston Cross Grounds, on Monday, May 16, for £5 a side, Mr. *R. Burrell* final stakeholder. A deposit of £2 a side is down; the next deposit of £1 a side to be made today at *R. Burrell*'s, DOG AND PHEASANT, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1864

“At the Police Court, yesterday, Morris Jacobs, who described himself as a jeweller, living in Birmingham, charged a respectable looking man, named George Wild, with having stolen a scarf pin. Mr. Shakespeare was retained for the defence. It appeared that on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May the complainant went to the DOG AND PHEASANT public house, and asked the company assembled there to purchase his wares, amongst which were some plated scarf pins, containing representations of a very disgusting character. Two of these were handed round the room by the accused, and but one of them was restored to the Jew.

The Bench cautioned the complainant against continuing to sell such filthy wares, and dismissed the charge.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/9/1865

“Rabbit Coursing.....

E. Wilkinson of Oldbury will accept the challenge of R. Smith of Westbromwich, and will run his two 18lb bitches against his (Smith's) 17½lb red bitch, each match for £10 a side, and both matches to come off on the same day, according to his challenge. To run in six weeks from signing articles; or W. Edwards's bitch Lady of Longton can be on for 18lb, for £10 a side, either match to come off on the Bloxwich race course. Either match can be made at *R. Burrell*'s, DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/6/1866

“W. Nickels of Langley Green and J. Cutler of Oldbury have agreed to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, on Monday, July 9, at B. Nuttle's New Running Grounds, Dudley Port. *R. Burrell*, DOG AND PHEASANT, Oldbury, is to be referee and final stakeholder. £1 10s is now down in the hands of the final stakeholder.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/11/1867

“Royal Albion Coursing Grounds, Dudley Road, Wolverhampton.

Great Monster Rabbit Coursing Sweepstake, for Small Sized Dogs only. On Monday, Nov 18 and 25, W. Boston will give £6 10s to be coursed for; first prize £5, second £1, third 10s. Entrance for dogs 19½in 5s, 18½in 4s, and 17½in 3s each. Entries to be made to Mr. *Burrell*, DOG AND PHEASANT, Oldbury; or Mr. Middlebrook, TEDDESLEY ARMS, Walsall; or at the grounds.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1867 - Advert

“Lost, on Sunday Evening, at Harborne, a Blue Greyhound Bitch; four white feet and white breast; answers to ‘Quick.’

Whoever will bring the same to Mr. *Burrill* [sic], DOG AND PHEASANT, Oldbury, will be handsomely Rewarded.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/12/1867

“The Great Rabbit Coursing Sweepstakes will come off at the Albion Grounds, Dudley Road, Wolverhampton, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Dec 26, 27, and 28, when Messrs. Boston and Taylor will give £25 to be run for by large and small dogs; dogs of large size £15, entrance 10s each; small-sized dogs 19½in 7s, 18½in 6s, and 17½in 5s each. Entries to be made to Mr. *Burrell*, DOG AND PHEASANT, Oldbury; or Mr. Middlebrook, TEDDESLEY ARMS, Walsall; or at the grounds. Entries close on the morning of running. A good supply of rabbits on hand.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/1/1869

“Mr. Smith’s Jack of Westbromwich and Thompson’s Nance of Tipton run 180 yards, for £5 a side (open for £10), on Feb 1. Mr. *Burrell* of the DOG AND PHEASANT, Oldbury, the stakeholder, has £1 in hand.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/4/1869

“Mr. Wood of Oldbury will match his bitch Crazy against Mr. Hadley’s Loo of Smethwick, a sprint race of 200 yards, for £10 or £20, if Loo will give eight yards start. Money ready at Mr. *Burrell*’s DOG AND PHEASANT, Oldbury.”

1871 Census

Flash Road – DOG AND PHEASANT

- [1] *William Bent* (31), coachbuilder, born Rothley, Leicestershire;
- [2] *Annie Bent* (31), wife, born Stafford;
- [3] *Elizabeth Bent* (3), daughter, scholar, born Hunterstone, Leicestershire;
- [4] *Clara Bent* (1), daughter, born Hunterstone, Leicestershire;
- [5] *Jane Simpson* (19), sister-in-law, dressmaker, born Stafford;
- [6] *John Bent* (13), nephew, scholar, born Sheffield:

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1878 - Advert

“Lost, from DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Flash Road, Oldbury, liver-and-white Spaniel, answers to the name of Shot. Anyone detaining him after this notice will be prosecuted. Anyone returning him to the above address will be handsomely rewarded.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/4/1878 - Advert

“Cab. A two-wheel Cab for Sale, in good condition. May be seen at the DOG AND PHEASANT, Flash Road, Oldbury.”

1881 Census

15, Flash Road

- [1] *James Smith* (48), victualler, born Leicester;
- [2] *Marian Smith* (38), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Samuel Smith* (13), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *George Smith* (9), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Maria Smith* (7), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Harry Smith* (5), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Ann Taylor* (19), servant, born Oldbury;
- [8] *George Bassford* (40), visitor, brickyard manager, born Burslem:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/10/1881

“Birmingham County Court.....

Richardson and Griffiths, tailors, Hockley Hill v *James Smith*, of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Oldbury.

Mr. Stubbins (instructed by Mr. Southall) appeared for plaintiffs; and Mr. Turner for the defendant.

The claim was for £10 8s for clothes supplied. In December, 1879, Mr. G. K. Richardson, who was then travelling for plaintiffs, called at the defendant’s, and received orders for four suits of clothes for customers of the defendant. The men were in defendant’s money club. They were measured at the defendant’s, and the suits were fetched from the plaintiffs by one of the men. When payment was demanded the defendant offered to pay for one man’s suit, and told plaintiff’s representative that he had better sue the others.

Defendant denied that he had pledged his credit for the goods. The men said they would join the money club so as to pay for the clothes. He refused to pay for them, because they owed money for beer.

His Honour held that no liability had been established on the part of the defendant, and ordered a nonsuit to be entered.

Defendant then paid for one suit.

His Honour said he was very much dissatisfied with the disingenuous and uncandid way in which the plaintiff's witnesses had given their evidence."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1883

"Birmingham County Court.....

*James Smith*, now residing in furnished lodgings at No.8 Lomans Hill Terrace, Clayton Road, Saltley, Birmingham, carpenter, but formerly of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Flash Road, Oldbury, licensed victualler, filed his petition for liquidation, with liabilities estimated at £600, and assets not yet ascertained. Mr. S. H. Forrest, of Oldbury, is solicitor for the debtor."

London Gazette 7/9/1883

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Warwickshire, holden at Birmingham.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *James Smith*, now residing in furnished lodgings at No. 8, Lowan's-hill-terrace, Clayton-road, Saltley, in the borough of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Carpenter, but formerly of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Flash-road, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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. Samuel H. Forrest, Solicitor, 21, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 20th day of September, 1883, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 30th day of August, 1883.

Samuel H. Forrest, 21, Church-street, Oldbury, Solicitor for the said Debtor."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/11/1883

"An action was brought at the County Court, yesterday, by Joseph Wither, James Lines, and Richard Green, trustees of the Court Wat Tyler, No.3756 of the A.O.F. Friendly Society, against *James Smith*, treasurer of the above Court, and William Donnan and William Barrows, sureties for *Smith*, to recover the sum of £10, being the amount of a bond given by *Smith*. Mr. Jackson was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Shakespeare defended.

The evidence was to the effect that *Smith* was treasurer of the above-mentioned court, which was held at his house, the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Oldbury, and gave a bond dated September 26, 1882. Afterwards he got into difficulties, but he had refunded all the money with the exception of the amount claimed.

A verdict was entered for the plaintiffs."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/11/1884

"Richard Bowen, of no fixed abode, bricklayer, was remanded on a charge of stealing 3s and a barrel belonging to *James Smith*, late of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Flash Road, Oldbury, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 1882. Prisoner absconded at the time, but was arrested on Saturday by Police-sergeant Stanton."

Worcester Chronicle 10/1/1885

"Richard Bowen (31), bricklayer, pleaded guilty to stealing 3s, the property of his master, *James Smith*, of Oldbury, on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1882. Prisoner, who had been twice previously convicted, handed in a written defence that he committed the robbery while under the influence of drink. Sentenced to 12 months' hard labour."

Birmingham Mail 27/8/1883

"The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held this afternoon at the Police Court.....

Police Superintendent Hardman presented his report.....

Since the last meeting 12 licensed persons had been summoned and convicted for offences against their licenses ..... *Mark Gibbs*.....

The Bench decided that all the applications for renewals made by those prisoners who had been convicted during the year should be postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, with the exception of two whose conviction took place on licensing day last year and who were then called up and cautioned. The persons whose renewals were refused would be required to attend and show reasons why their licenses should be renewed."

Birmingham Mail 24/9/1883

“Today the adjourned Licensing Session for the Oldbury Division was held at the Court House.....

The persons whose names were included in the ‘black list’ presented by the superintendent of police at the annual meeting, and whose applications for renewals were consequently postponed, were called before the Bench to show cause why their licenses should be renewed.....

The license held by ..... *Mark Gibbs*, DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Flash ..... were all renewed, the applicants being cautioned by the presiding magistrate as to their future conduct.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/2/1885 - Advert

“Found, Fox-terrier Bitch; even marked on face, black spot on back. If not claimed in three days will be sold.

Apply, *Mark Gibbs*, DOG AND PHEASANT, Oldbury.”

Sporting Life 20/7/1887

“Galton Gardens, Smethwick.

Fine weather prevailed here on Monday last, and fully 500 admirers of the fleet of foot put in an appearance to witness the race between A. Adcock, of West Bromwich, and E. *Gibbs*, of Oldbury, who were articulated to run 100 yards level, under *Sporting Life* conditions, for a ‘tenner.’ Upon signing articles both men went into strict training, Adcock under the care of that well-known old ped of West Bromwich, George Griffin, from that respected and obliging host’s, Mr. Thomas Twist’s, STEAM PACKET INN, Spon Lane; whilst *Gibbs*, under the care of Joe Matthews, trained from his father’s establishment, the DOG AND PHEASANT, Flash Road, Oldbury. Both men were in the acme of condition, and having figured prominently in handicaps at both Alexandra Grounds, Rood End, and Lyndon Recreation Grounds, West Bromwich, their partisans had very little need for comment upon form.

The talent were fairly represented on each side, and betting opened at evens, Adcock for choice. The track, thanks to the proprietor (Mr. P. F. Rudge), being well watered and rolled for the occasion, was in fair condition, and the ground was roped out for the convenience of spectators and peds. Exactly at half-past six pm, the men came on to the track. Betting now assumed a lively aspect, and ere they left their marks odds of 2 to 1 were freely laid on Adcock, whilst after peeling 3 to 1 on Adcock was the cry.

The usual preliminary canter was indulged in, and the men toed their marks for the race. At the second attempt the pistol was fired to a good start. *Gibbs*, being the quicker on his running, led for the first thirty yards, when Adcock made his effort, and, coming away, eventually won by two yards and a half, amidst loud cheers. A large amount of money changed hands over the result.

Old T. Jones, of Oldbury (better known as ‘Brushy’), fired the pistol, and Jack Turner, of Tipton, was referee.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 17/12/1887

“*Mark Gibbs*, publican, of Flash Road, was charged with allowing betting in his house on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult.

PC Havacre stated that about 12.30pm on the date in question he visited defendant’s house in company with PC Hetherage. They went into the smoke room at the back of the bar. They saw money wrapped in paper passed to defendant’s wife over the counter by several customers in the bar. He was in plain clothes, and he wrapped 5s in some paper and tried to pass it the same way to defendant’s wife, but she refused it. She replied looking towards her husband and said, ‘I should think you want to rule me.’

The conversation was all about horse racing. He told them when he handed the money in that he wanted to back the horses whose names were written on the paper. He wrote that he wished to put 2s 6d on ‘Karacle’ for a win, and ‘Jacobs’ for a place. He called *Gibbs* into the backyard subsequently and gave him the money wrapped in the paper. He told him he wanted to back two horses, when he replied that it would be all right. He unwrapped the money and put both in his pocket. He asked if he gave titbets and he replied, ‘Not on the day of the race.’ He said they had to be very careful nowadays. He gave the name of Luke Wood, of Birmingham, and said he was a clerk.

Mr. A. Young, who defended, said that according to his own showing he told three lies straight off.

Witness: Oh no, I have not.

Mr. Young: Did you not say that your name was Wood, that you lived in Birmingham, and that you were a clerk?

Witness: Yes, but I never tell a lie on oath.

Mr. Young: Were you sent there specially to tell lies?

The Clerk: I suppose he was.

Mr. Young: Then you will tell as many lies as you like when off oath? Mr. Young went on to remark that it was a great mistake that a man should be told off to tell lies, and had heard many magistrates strongly condemn such practice.

PC Hetherage confirmed the statements of the last witness.

Mr. Young then addressed the Court at length, and stated that this was a prosecution of a highly penal character, and if the charges were sustained the magistrates had power to impose penalties amounting to £100. He pointed out that the evidence was totally uncorroborated, and all legislation was to the effect that at least two witnesses should give evidence and corroborate each other. He admitted that wherever they went either in a public house or in the streets, they were continually hearing it dinned into their ears about horse racing, and the state of the betting, but because they were talking about racing it did not implicate his client. The evidence of the officer himself showed that he went to put his money on the horse, and being a stranger, and in plain clothes, he was refused point blank by the wife and husband, and that model policeman went back to his pall and used a word he would not have polluted his mouth with, 'That it was no b—— good.' Then the officer came there and told a parcel of lies on the subject. They had been taught from their childhood that there was no excuse for telling lies. Here was an officer who had told those lies and smiled about it in the witness box. He had heard some of the most pungent and scathing observations from judges in that land against persons indulging in lies to entrap anyone. Such a man who would tell lies in that manner when off oath, would not be over nice in giving his evidence on oath.

The magistrates retired for nearly half an hour to consider their verdict, and on returning into Court Mr. Sadler said they had carefully considered the matter and thought that a fine of £1 and costs would meet the case, without endorsing the license."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/9/1888

"The adjourned annual licensing session for the Oldbury Division took place yesterday. There were three cases that had been adjourned from the annual meeting.....

*Mark Gibbs*, DOG AND PHEASANT, Flash Road.....

The Bench cautioned the applicants as to their future conduct, and then renewed the licenses."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 25/3/1889

"Yesterday morning Edwin Hazlewood (36), carpenter, of Church Street, Oldbury, was found dead in a garden belonging to Mr. *Mark Gibbs*, of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Flash Road, Oldbury. It appears that deceased left the public house named above on Saturday night, about half-past ten, and it was supposed that he had gone home. Yesterday morning, however, a man named Joseph Saul found him lying head foremost in a catch-pit in the garden, and he had apparently died from suffocation. Police-sergeant Stanton and Police-constable Bryant removed the body to the mortuary. The catch-pit was about 23in square and 2ft 6in deep, and contained about 6in of liquid. An inquest will be held."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 27/3/1889

"An inquest was held yesterday afternoon at Oldbury, before Mr. E. Docker (coroner), respecting the death of Edwin Hazelwood (36), wagon builder, of Church Street, Oldbury, who was found dead in a catch-pit in a garden belonging to Mr. *Mark Gibbs*, of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Flash Road, on Sunday morning. It appeared that a brother of the deceased lived near the garden where the body was found. On Saturday night, about 10.40, deceased left the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, and it is supposed that he went to his brother's house, and that instead of returning by the footpath he walked on the garden, and stumbling over some low palisades, fell head foremost into the catch-pit, which was only 23in square, 2ft 6in deep, and contained 6in of liquid. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated."

#### Evesham Standard 28/12/1889 - Advert

“Good General Servant Wanted, at once, used to Public-house (or one who would not object to Public-house). Wages £8 per annum. Good character required.

Apply, Mrs. *Gibbs*, DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Flash Road, Oldbury.”

AND

“Strong Lad Wanted, to live in house, assist in Brewing and Pigs, make himself generally useful. Wages £7 per annum.

Apply, Mrs. *Gibbs*, DOG AND PHEASANT INN Flash Road, Oldbury.”

#### 1891 Census

30, Flash Road – DOG AND PHEASANT

[1] *Mark Gibbs* (53), licensed victualler, born Easington, Warwickshire;

[2] *Hannah Gibbs* (38), wife, born Campden, Gloucestershire;

[3] *Alfred Gibbs* (19), son, painter house, born Oldbury;

[4] *Ellen Gibbs* (17), daughter, dressmaker, born Oldbury;

[5] *Florence Gibbs* (15), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] *Hubert Gibbs* (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] *George Price* (17), brewer’s servant, born Alcester, Warwickshire;

[8] *Sarah Caton* (17), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

#### Sporting Life 30/4/1892

“Mr. S. Hughes, of the RED COW INN, Bilston, will match the Brother dog to Mr. *M. Gibbs*’s Star (late Joe Joe), of the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Oldbury, to course the best of twenty-one rabbits, and give or receive at the rate of 1 yard start to the pound, for £25 or £50 a-side. The match to be run on Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury. Mr. Huse will be at the above grounds on Monday next prepared to make the match. *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder.”

*Mark Gibbs* – see also BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, and BROWN LION, Birmingham Street.

*Arthur Duffield* was also a brewer. [1896]

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 13/1/1900

“The annual meeting of the Crabtree Society [Sick and Dividend Society] was held on Saturday evening at the club house, the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Flash Road. The year’s working, on the whole, was very satisfactory. After paying £27 in sick pay and two funerals, there was a dividend of 9s each to 130 members.....”

#### 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.....

*G. H. Crabtree*, DOG AND PHEASANT, Oldbury, 175.”

#### 1901 Census

30, Flash Road – DOG AND PHEASANT INN

[1] *George H. Crabtree* (38), public house manager, born Sutton Coldfield;

[2] *Elizabeth Crabtree* (24), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Archie J. Crabtree* (12), son, born Oldbury;

[4] *Elizabeth Crabtree* (13), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] *James H. Crabtree* (11 months), son, born Oldbury;

[6] *Mary A. Hames* (36), widow, domestic servant, born Greet Green:

*George Herbert Crabtree* – see also PERROTT ARMS.



A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

*John Henry Williams* = James Henry Williams

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/2/1910

“Joseph James (24), a collier, and son of the caretaker of the Abbey Road Schools, Warley, was committed for trial to the Worcester Assizes at a special court at Oldbury yesterday on charges of larceny and attempted larceny.

From the evidence it appeared that the prisoner entered the BIRD IN HAND INN, Simpson Street, Oldbury, on January 31, and called for some ale. He was afterwards left alone for a minute or two, and then went to the KINGS ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, where he said that he had had some money from the other public house, and proceeded to treat all the customers, spending 4s 6d. Subsequently he went to the DOG AND PHEASANT INN, Flash Road, and while there was seen by a servant from the scullery window to lean over the counter and interfere with the till. When the landlady spoke to him he said he was choking, and went away. It was ascertained later that 6s 5d had been taken from a glass at the back of the bar in the BIRD IN HAND public house.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/2/1910

“Worcestershire Assizes.....

Joseph James (24), miner, was charged with stealing some money belonging to Emmanuel Love, licensee of the BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street, Oldbury.

Prosecutor said he put 7s 4d in a jug on a shelf at 9.30. Later he missed 6s 5d.

Other witnesses stated that prisoner was at the inn, and afterwards spent 4s 6d at another house.

Prisoner now said he had never drunk any beer in his life and he was not in Oldbury that night.

The jury found the prisoner guilty. Superintendent Hill said prisoner had respectable parents, who tried to keep him from a life of crime, which he commenced in 1903. Prisoner had been charged at Oldbury Police Court several times for offences similar to this, whilst he had also been convicted for burglary.

Prisoner said that if the Commissioner gave him three years it would be the making of him.

The Commissioner: Very well, I will. Three years' penal servitude.”

1911 Census

30, Flash Road – DOG AND PHEASANT

[1] *James Henry Williams* (36), publican, born Monmouth;

[2] Catherine Williams (34), wife, married 5 years, born Oldbury;

[3] James Henry Williams (4), son, born Oldbury:

*Albert Rose* was fined £5 and £3 7s 0d costs, on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1925, for supplying intoxicating liquor to PC H. R. Pardoe when on duty without authority of some supervisory officer.

1939 Register

30, Flash Road

[1] *Harry Keen*, date of birth 15/1/1879, licensee, manager, married;

[2] Dorothy J. (Jane) Keen, dob 25/7/1884, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Harry Keen, dob 20/11/1915, grinder, seamless, steel tube, single:

Birmingham Daily Post 11/11/1959 - Deaths

“Harry Keen, beloved husband of Dorothy, of 7, Albert Road, Hasbury (formerly of the DOG AND PHEASANT, Oldbury), passed away, suddenly on November 9, in his 81<sup>st</sup> year. Funeral service, Quinton Cemetery, on Friday at 1pm. Flowers to W. J. Gane & Sons, 766, Hagley Road West Quinton, by 12 noon.”

*Frank Alfred Pratley* – see also OLD TALBOT.

Closed

## DUKE OF MALAKOFF

33, (32), West Bromwich Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Edward Idoine

Mrs. Edward Idoine, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury

Mrs. Susannah Idoine

### LICENSEES

Edward Idoine [1861] – **1894**);

Auguste Idoine (**1894 – 1906**):

### NOTES

32, West Bromwich Street [1873], [1881]

33, West Bromwich Street [1891], [1901]

It had a beerhouse license.

#### 1861 Census

West Bromwich Street – DUKE OF MALAKOFF

[1] *Edward Idoine* (40), retail brewer, born France;

[2] Susannah Idoine (38), wife, born Tamworth;

[3] Ann Idoine (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] Edward Idoine (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Cecale Idoine (4), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] Henry Idoine (3), son, born Oldbury;

[7] Leon Idoine (6 months), son, born Oldbury:

*Edward Idoine*, beer retailer, West Bromwich Street. [1865], [1866], [1870], [1872]

#### 1871 Census

West Bromwich Street – DUKE OF MALAKOFF

[1] *Edward Idoine* (54), innkeeper, born France;

[2] Susannah Idoine (48), wife, born Warwickshire;

[3] Ann Idoine (20), daughter, dressmaker, born Oldbury;

[4] Edward Idoine (16), son, fitter, born Oldbury;

[5] Cecil Idoine (14), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Henry Idoine (13), son, born Oldbury;

[7] Leon Idoine (11), son, born Oldbury;

[8] Eugen Idoine (8), son, born Oldbury;

[9] *Augast Idoine* (5), son, born Oldbury;

[10] Katherine Idoine (2), daughter, born Oldbury:

*Edward Idoine*, beer retailer, 32, West Bromwich Street. [1873]

#### 1881 Census

32, West Bromwich Street – MALAKOFF

- [1] *Edward Idoine* (64), beerhouse keeper, born Seine St. Marne, France;
- [2] Susannah Idoine (57), wife, born Long, Staffordshire;
- [3] Henry Idoine (23), son, fitter in hollow-ware factory, born Oldbury;
- [4] Leon Idoine (20), son, fitter in hollow-ware factory, born Oldbury;
- [5] Eugene Idoine (18), son, moulder in foundry, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Auguste Idoine* (15), son, moulder in foundry, born Oldbury;
- [7] Catherine Idoine (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Sarah Hughes (13), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1890

“Yesterday, at the Oldbury Police Court, *Edward Idoine*, landlord of the DUKE OF MALAKOFF INN, West Bromwich Street, was fined 18s, including costs, for selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 21<sup>st</sup> ult.”

#### 1891 Census

33, West Bromwich Street – DUKE OF MALAKOFF

- [1] *Edward Idoine* (72), beer seller, born France;
- [2] Susan Idoine (68), wife, born Tamworth;
- [3] Henry Idoine (14), grand-son, apprentice to fitting trade, born Oldbury;
- [4] Charles Idoine (12), grand-son, scholar, born Oldbury;

*Edward Idoine* – see also NEW CART AND HORSES.

He died in April 1902.

*Auguste Idoine*, beer retailer, 33, West Bromwich Street. [1896]

#### 1901 Census

33, West Bromwich Street

- [1] *Augustus Idoine* (35), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Mary A. Idoine (35), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] William E. Idoine (16), son, commercial clerk, born Smethwick;
- [4] Edgar Idoine (14), son, office boy (brewery), born West Bromwich;
- [5] Beatrice M. Idoine (8), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Ada Idoine (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Edward Idoine* (82), father, retired publican, born Paris (British subject);
- [8] Susannah Idoine (78), mother, born Tamworth;
- [9] Elizabeth Stanley (15), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.

It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

#### Birmingham Mail 24/6/1905

“The adjourned meeting of the Worcester County Licensing Committee was held today at the Shirehall, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, for the consideration of licenses of houses in Oldbury which had been reported by the local justices as not being necessary for the requirements of the district.....

As to the DUKE OF MALAKOFF, West Bromwich Street, Mr. Matthews said it was the only free house before the Committee. A petition was received in favour of the retention of the license, and Superintendent Hill gave the house a good character.....

After deliberating half an hour, the justices decided that all the houses brought before them were unneces-

sary, but not being certain how far compensation money would suffice to meet the claims to be paid, drew up an order of precedence in which houses are to be dealt with, houses not paid for keeping open provisionally till they are dealt with.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

13. DUKE OF MALAKOFF, West Bromwich Street.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/8/1905

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee having decided to refuse fifteen Oldbury licenses, as the amount of the compensation fund available allows, sat yesterday at the Shire Hall, Worcester, to decide who are the persons entitled to compensation.....

With regard to the DUKE OF MALAKOFF INN, West Bromwich Street, Mrs. Susannah Idione, registered owner, and *Augusta Idione*, licensee, and the trustees of the will of the late Mr. *Edward Idione*, were declared the parties interested. Mr. Daw remarked that Mrs. Idione relinquished her claim in favour of the trustee.”

#### Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years’ purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years’ purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

DUKE OF MALAKOFF, £125.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division.....

The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

DUKE OF MALAKOFF, West Bromwich Street, £390.

The committee made awards as follows.....

DUKE OF MALAKOFF, West Bromwich Street, £50 to *Augusti Idoine*, licensee, £335 to the trustees and executors of the will of *Edward Idoine*, deceased.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

## DUKE OF YORK

15, (39), Talbot Street, (Halesowen Street), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Benjamin Duffield (later at Bromford Lane, Oldbury)  
Oldbury Charity Trustees

## LICENSEES

Griffiths [1863]  
Thomas Griffiths [1871]  
Benjamin Duffield [1881] – **1884**);  
Sarah (Duffield) Pearson (**1884 – 1886**);  
Benjamin Duffield (**1886 – 1891**);  
Sarah Pearson (**1891 – 1894**);  
Stephen Turner (**1894 – 1896**);  
Alfred James Sadler (**1896 – 1898**);  
Richard Simpson (**1898 – 1904**);  
Eliza Jane Duffield (**1904 – 1906**):

## NOTES

39, Talbot Street [1871], [1881]  
15, Talbot Street [1891], [1901]

It had a beerhouse license.

### Birmingham Journal 28/2/1863 - Advert

“To Bakers and Others.

To be Sold (a bargain), the owner having no further use for them, One Dough Trough, Strainer, seven Peels, four dozen Bread Tins and Rings, six Cake Tins, Door and Frame, Dampers and Frames, Water Heater, 2ft by 1ft, with Pipe and Tap, the whole nearly new.

Apply to Mr. *Griffiths*, the DUKE OF YORK INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.”

### Stourbridge Observer 15/9/1866

“On Tuesday, the annual licensing meeting was held in the Magistrates’ Room.....

There were three applications for old licenses.....

Mrs. *Mary Edwards*, DUKE OF YORK, Oldbury. She was opposed by Mr. Shakespeare, instructed by the Licensed Victuallers’ Association.

In answer to Mr. Shakespeare Mrs. *Edwards* said she was a widow. Her house had been a public house only for six months. It was a butcher’s shop previously. There are three bedrooms. A man and wife and three children, besides herself and servant and girl living with her. She had some ground behind the house, but had never said she would turn it into a racing ground. She never told John Collins that.

The magistrates refused the license on the ground that the house was not suitable.”

AND

County Advertiser 15/9/1866

“The annual licensing meeting of the magistrates was held on Tuesday.....

Three new applications for licenses were made and adjudicated upon as follow.....

*Mary Ann Edwards*, DUKE OF YORK INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury. Mr. Shakespeare appeared to oppose on behalf of the Licensed Victuallers’ Society. Application refused.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 17/8/1867 - Advert

“DUKE OF YORK INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, in the neighbourhood of Iron and Brick Works, and best thoroughfare in town. Doing a good in and out-door Business. An excellent roomy Premises. In-coming £60.

Apply, A. Alltree, Auctioneer, Church Square.”

Birmingham Journal 12/10/1867 - Advert

“DUKE OF YORK INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction by A. Altree, on Monday Next, October 14<sup>th</sup>, commencing at Eleven – the whole of Brewing Plant, Barrels, Fixtures, Fittings, patent four-pull Lever Machine, Signs, Furniture, &c.”

1871 Census

39, Talbot Street – DUKE OF YORK

[1] *Thomas Griffiths* (53), labourer, born Tipton;

[2] *Nancy Griffiths* (51), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Mary Griffiths* (20), daughter, born Langley;

[4] *William Griffiths* (16), son, labourer, born Langley;

[5] *Walter Griffiths* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *Thomas Richards* (83), boarder, pensioner, born West Bromwich:

1881 Census

39, Talbot Street

[1] *Benjamin Duffield* (42), engine driver, born Oldbury;

[2] *Sarah Duffield* (40), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *Benjamin Duffield* (16), son, general labourer, born Rowley:

*Mrs. Sarah Duffield*, beer retailer, Talbot Street. [1884]

*Benjamin Duffield* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1884.

*Sarah Duffield* married *David Pearson* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1885.

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/10/1887

“*Benjamin Duffield*, landlord of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Talbot Street, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult.

PC Cornell stated that at 12.15 at night on the date in question he saw defendant very drunk, in Talbot Street, and two others taking him home. He refused to go in the house and he pushed his wife about. In twenty minutes afterwards he went again, and he would not go in then, when he reported the case to the Sergeant. Mr. Shakespeare defended and said there was not a particle of evidence of bad behaviour, and therefore no case.

The case was dismissed.”

*Benjamin Duffield*, beer retailer, Talbot Street. [1888]

1891 Census

15, Talbot Street

[1] *Benjamin Duffield* (26), widower, publican, born Oldbury;

[2] Benjamin Duffield (2), son, born Oldbury;

[3] Annie Ramsdale (28), housekeeper, born Wolverhampton;

[4] Charlotte Steven (16), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/5/1891

“Yesterday *Henry* [sic] *Duffield*, landlord of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, was charged with being drunk on his licensed premises on the 31<sup>st</sup> inst, also with refusing to admit Police-sergeant Hill on the same date. Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

Police-sergeant Hill deposed that about one o’clock am he saw lights in defendant’s bar and also heard voices. He knocked at the door several times and asked to be admitted. A man came to the window, but did not offer to open the door. Witness continued knocking at the door for about forty minutes before it was opened. He went through the house, and in coming to the door of the store-room he found it was locked, and defendant refused to unlock it. Defendant also became very abusive, and said he would have the officer’s coat taken off him. Defendant was drunk.

Police-constables Jones, Wagstaff, and Bibb gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, pleaded that *Duffield* refused to admit the police because he considered they were exceeding their right, owing to some ill-feeling against him, in asking to be admitted at an unreasonable hour.

Defendant was fined £2 9s, including costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1891

“Yesterday at the Police Court, *Benjamin Duffield*, landlord of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, was charged with being drunk in Talbot Street, and also with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. Jacob Mills and Keziah Mills, of Talbot Street, were charged with being drunk on the premises during illegal hours; and Thomas Mills was also summoned for being drunk in the locality of the public house referred to. Mr. J. Sharpe defended.

Police-sergeant Hill stated that at 1.30am, on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst, he heard a disturbance and threats to murder in the direction of defendant’s house. He found a regular brawl going on, the landlord and Jacob and Keziah Mills were there in a drunken condition. When asked why they were there at that time, Mrs. Mills said they had come to see about the brewing. He (the officer) told them they were not fit to brew, as they were all so drunk.

Mr. Sharpe, for the defence, urged that there was no offence in law if the landlord was found drunk upon his own licensed premises. Recently *Duffield* had lost his wife, and his child being subject to fits, Mrs. Mills was in the habit of going in to assist him with the child. On the occasion in question one of her sons followed her into the DUKE OF YORK INN.

*Duffield* stated that he was not aware that Mrs. Mills and her son were in the house when Sergeant Hill came, as he was in the back premises attending to the brewing furnace.

*Duffield* was fined 16s 6d, including costs, for being drunk. The charge of permitting drunkenness was dismissed. The other defendants were ordered to pay as follow: Jacob Mills, 16s 6d; Keziah Mills, 16s 6d; and Thomas Mills, 12s 6d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1891

“The annual licensing session for Oldbury petty sessional division was held yesterday at the Court-house. Superintendent Speke presented his annual report, which showed there were now in the division 4,340 inhabited houses, compared with 3,930 in the year 1881, being an increase of 410 during the last ten years, and there was one house for the sale of intoxicants to about each 154 inhabitants. The Sunday evening services of sacred music and song held at various licensed houses in the division, and to which he called their attention at the last licensing meeting, were now entirely suppressed.....

Superintendent Speke objected to the renewal of the license of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, to *Benjamin Duffield*.

The Chairman (Mr. J. E. Wilson) remarked that the justices had considered the report of the superintendent

of police, and were glad to see there had been an increase in the number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness, and also an increase in the number of convictions, amounting to something like 25 per cent. The whole of the licenses were renewed, with the exception of ten persons on the black list, whose applications were postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1891

“Yesterday the adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury petty sessional division were held.....

The Clerk read over the list of persons whose applications for renewals had been adjourned on the ground that convictions had been recorded against them during the past year. The chairman said the Bench had carefully considered the list of adjourned applications and also the objections raised by the police.

In the case of *Benjamin Duffield*, of the DUKE OF YORK INN, they had come to the conclusion that they should not be justified in renewing the license to *Duffield*, and his application would be refused.

There were several other cases in which fines were inflicted during the past year, and he wished to remind all those persons that the Bench were extremely desirous that very great care should be exercised by the holders of licenses within the division during the coming year. The remainder of the adjourned licenses were then all renewed.

On the application of Mr. J. S. Sharpe, the Bench sanctioned the transfer of the license of the DUKE OF YORK INN from *Benjamin Duffield* to his mother, who had formerly kept the house.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1894

“The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held yesterday.....

Superintendent Chare, in his annual report, stated that at the present time there were 148 persons licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, which gave one house for the sale of intoxicants to about every 153 of the inhabitants. During the year 237 males and 17 females were proceeded against for drunkenness.....

He had given notice to *Sarah Pearson*, of the DUKE OF YORK INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, of his intention to oppose the renewal of her license on the ground that she had broken the conditions upon which the license was granted to her, viz, by allowing her son, *Benjamin Duffield*, to take part in the business and to reside on the premises, and that there was no necessity for a license to the house, the requirements of the district being amply provided for.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 29/9/1894

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The licenses of ..... DUKE OF YORK ..... were renewed.”

*Stephen Turner*, beer retailer, 15, Talbot Street. [1896]

*Stephen Turner* was fined 20s and 38s 6d costs, on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1896, for supplying drink to a drunken person.

#### 1901 Census

15, Talbot Street – DUKE OF YORK INN

- [1] *Richard Simpson* (38), beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Hannah Simpson* (36), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Richard Simpson* (16), son, house painter’s assistant, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Samuel Simpson* (15), son, ironworker (moulder), born Oldbury;
- [5] *Annie Simpson* (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Clara Simpson* (11), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Bertie Simpson* (9), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Arthur Simpson* (7), son, born Oldbury;
- [9] *Beatie Simpson* (5), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [10] *Doris M. Simpson* (3), daughter, born Oldbury:

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.  
It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.



Birmingham Mail 24/6/1905

“The adjourned meeting of the Worcester County Licensing Committee was held today at the Shirehall, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, for the consideration of licenses of houses in Oldbury which had been reported by the local justices as not being necessary for the requirements of the district.....

The DUKE OF YORK, Talbot Street, was described as complicated. The Oldbury Charity Trustees are the owners, the lease for 42 years being held by representatives of the late Mr. *Ben Duffield*, who sub-let to Enoch Baldwin, while the tenant is Mrs. *Duffield*, who thereby obtains a livelihood for herself and invalid son. Messrs. Sharp, Matthews, and Brown appeared for the parties.....

After deliberating half an hour, the justices decided that all the houses brought before them were unnecessary, but not being certain how far compensation money would suffice to meet the claims to be paid, drew up an order of precedence in which houses are to be dealt with, houses not paid for keeping open provisionally till they are dealt with.”

Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

12. DUKE OF YORK, Talbot Street.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/8/1905

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee having decided to refuse fifteen Oldbury licenses, as the amount of the compensation fund available allows, sat yesterday at the Shire Hall, Worcester, to decide who are the persons entitled to compensation.....

DUKE OF YORK, Talbot Street, *Eliza Jane Duffield* (licensee), and the same person and Thomas Porter, Birmingham Road, trustees under the will of *Benjamin Duffield*, Walter Enoch Middleton (lessee), and the Oldbury Charity Trustees.”

Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years' purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years' purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

DUKE OF YORK, £475.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division..... The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

DUKE OF YORK, Talbot Street, £565.

The committee made awards as follows.....

DUKE OF YORK, Talbot Street, £28 to the licensee, *Eliza J. Duffield*, £297 to the owners, *Eliza Duffield* and the representatives of the late *Benjamin Duffield*, and £240 to the lessee, Walter Enoch Middleton.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

## **EAGLE**

57, (59+61), (26+27), (27), Park Lane, (Park House Lane), Langley, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

George Hollis

Lois Hollis

Holders Brewery Co. Ltd. (acquired c.1908) [1909]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired c.1920)

## **LICENSEES**

George Floyd [1858] – **1858**;

Myra Markwick (**1858** – [ ]

William Hirons [1861] – [1862]

Sarah Burton [ ] – **1863**;

James Harris (**1863** – [1865]

George Hollis [1867] – **1887**;

Mrs. Lois Hollis (**1887** – **1906**);

Joseph Lewis (**1906** – **1912**);

Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis (**1912** – **1914**);

Robert Reed Snr. (**1914** – **1922**);

Robert Reed Jnr. (**1922** – **1940**);

## **NOTES**

Park House Lane [1871]

27, Park Lane [1873]

26+27, Park Lane [1881]

59+61, Park Lane [1891]

57, Park Lane [1896], [1912], [1916], [1921]

59, Park Lane [1939]

*George Floyd* was also a grocer. [1858]

*Myra Markwick* = Mirah Markwick

County Advertiser 23/10/1858 - Advert

“Economy in Brewing.

Thomas Mees, Boiler Maker, Bell Works, Brierley Hill, begs to call attention to the superiority of his Wrought-iron Brewing Boilers, over those of either copper or cast-iron; being one-third less the cost of copper, and more durable than either. Cast-iron boilers are made hot-blast, cinder iron, are very liable to burst from expansion and contraction, or from having cold water put into them when hot, and also by frosty weather. The wrought-iron boilers are made of the best charcoal iron, from 20 to 200 gallons each, or larger if required, are worked at 25 per cent less cost in fuel and labour; and if erected by an experienced mason will last for twenty years.

These Boilers may be seen in use at.....

EAGLE TAVERN, Oldbury.”

*Myra Markwick* married *William Hiron* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1859.

*Myra Markwick* – see also SEVEN STARS, Park Lane.

Birmingham Journal 1/12/1860 - Advert

“A Fortune To Be Made In A Few Years.

By Private Treaty. Valuable Freehold Public House, a Provision Shop; also Five Private Dwelling Houses, nearly new; and Land, situate in Park Lane, near to the town of Oldbury and Langley, and in the immediate neighbourhood of iron, brick, mining, and the Alkali Works of Messrs. Chance Brothers, and forms a very desirable investment, as there is available space to erect more dwellings, which are always in demand. The Public House is doing a very lucrative business, brewing one and half hogsheads of Ale per week, besides a heavy trade in Spirits.

Also to an enterprising Party the neighbourhood affords plenty of scope for a Butcher. The annual amount of rents producing the sum of £74 8s.

For further particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. A. G. Atree, Auctioneer and Valuer, Halesowen Street, Oldbury; or to Mr. *George Floyd*, Provision Dealer, upon the spot.”

1861 Census

Park Lane

- [1] *William Hiron* (30), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Myra Hiron* (36), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Sarah Markwick (10), step-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] George Markwick (9), step-son, engineer's boy, born Oldbury;
- [5] Thomas Markwick (6), step-son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] William Hiron (1½), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Myra Hiron* (5 months), daughter, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/4/1862 - Advert

“To Parties Wishing A Good Old-Licensed Public House.

To be Let, with immediate possession, if required, that well-situated Public House, the EAGLE TAVERN, adjacent to Messrs. Chance's extensive works at Oldbury, and fronting a road of great traffic; brewing every week. Coming-in about £70. Satisfactory reasons for the present tenant leaving.

Apply on the premises, or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Round Oak, Brierley Hill.”

London Gazette 13/6/1862

“*William Hiron*, late of Park-lane, in the township of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, but now of Birmingham-road, West Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, Publican and Carter, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, on the 11th day of June, 1862, is hereby required to surrender himself to George Steward Watson,

Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 30th day of June instant, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at his chambers, High-street, Westbromwich. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, Gentlemen, of Oldbury, are the Official Assignees, and Messrs. Hayes and Wright, of Oldbury, are the Solicitors acting in the bankruptcy."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/8/1862

"County Court.....

In re *William Hiron*, publican and carter, Smethwick Road. This bankrupt obtained his order of discharge, supported by Mr. Wright (Hayes and Wright), unopposed."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/8/1862 - Notice

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. Order of Discharge. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury. In the matter of *William Hiron*, late of Park Lane, in the township of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Publican and Carter. Whereas, at a Public Sitting of the Court, held this day, the Court granted an Order of Discharge to the said Bankrupt.

Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the said Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless in the meantime an Appeal be duly entered against the Judgement of the said Court.

Dated this 2nd day of August, 1862.

Messrs. Hayes and Wright, of Oldbury, are the Solicitors acting in the Bankruptcy."

G. S. Watson, Esq, Registrar. J. Brooks, High Bailiff."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/8/1867 - Advert

"An Old-licensed Inn, close to three different works, and frequented by their men. In-coming low. Apply on the Premises, EAGLE TAVERN, Park Lane, Oldbury."

Dudley Herald 30/11/1867

"Alexander Nock, Edward Nock, two brothers, were charged with assaulting *George* and *Elizabeth Hollis*, man and wife – keepers of the EAGLE TAVERN, Park Lane, Oldbury on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst ..... Fined 10s each."

1871 Census

Park House Lane – EAGLE TAVERN

[1] *George Hollis* (36), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Lois Hollis* (30), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] Ann Hawkins (13), niece, scholar, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1872 - Advert

"Stolen, on Wednesday night last, from the EAGLE TAVERN, Park Lane, Oldbury, a Brown-and-white Spaniel Dog, with white round his neck; Tail not cut with the end white.

Anyone returning him, or giving any information to Mr. *G. Hollis*, at the above address, will receive a Reward."

County Express 20/6/1874 - Advert

"Park Lane, and Park Street, Oldbury.

Freehold Old Licensed Public House, Grocers Shop, Thirteen Dwelling Houses, and Eligible Building Land. Messrs. Hawkins and Son will Sell by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1874, at six o'clock in the evening, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale, and subject to conditions to be then read.

Lot 1. All that double fronted Old Licensed Public House, known as the EAGLE TAVERN, comprising Four Rooms on the ground floor, Four Bed and other Rooms, Cellar, Two Brewhouses, Stable, Store Room, and enclosed yard, together with the House adjoining, fronting to Park Lane, in the occupation of *George Hollis* and *George Atkin*....."

County Express 24/4/1875

“On Thursday afternoon an adjourned inquest was held at the EAGLE INN, Langley, before Mr. R. Docker, touching the death of Priscilla Davenport, aged eleven years, who lived in Park Lane, and who was killed at Mr. Westwood’s grinding mill on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst.

Maria Bastable stated that about one o’clock on the day mentioned she saw the deceased entangled in the shafting, and immediately caused the machinery to be stopped, but it was found that the little girl was quite dead. Her body was shockingly mutilated and torn, the top of her head being taken completely off. The deceased was playing in the yard, when the shafting, which was not protected, caught a portion of her clothing, and after whirling her round dashed her many times against the adjoining wall.

The Coroner said he should give the owner of the works (Mr. James Sadler) orders to have the shafting protected; and if he failed to comply with the request, he should hold him criminally responsible for future accidents. He should also make it his duty to acquaint Mr. Baker (the inspector of factories) with the circumstances.

The jury then returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and cautioned Mr. Westwood, the occupier of the mill, not to work it again until the projecting shafting was cut off or properly protected.”

*Lois Hollis* = Louis Hollis

1881 Census

26+27, Park Lane – EAGLE TAVERN

- [1] *George Hollis* (46), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Louis Hollis* (40), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Ann Dunn (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*George Hollis* died in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1886.

Smethwick Telephone 11/12/1886

“Oldbury Police Court. Tuesday ..... Transfers of Licenses.....  
Temporary Authorities ..... *George Hollis* to *Louis Hollis*.”

1891 Census

59+61, Park Lane – EAGLE TAVERN

- [1] *Lois Hollis* (50), widow, licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Sarah Baker (17), servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 2/2/1892

“Last evening Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the EAGLE TAVERN, Langley, concerning the death of Edward Williams (14), of Park Lane, who was killed on Thursday night last whilst employed at Messrs. Simpson and Co.’s Ironworks.

John Dyson, stocktaker, said the deceased was employed in the testing department at the works, and in addition to picking up the ends of the bars of iron after they had been cut by the shears, it was his duty under his (witness’s) direction to turn on or take off the steam supplied to a small engine which worked the shears. In consequence of a pin in the blade of the shears being broken he told deceased on Thursday evening to stop the engine and he did so. When the machinery was ready for restarting witness requested Williams to tun on the steam again. Upon looking round he saw the deceased near the fly-wheel, he having got under the fencing which protected the engine. Witness called out to the boy not to touch the wheel, but the wheel at that moment commenced to revolve rapidly and deceased was drawn over and thrown into the cogwheels near. Witness ran and stopped the engine at once, but it was too late to save the boy, who appeared to be killed instantaneously. If the engine would not start, it was the deceased’s duty to report it to witness, who would have then taken off the steam and moved the wheel off centre.

A juror asked if witness thought it was proper for a boy fourteen years of age to be employed in such work as starting and stopping an engine. Witness replied that it was quite safe, providing he only did what he was told to do. In reply to another juror, witness said that deceased ought not to have gone under the fence, and

should not have attempted to move the wheel off centre whilst the steam was turned on.

Richard Moore corroborated.

A letter was read from Captain Bevan (inspector of factories), stating that he had inspected the place where the accident occurred, and found that the protection required by the Factory Act had been provided.

The jury returned a verdict of Accident Death.”

### 1901 Census

Park Lane – EAGLE TAVERN

[1] *Louis Hollis* (61), widow, licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Minnie Faulkner* (17), domestic servant, born Birmingham;

[3] *George Cockbill* (50), boarder, haulier, born Oldbury:

*Lois Hollis* died in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1906.

### Smethwick Telephone 26/5/1906 - Advert

“Park Lane, Oldbury. Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Full-Licensed Property.

Mr. William Hackett will Sell by Auction, by order of the Trustees of the late Mrs. *Lois Hollis*, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1906, at Seven o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions of Sale.

All that Well-known and Old-established Freehold Full-Licensed Property known as the EAGLE TAVERN, Park Lane, Oldbury.

The House comprises Tap Room, Club Room, Front Bar, Bar and Smoke Room, Kitchen, two large Cellars, three Bedrooms, and Spirit and Store Room.

The Outhouses comprise Scullery, Stabling for 12 horses, Blacksmith’s and Painter’s Shop. There is a large Yard with gateway entrance. Gas and water laid on throughout.

Note. This is absolutely a Free House, with a Good Business, and as the Property is in close proximity to important Works, it is specially worthy of the attention of Brewers and Maltsters.

Possession will be given on completion of purchase.

Further particulars may be had from the Auctioneer, Oldbury, and Clent, near Stourbridge; or Wright and Hollins, Solicitors, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/4/1909

“Mr. A. M. Chance presided at the special Licensing Sessions at Oldbury yesterday, when Mr. J. S. Sharpe, on behalf of Holders Brewery Ltd, applied for permission to rebuild the following houses: SYCAMORE INN (L. V.), Clay Lane; SPREAD EAGLE (full licence), Park Lane; and the ROYAL OAK (beerhouse), corner of Langley Green Road and Causeway Green Road.

Mr. Sharpe said the police had objected to the renewal of the licence of the SYCAMORE, because the premises were structurally unsuitable. The plans provided for the rebuilding of the premises, which were old-fashioned and dilapidated. The domestic accommodation would be greatly improved, and in consideration of a slight increase in the drinking area they would surrender the licence of the RAILWAY INN, Langley Green Road, an ante-69 beerhouse. With regard to the other two applications there would be no increase in the drinking area, but the domestic quarters would be much improved in each case. The ROYAL OAK would be set back some distance, and 150 square yards of land would be given up for improving the corner. Mr. A. Edwards, architect, of Birmingham, submitted plans, and said the cost would be about £1,000 in each case. The alterations would be completed in the licensing year.

Mr. Chance asked that the RAILWAY INN should be closed at Midsummer, and the applications were then granted, subject to the surrender being satisfactory.”

### 1911 Census

Park Lane – EAGLE TAVERN

[1] *Joseph Lewis* (37), licensed victualler, born Tat Bank;

[2] *Elizabeth Lewis* (34), wife, married 9 years, born Tat Bank;

[3] *Elizabeth F. Lewis* (8), daughter, born Tat Bank;

[4] Henry Lewis (5), son, born Oldbury;

[5] James Harrold Lewis (3), son, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/2/1914

“Mrs. *Elizabeth Lewis*, licensee of the EAGLE TAVERN, Park Lane, Oldbury, appeared before the local magistrates yesterday on a charge of supplying drink to a police-constable while he was on duty, and was ordered to pay £2 8s costs.

Mr. W. J. Clulow, who prosecuted on behalf of the Chief Constable, said he understood that the defendant pleaded guilty.

The facts of the case were that on the evening of Thursday, 29 January, Police-sergeant Dainty was on duty in plain clothes in the neighbourhood of the public house in question when he saw a police constable in uniform leaving the premises. The sergeant went to the police constable and asked him what his business in the house had been, and the latter replied that he had been speaking about a horse and trap which was standing outside.

Police-sergeant Dainty afterwards saw a man named Robinson, who was in charge of the horse and trap, and inquired of him as to what took place when the police constable was in the house. He replied quite fairly, and said that when the officer came in he asked him to have a glass of beer.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe (for the defence) said the order was given by the man Robinson, and it was a highly technical question as to whether or not Mrs. *Lewis* supplied the constable with drink through him.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/5/1919

“A verdict of Accidental Death was returned at the inquest yesterday on Charles Aston, aged 58, of Stafford Street, Dudley, a plasterer, who on May Day while engaged in taking down a ceiling at the EAGLE TAVERN, Oldbury, fell and subsequently died as the result of his injuries.”

Smethwick Telephone 5/3/1938

“Mr. Harold Eaden appeared on behalf of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers Ltd, to apply for the removal of the license of the EAGLE INN, Park Lane, Oldbury, to premises proposed to be erected at the corner of Kingsway (formerly Monckton Road) and Hagley Road West, Quinton. The application was supported by a number of residents of the district, who were represented by Mr. H. H. Willison; whilst opposition was forthcoming from the Rev. W. C. Russell (Minister of College Road Methodist Church) and other residents, who were represented by Mr. R. K. Brown.

Mr. Eaden said with regard to the EAGLE INN, this was in no sense a redundant house in which the trade fully justified itself. He had been privileged for some few years to make the present application, which was a progressive one in the sense that the increase of houses built and being built in the area of the site during the past three years would indicate that what he had said year after year had come true: the district had developed and was still developing. There had now been reached a point when they might reasonably come to the Justices and ask for the removal of that license. In 1936, there were 597 houses nearer to this site than to any other full license. In 1937, there were 696 houses built and 92 being built – a total of 788 houses. This year, developments had been such that there were now 816 houses built and occupied, and 86 houses being built – a total of 902 houses nearer to this site than to any other full license. Taking the generally accepted figure of four persons to a house, Mr. Eaden said this gave a population of 3,680 persons. The two nearest full licenses to these people were the STAG AND THREE HORSE SHOES (three-quarters of a mile away) and the HOLLY BUSH, also three-quarters of a mile away in the other direction. Both were built to serve a purely local population and not the new district which had sprung up between them. Mr. Eaden gave particulars of a petition which had been prepared. Of the 816 householders approached, 571 had signed in favour of the proposed licensed premises – a total of 70 per cent. Those against numbered 87 (10.66 per cent), and neutral, 83 (10.17 per cent). A few persons did not sign either way.

In evidence, Mr. Edwin F. Reynolds (architect) said the new house was intended to serve the needs of the neighbourhood, and not to cater for passing motorists. In reply to Mr. R. K. Brown, he said the car park would be used on the occasion of evening functions in the clubroom.

After a lengthy hearing, the Justices decided to grant the application, conditional upon the surrender of the NEW INNS, Ridgacre Lane.”

### 1939 Register

59, Park Lane

[1] *Robert Reed*, date of birth 6/8/1892, licensed victualler, manager, married;

[2] *Esther Reed*, dob 3/5/1890, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Ann E (Elizabeth) Spooner*, dob 10/10/1899, bar general, single;

[4] *Frank Cutler*, dob 18/9/1930, at school, single:

The license was not renewed.

It closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1940.

### **EDGE TOOL MAKERS**

Church Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

Enoch Turley [1850]

### NOTES

#### Birmingham Journal 5/10/1850 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale. EDGE TOOL MAKERS ARMS, opposite the Court House, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday, October 14, 1850.

The whole of the Public House Fixtures, Brewing Requisites, well seasoned Casks, Stock of Ale, Porter, Cider, Malt, Hops, Household Furniture, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Enoch Turley*, who is leaving the neighbourhood; comprising Screens, Drinking Tables, four-pull Beer Machine, pair Wood Racks, 150-gallon Boiler, eighteen-bushel Mashing Tub, very superior Casks, Malt Mill, sixty-four bushels of Malt, Pocket of Hops, thirty-six gallons of Porter, quantity of Ale, four casks of Cider, two fat Pigs, mahogany Dining, Drinking, and other Tables, excellent eight-day Clock, elegant mahogany Sideboard, horse-hair Sofa, six branches of Gas Fittings, Tent Bedsteads, six Feather Beds, six pairs of Blankets, twenty-four Windsor Chairs, and other Effects, particularised in catalogues.

The whole of the above Stock and Fixtures may be taken to previous to the sale at a fair valuation. Any Person wishing to embark in the Public Business will find this a desirable opportunity, as the House is well situated (being opposite the Court House), is doing an extensive trade, and rented moderately.

For particulars, apply on the Premises; or to the Auctioneer, High Street, Brierley Hill.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Conditions as usual.”

### **ENGINE**

Engine Street, OLDBURY



## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

## ENGINE

37, St. James Road (Street), (37, (10), Bath Row), Rounds Green, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

J. L. Turner  
Thomas Saul  
John Thompson  
J. A. and A. Thompson, Langley  
Thomas Oliver Ltd. (acquired c.1916)  
J. W. J. Kingstone Ltd. (acquired c.1920)  
Thomas Oliver Ltd. (acquired in 1924)  
William Butler and Co. Ltd.  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

## LICENSEES

Dennis Green [1861] – [1870]  
Thomas Saul [1871] – [1882]  
William James Hartland [1884] – **1894**);  
Harry Snead (**1894 – 1896**);  
John Ward (**1896 – 1901**);  
Eliza Hadley (**1901 – 1909**);  
John Henry Horton (**1909 – 1917**);  
Sarah Jane Horton (**1917 – 1921**);  
John Henry Horton (**1921 – 1924**);  
Minnie Williams (**1924 – [1962]**)

## NOTES

10, Bath Row [1871], [1881]  
37, Bath Row [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912]  
37, St. James Street [1916], [1921]  
37, St. James Road [1939]

It had a beerhouse license.

### Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1861 - Advert

“To be Sold, a bargain, a Horizontal Steam Engine, of 5-horse power; quite new.  
Apply to *Dennis Green*, ENGINE TAVERN, Rounds Green, near Oldbury.”

### 1861 Census

Bath Row

[1] *Dennis Green* (46), engineer and victualler, born Rowley;

[2] Mary Green (44), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Hannah Hanis (26), house servant, born Netherton:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/8/1863

“Thomas Sturges, beerhouse keeper, Rounds Green, and *Dennis Green*, beerhouse keeper of the same place, were convicted of selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, July 5. They were ordered to pay costs.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/12/1863 - Advert

“Freehold New Licensed Inn, the ENGINE TAVERN, Bath Row, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. S. Parkes, on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 1863, at Mr. John Green's, the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury, at Six o'clock in the Evening by order of the Trustees of Mr. J. L. Turner, subject to conditions to be then read.

The above well-built and Established New Licensed Inn, situated in one of the best business localities, and near the most important and oldest established works in the Midland Counties.

The Premises comprise Front Bar and Tap Room, Smoke Room, Servant's Kitchen, two Bed Rooms, large Club Room, two capital Cellars, Brewhouse, Malt and Hop Room, Piggeries, Yard, and other Appurtenances thereto belonging, with a good supply of Water, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Dennis Green*, at the rental of £25 per annum.

For further particulars apply to Mr. George S. Watson, Solicitor, West Bromwich; Messrs. Hayes and Wright, Solicitors, Oldbury; or Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer and Surveyor. Office, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/9/1864

“The annual meeting for the granting and renewal of licenses for the Oldbury and Hales Owen district was held yesterday.....

Mr. *Dennis Green*, Bath Row, Round Green, Oldbury, applied personally. This memorial was signed by the proprietor of the nearest licensed house. There was no opposition.....

After consideration, the Magistrates decided to grant the applications of ..... *Green*.”

*Dennis Green*, beer retailer, Rounds Green. [1865]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/4/1866

“J. Mellership will run Young Tudor of Dudley Port 100 yards, for £5 or £10 a side, or the Sack Chap of Great Bridge 120 yards, for £10 a side; or he will run Kit Smeath of Tipton 120 yards, for £10 a side; or Cooper's Lad of Shavers End 120 yards, for £5 or £10; or J. Thompson of Oldbury, for £10; or he will run O. Wirkeer of Great Bridge, if he will give him three yards start in 120, for £10 a side. Any of the above matches can be made any night next week at the ENGINE TAVERN, Rounds Green,”

Dudley Herald 11/1/1868 - Deaths

“On the 2nd inst at the house of her son *Dennis*, the ENGINE TAVERN, Bath Road, Rounds Green, in her 92nd year, Lucy, relict of John Green.”

Birmingham Journal 4/4/1868 - Advert

“To Publicans and Parties in search of really comfortable Home and Business, this desirable opportunity may be obtained by taking that genuine Old-licensed Public-House, the ENGINE INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, near Birmingham, situate within a few minutes' walk of a large Edge-Tool and Steel Manufactory; also Ironworks and Mining district. Purchase £150.

Apply to A. Atree, Church Square, Oldbury, or upon the Premises.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/5/1869

“Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, near Dudley.....

Mr. G. Green of Rounds Green will match his bitch Quick to run any of the following dogs 200 yards at

these Grounds – Wood’s Crazy of Oldbury, and will allow one yard start to the pound; or will take a yard to the pound of Wood’s Sweep, or run McDonald’s Fly of Dudley Port at catch weight, or Saunders’s Nance of Tipton at catch weight, or Garner’s Fly of Aston at catch weight, or Bunell’s Weasel of Oldbury, and give three yards start in 200. Either of these matches can be made, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *Green’s*, ENGINE TAVERN, Rounds Green.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 12/5/1870 - Advert

“To be Let, an Old-Licensed Public House, known as the ENGINE INN, situate in Bath Row, fronting Rounds Green Hills. Rent £20; coming-in about £60. There is every convenience necessary, with an abundant supply of Water, good Brewery, with Malt Room over, with Wort-pipe and Rolling Way into excellent Cellars; with large and well fitted up Club Room, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Bar Parlour, Parlour, &c. If not Let, to be Sold by Private Contract, with a small House adjoining; and being within a short distance of the old-established Brades Works, must make it a very desirable investment. Occupancy not changed for 13 years.

For particulars, apply to Messrs. John Green and Son, Auctioneers, JUNCTION VAULTS, Oldbury.”

#### 1871 Census

10, Bath Row – ENGINE TAVERN

- [1] *Thomas Saul* (42), engineer and publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Susannah Saul* (40), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] *Sarah Jane Saul* (19), daughter, assistant, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Harriott Saul* (15), daughter, assistant, born Oldbury;
- [5] *William Saul* (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Martha Louisa Saul* (9), daughter, scholar, paralysed, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Mary Elizabeth Saul* (8), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Susannah E. Saul* (6), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [9] *Isaac Thomas Saul* (3), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [10] *Clara Maria Saul* (1), daughter, born Oldbury:

*Martha Louisa Saul* died in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1880.

#### 1881 Census

10, Bath Row

- [1] *Thomas Saul* (52), engine driver at iron works, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Susan Saul* (50), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *William Saul* (22), son, stoker at iron works, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Mary Saul* (18), daughter, pupil teacher, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Emily Saul* (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Thomas Saul* (14), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Clara Saul* (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/3/1882

“A petition for liquidation has been filed in the Oldbury County Court by *Thomas Saul*, of the ENGINE TAVERN, Bath Row, Rounds Green, Oldbury, licensed victualler and engine-driver, with liabilities estimated at £720. Messrs. Wright and Co., Oldbury, are the debtor’s solicitors.”

#### London Gazette 4/4/1882

“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 *Thomas Saul*, of the ENGINE TAVERN, Bath-row, Round’s Green, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Engine Driver.

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. Wright and Company, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county

of Worcester, on the 15th day of April, 1882, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely.

Dated this 31st day of March, 1882.

Wright and Co., Solicitors for the said *Thomas Saul*.”

*William James Hartland* = James Hartland

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/10/1888

“Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest on Saturday afternoon, at the ENGINE INN, Bath Row, Rounds Green, respecting the death of Solomon Barnsley (30), bricksetter, of Bath Row, Rounds Green, who was fatally injured at the Globe Brickworks, belonging to Mr. E. Hadley, on Friday.

The evidence was to the effect that on Friday deceased was employed at the works setting bricks. Whilst removing a plank he fell from a stage about four or five feet high, across another plank, and injured his side. He was subsequently attended at his home by a surgeon, but he expired on Saturday morning from the effects of the injuries.

The jury returned a verdict of Accident Death.”

#### 1891 Census

37, Bath Row

- [1] *William James Hartland* (41), iron worker, born Rowley;
- [2] Polly Hartland (42), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] Annie E. Hartland (18), daughter, born Rowley;
- [4] Polly Hartland (13), daughter, born Rowley;
- [5] George F. Hartland (12), son, born Rowley;
- [6] Trevellyan Hartland (11), son, born Rowley;
- [7] Florence N. Hartland (2), daughter, born Rounds Green;
- [8] Mary Ann Wilkinson (15), domestic servant, born Rounds Green;
- [9] Lilly Booth (6), visitor, born Sheffield:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/7/1894

“Last evening an inquest was held by Mr. E. Docker (coroner) at the ENGINE INN, Rounds Green, touching the death of Lot Short (66), miner, Dingle Street, who died on Sunday from the effects of injuries sustained through falling downstairs at his residence the same day. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

*Harry Snead* was also a brewer. [1896]

#### 1901 Census

37, Bath Row

- [1] *Eliza Hadley* (58), widow, brewer, born Oldbury;
- [2] B. Hadley (17), son, brewer's clerk, born Oldbury;
- [3] Harriett Danks (75), visitor, widow, born West Bromwich:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/6/1903

“*Eliza Hadley*, brewer, of Bath Row, Rounds Green, was summoned at Oldbury yesterday, under the new Act, which came into operation in June, 1902, for failing to have a steam boiler upon her premises examined in accordance with the Act.

Defendant admitted the offence, but pleaded ignorance, and was fined £3 8s 6d, including costs.”

#### 1911 Census

37, Bath Row

- [1] *John Henry Horton* (32), publican, born Hill, Halesowen;
- [2] Alice Horton (41), wife, married 2 years, born Oldbury;
- [3] Thomas William Baker (16), wife's son by former husband, labourer, steel works, born Darlaston:

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/3/1913

“Application was made on behalf of *John H. Haton* [sic], licensee of the ENGINE TAVERN, Rounds Green, for certain structural alterations to provide improved sanitary accommodation. Mr. Wood gave evidence as to the alterations, and the application was granted.”

1939 Register

37, St. James Road – ENGINE TAVERN (3 of 4)

[1] Arthur Williams, date of birth 5/9/1888, railway checker, married;

[2] *Minnie Williams*, dob 27/5/1892, licensed victualler, married;

[3] Arthur Williams, dob 27/12/1915, boiler engineer’s template maker, single;

[1976]

Closed

**ENGINEERS ARMS**

73, (10), Stone Street / Lodge Street, OLDBURY

OWNERS

William Hodgetts, Whiteheath

John Jordan and Co. Ltd.

J. W. J. Kingstone Ltd. (acquired in 1921)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1929)

LICENSEES

Charles Hicken [1855] – [1873]

William Langford [1875]

Ann Collins [ ]

William Hensman [1880]

George Cooper [1881]

Richard William Merriss [1884] – 1888);

Job Allen (1888);

Joseph Foster (1888 – 1889);

William John Yeomans (1889 – 1890);

John Pearsall (1890 – 1891);

Stephen Turner (1891 – 1893);

Ann Jones (1893 – 1894);

Sarah Stansfield (1894 – 1895);

Thomas Duffield (1895 – 1896);

Abel Burton (1896 – 1897);

Mrs. Alice Burton (1897 – 1922);

William Henry Such (1922 – 1933);

NOTES

Stony Lane [1855]

10, Stone Street [1873], [1881], [1884]

73, Stone Street [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1916], [1921]

It stood next to the Birmingham Canal, Wolverhampton Level.

*Charles Hicken* = Charles Hickin

*Charles Hickin*, retailer of beer, Stone Street. [1851]

Birmingham Journal 30/8/1856

“On Thursday last, at the house of Mr. *Charles Hicken*, the coroner, R. Docker, Esq, held an inquest on the body of the illegitimate child of a single young woman named Bowater. The child, it seemed, was only about six weeks old, and up to Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant, it was in good health. On that day the mother procured a bottle full of Godfrey’s Cordial from the shop of Mr. Tonge, chemist, Oldbury, and on the following Saturday, she being desirous of soothing her infant and making it sleep, consulted a neighbour, named Mrs. Westwood, as to the quantity she should administer. Mrs. Westwood mixed the liquid with some paregoric, and then gave the child nearly a teaspoon of the mixture. The child went to sleep immediately. Two or three hours afterwards the mother looked at the child. It was very drowsy, and she could not awake it. The stupor continued, and the child was taken to the surgery of Messrs. Cooper and Beatty, but notwithstanding medical aid the drowsiness increased to insensibility, and the child died on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Beatty made a post mortem examination. There was no disease to cause death, and the appearances indicated that the child had died from narcotic poison. A portion of the mixture which was not used was analysed, and was found to contain opium in solution. The mixture contained about a grain of opium to an ounce of liquid. If it had taken a teaspoonful the child would have imbibed about the eighth of a grain of opium. This Mr. Beatty considered was sufficient to destroy life in a child so young.

The jury were of opinion that death was undoubtedly caused by an overdose of the mixture, but they thought there was no criminal intention on the part of those who administered it. A verdict to this effect was returned.

The bottle was simply marked Godfrey’s Cordial, and it did not transpire whether any directions were given as to the quantity to be taken. Mr. Beatty considered one drop of the mixture to be quite sufficient for a child so young.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1859 - Advert

“Oldbury Wake and Races will be held on land at the back of the OLD CROWN, and opposite the ENGINEERS ARMS, as usual, on Monday and Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 1859.

Mr. Darby, Steward. Mr. Taylor, Judge. Mr. Keeten, Starter.

The Trial Sakes, of 10 sovs, 1 sov entrance.

The Oldbury Stakes of 8 sovs, 1 sov entrance.

A Hurdle Race of 8 sovs, 1 sov entrance.

A Sweepstakes of 5 sovs, 10s entrance.

A Handicap Race for beaten Horses, 10s entrance, with a purse of sovs added.

All entries to be made at Mr. Joseph Underhill’s, CROSS ANCHORS, on or before Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1859, and to close at Eight o’clock pm. The first race to commence each day at half-past One o’clock. Any dispute arising to be settled by the committee. Parties entering their horses are requested to state the name of the horse and the colours of the rider. Fictitious entries will be disqualified.

Every information respecting ground for Booth, Shows, Stalls, &c, may be had on application to Mr. Joseph Underhill, or Mr. John Nock, Oldbury; or Mr. H. Keeten, Forge Tavern, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/2/1860 - Advert

“ENGINEERS ARMS, Stoney Lane, Oldbury.

*Charles Hicken* begs respectfully to inform the Inhabitants of Oldbury and the surrounding the district that he has purchased the whole stock of Funeral Equipages, from Mr. Thomas Lancaster, of Oldbury, consisting

of Shillibeer's Patent Funeral Carriages, Mourning Coaches, &c, to which he has added a New Hearse, with Plumes.

The above elegant Carriages are now offered for the patronage of bereaved Families.

*C. H.* hopes by strict attention and punctuality, combined with moderate charges, to merit a continuance of those favours so liberally bestowed upon his predecessor.

Applications for the above to be made to the Proprietor."

#### 1861 Census

Stone Street – ENGINEERS ARMS

[1] *Charles Hicken* (51), victualler, born Lapworth;

[2] Ann Hicken (56), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] Emily Jennings (19), domestic servant, born London:

*Charles Hicken* issued tokens from here.

*Charles Hicken* was also a funeral carriage proprietor. [1864], [1865]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1863

"During the night of Friday, about 3cwt of lead were stripped off the malthouse of Messrs. Thompson, Tat Bank, and the same night some more was stolen from the top of the bar window of Mr. *C. Hicken*, the ENGINEERS ARMS, close by the malthouse. In the course of the next day, four fellows were observed fishing up a quantity of lead from the canal at Smethwick. Information was given to the police, and on the approach of an officer the men decamped. From information forwarded to Birmingham, Sergeant Griffiths, the same night, arrested two men named Smittens, a shoemaker, and Carless, a boatman, who were on Tuesday taken before Captain Bennitt and remanded on the charge of having been concerned in the robbery."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/1/1864

"Worcestershire Epiphany Quarter Sessions.....

Joseph Smitton (19), spoon maker, and Edwin Careless (19), boatman, were indicted for stealing 190lbs of sheet lead, the property of *Charles Hicken*, at Oldbury, on the 19<sup>th</sup> December. Mr. Chance conducted the prosecution.

The evidence went to show that on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, the lead over the window of the bar of prosecutor's public house, at Oldbury, was quite safe, but the next morning it was found that nearly the whole of it had been stolen.

Police-constable Thomas Porter, of the Staffordshire Police, received some information respecting it, went to the Summit Bridge about two o'clock in the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup> [sic] of December, and saw on the lower level two men with a piece of lead in their possession. When the men saw Porter they threw the lead into the water and ran away. Porter afterwards returned to the spot, and recovered the lead.

Prisoners were apprehended in Essex Street, Birmingham, by Police-constable Passey, who subsequently compared the lead found in their possession with that remaining over the bar window at prosecutor's, and found it exactly to correspond. The evidence of a plumber named Bradley was also given to prove the identity of the lead.

A witness named Buttress deposed to seeing the prisoner in company with two others, trying to get the lead out of the water.

Prisoners were found guilty, and a previous conviction was proved against Careless, who had been convicted in the name of John Thompson. The other prisoner was said to have been convicted summarily. Careless was sentenced to twelve months', and Smithson to six months' hard labour."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1865 - Advert

"Oldbury Wake and Races, September 4 and 5, 1865, will be held on the Old Race Ground, at the back of the OLD CROWN, and opposite Mr. *C. Hicken*'s, ENGINEERS ARMS.

Application for Booths, Shows, &c, to be made to R. Tilsley and J. Gibbons, at the NEW CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1868

“The Conservative in Oldbury.

On Saturday evening last a meeting of the friends and supporters of Mr. Amphlett, QC, was held at the ENGINEERS ARMS; Mr. Thomas Yeomans, chairman.

Mr. E. E. Thompson spoke of the very favourable prospects of the Conservative cause in the Langley district, and announced his pleasure in observing the rapid growth of Conservatism in Oldbury. Referring to the much vexed Church question, he stated his determination, although a Dissenter, to earnestly support the union of Church and State, and not allow the enemies of true religion to desecrate and spoliage the great bulwark of Protestantism. From conversations he had had with his brother Dissenters, he was afraid they were joining in the attack upon the Church, in the hope that a share of the spoils would ultimately come to their lot. For himself, he was convinced it was the imperative duty of Christians of all denominations to rally round the Church of our forefathers, and strive to maintain it unimpaired and uncrippled.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/2/1869

“On Saturday an inquest was held at the ENGINEERS ARMS, by Mr. R. Docker, on the body of Eliza Beddow, aged five years, daughter of a miner, residing in the Lodge Buildings. It appeared that on the previous Tuesday deceased went to her grandmother’s house, and during her temporary absence it is supposed she accidentally pulled a saucepan containing boiling water upon her, which scalded her very severely about the face and other parts of her body. Mr. Sainsbury was sent for, but the child died on the following day. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 13/3/1869

“Subscriptions in Aid of the Families of the Men who were Killed and Injured by the Explosion at Messrs. Demuth’s Works, Oldbury, on 10<sup>th</sup> instant.....

The undermentioned subscriptions have already been promised.

The Committee hope to raise £300, in order to be able to afford permanent relief to the Widows and Orphans of the deceased.

Subscriptions will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, to whom Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable.

Subscriptions will also be received at the Office of this Paper.....

Mr. *Charles Hicken*, Oldbury, £1 1s 0d.”

1871 Census

Lodge Street – ENGINEER ARMS

[1] *Charles Hicken* (60), publican, born Knowle, Warwickshire;

[2] *Ann Hicken* (65), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Ann M. Langford* (18), grand-daughter, teacher, born Smethwick;

[4] *Lucy M. Langford* (13), grand-daughter, scholar, born London:

Birmingham Daily Post 4/4/1872 - Advert

“Oldbury, Worcestershire.

To Mourning Coach Proprietors and Others.

Important Sale at the ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street, Oldbury.

Mr. R. J. Cooper is instructed by Mr. *C. Hicken*, who is declining the Funeral Department, to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday Next, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April,

The whole of the Black Work, and other important Effects; comprising a valuable and handsome Hearse, with eleven Plumed Ostrich Feathers, nearly new; two excellent and valuable Patent Hearses, with Plumes, nearly new; two excellent and valuable Mourning Coaches, capital Break, in good condition; capital modern Phaeton, strong well-built Whitechapel, powerful Black Horse, quantity of single and double Harness, &c, &c.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock in the morning.

Auctioneer’s Office, Perrott Street, Oldbury.”



London Gazette 23/2/1875

“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 *William Langford*, of the ENGINEER ARMS, Stone-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Journeyman Engine 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. Edwin Jaques, Solicitor, No.40, Cherry-street, Birmingham, on the 5th day of March, 1875, at two o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 18th day of February, 1875.

Edwin Jaques, 40, Cherry-street, Birmingham, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1875

“Meetings of Creditors.....

Re *William Langford*, ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street, Oldbury, licensed victualler and journeyman engine-fitter. A meeting of creditors was held at Mr. Jaques's office, yesterday afternoon; Mr. Chamberlain, Spon Lane, presiding. The statement of accounts was : Liabilities, £170 16s 7d; assets, £60, 7s 1d. The meeting was adjourned until Tuesday.”

*Ann Collins* issued tokens from here bearing ENGINEERS ARMS INN – ales, wines, spirits etc.

Birmingham Daily Post 2/2/1880 - Advert

“ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street, Oldbury.

To Let, the above Old-licensed Inn. The house is conveniently arranged and has good and ample accommodation. There is also coach-houses, shedding, blacksmith's shop, yard, and premises, which will be let together or divided, as may be arranged.

Apply to Thomas Jarvis Hodgetts, Surveyor and Valuer, 21, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham,”

1881 Census

10, Stone Street – ENGINEERS ARMS

- [1] *George Cooper* (46), publican, born Quinton;
- [2] *Martha Cooper* (38), wife, born Quinton;
- [3] *George Cooper* (15), son, inn general servant, born Oldbury;
- [4] *E. Cooper* (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Anne Cooper* (10), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *John Woolley* (22), inn general servant, born Shrewsbury:

West Bromwich Weekly News 20/8/1881 - Advert

“To Let, an Old-established full-licensed Inn with extensive Premises, large Warehouse, conveniently situated near the canal, and surrounded with large Works, and known as the ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street, Oldbury.

Apply at the BRITISH QUEEN Brewery, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.”

*Richard Merriss* = Richard Morris

He was also a blacksmith and rope maker. [1884], [1888]

Smethwick Telephone 8/3/1884

“Oldbury Police Court. John Thomas was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the ENGINEERS ARMS public house, Stone Street, on the 25<sup>th</sup> February. Defendant was very insulting to, and swore at, the landlord, who with assistance had to put him out. Defendant was fined 10s and costs, or 14 days' imprisonment.”

Birmingham Mail 30/12/1884

“Joseph Tolley, labourer, Stone Street, Oldbury, was charged with drunkenness and assaulting Police-constable Peart on the 27<sup>th</sup> inst.

The officer stated that on the night named he met the defendant and a man named Cooke in Stone Street, and they were drunk and making much use of very bad language. When he requested them to ‘move on’ defendant struck him on the face, and both he and Cooke struck him several times, and then commenced to throw stones at him, one of which struck him on the nose and inflicted a severe wound. With the assistance of a man named *Morris* he got defendant to the station.

*Richard Morris*, landlord of the ENGINEERS ARMS INN, stated that on the night of the 27<sup>th</sup> inst, Police-constable Peart came running into his house and asked him to render assistance. When he got outside he saw Tolley and the other man with stones in their hands.

Defendant was fined £1 18s 6d, or in default five weeks’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 25/7/1885

“Oldbury Police Court. Joseph Findlay, 1 Court, Freeth Street, Bilston was charged with stealing a pair of scissors, value 1s, the property of *Richard Morris*, ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street, on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

From the evidence of the landlady it appeared that the prisoner came into the house offering for sale some buttons, and on her consenting to exchange some beer for the buttons he borrowed the scissors to separate them. Ultimately he succeeded in carrying off the scissors. On missing them she communicated with PC Hancox, who afterwards found the man at Tat Bank, and found the stolen property upon him, and arrested him.

The defendant, who stated that he did not know that he had carried off the scissors with the buttons at the time, said that he had some beer, and was fined 5s and the costs, or 14 days’ imprisonment.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 12/9/1885

“Henry Gough, Parsonage Street, was charged with, on the 31<sup>st</sup> August, being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street. He was also further charged with breaking a pane of glass, and causing damage to the extent of 3s 6d.

*Richard Morris*, landlord, deposed to the facts of the case.

The defendant denied being drunk, and stated that he broke the glass accidentally.

Fined 5s and the costs, and 3s 6d damages, or 14 days’ imprisonment.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 21/1/1888 - Advert

“ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street, Oldbury.

This old established, well accustomed Full Licensed House to be Let, with large Premises, Stabling for 15 Horses, and Shedding. Incoming £140.

Apply, on the Premises, or to W. H. Pass, Auctioneer, 50, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### 1891 Census

73, Stone Street

[1] *John Pearsall* (33), boatman, born Oldbury;

[2] *Rachel Pearsall* (32), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Anne Pearsall* (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] *Joseph Pearsall* (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] *James Pearsall* (4), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *Rachel Pearsall* (3), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] *Lilly Pearsall* (1), daughter, born Oldbury:

*Ann Jones* – see also BEEHIVE.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/1/1895

“Yesterday, at the police Court, George Eales and Jacob Griffiths were each ordered to pay 10s 6d for being drunk on licensed premises, the former offence having been committed at the NAVIGATION INN, Titford Road, and the latter at the ENGINEERS ARMS INN, Stone Street.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/11/1895

“Yesterday, at Oldbury Police Court – before Messrs. G. S. Albright and E. Danks – Benjamin [sic] *Duffield*, ENGINEERS ARMS INN, Stone Street, was charged with permitting drunkenness and with supplying drink to an intoxicated person on the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared to prosecute; and Mr. J. Clark defended.

The magistrates, whilst they believed the men were drunk, were of opinion that the barmaid had not a reasonable opportunity of ascertaining their condition, and dismissed the case, but Mr. Albright added that the police were perfectly justified in bringing it.

Harbutt and Whitehouse were fined 11s 6d each, including costs, or seven days for being drunk.”

*Thomas Duffield* – see also TIGER.

Smethwick Telephone 8/1/1898 - In Memoriam

“In affectionate remembrance of *Abel*, the beloved husband of *Alice Burton*, ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street, Oldbury (late of PACKET HOUSE, Rolfe Street, Smethwick) who departed this life January 5<sup>th</sup> 1897.”

1901 Census

73, Stone Street

[1] *Alice Burton* (49), widow, tavern proprietress, born Dudley;

[2] Maud E. Burton (17), daughter, born Smethwick:

Coventry Evening Telegraph 31/8/1910

“Anyone picking up lost property should be warned not to ‘stick to it’ or they may find themselves in trouble. Some people seem to labour under the delusion that anything found in the streets or elsewhere is ‘fair game’ and that no effort need be made to find the owner, but a man was charged at Oldbury yesterday with stealing a purse containing sixpence.

Evidence was given to the effect that the prosecutor’s daughter was sent to fetch some club money from the ENGINEERS ARMS, Oldbury, and on returning found she had dropped the purse out of her hand. The prisoner was seen to pick it up, and the magistrates fined him 10s and costs. It is really quite as much stealing as taking a leg of mutton from a butcher’s shop, neither the purse nor the leg of mutton belong to the ‘finder.’”

1911 Census

73, Stone Street – ENGINEERS ARMS

[1] *Alice Burton* (59), widow, publican, born Dudley;

[2] Maud Burton (27), daughter, assisting in business, born Smethwick:

*William Henry Such* married *Sophia Baker*, daughter of *David Baker* of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Churchbridge, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1903.

Smethwick Telephone 27/9/1924 - Advert

“Gas Engine (Tangye). 3 BHP, 10ft Shafting, Pulleys; lot £12 or near.  
ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street, Oldbury.”

Stone Street bridge, which stood to the left-hand side of the pub, was rebuilt in 1926/7. (The current bridge was opened in 2001.)

Smethwick Telephone 21/1/1928 - Advert

“Re J. W. J. Kingstone, Ltd, Smethwick.

Important Sale by Auction of 20 Licensed Houses in the County Boroughs of Smethwick and West Bromwich, and at Warley and Oldbury, all within a radius of six miles of the centre of the City of Birmingham, and comprising in separate lots.

8 Valuable Fully Licensed Houses.

7 'On' Beerhouses, and 5 'Off' Licenses.

Together with the Seven Quarter Brewery, Offices and Premises, known as the Summit Brewery, and various Freehold Shop and Dwelling House Properties adjoining the several Licensed Houses.

By Messrs. Jones Son & Vernon, FAI, at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1928, at 4pm precisely (unless sold previously by private contract).....

Lot 5. The ENGINEERS ARMS INN. Freehold, Fully Licensed, together with the Cottage, Forge and Premises, Stone Street, corner of Lodge Street, Oldbury.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 1/3/1928

“Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon, of West Bromwich, held a successful property sale at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham. The lots included many licensed properties in West Bromwich, Oldbury, and Smethwick, and so keen was the competition that all the lots were sold, the sale realising altogether well over £60,000, whilst three public houses, the price of which were not included in this figure, were sold privately. They were the ROYAL OAK INN, Park Street, Oldbury; the TIGER INN, Earl Street, Oldbury, and the ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street, Oldbury.”

#### January 1930

“Upwards of 150 Oldbury children were entertained on Wednesday afternoon at the Assembly Rooms of the ENGINEERS ARMS ..... as a result of the joint efforts of bar customers and members of the Hells Devils casual jazz band.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/11/1930

“Contributions received yesterday to the *Evening Despatch* and *Birmingham Gazette* fund for the relief of the dependants of the victims of the Grove Pit disaster were.....

Mrs. *Such*, ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Road, Oldbury, £7 2s 3d.”

#### Black Country Bugle 16/5/2013

##### Article by Derrick Such

“The ENGINEERS ARMS stood next to the canal on Stone Street in Oldbury. This was the watering hole that *William* and *Sophia Such* ran as tenants for M&B before their move to the NEW INNS in Halesowen Street ..... The location of the pub was ideally suited, not far from the centre of Oldbury, but also close to the industrial sites, such as the Springfield Chemical Works, the Tharsis Works, which produced sulphur and copper, and another chemical and cement works. The Great Western Railway line also ran close by.

Derrick related a tale about the times his grandmother *Sophia* would be given a clutch of dead rabbits by passing boatmen who stopped off at the ENGINEERS ARMS at breakfast time before continuing on their journey down the canal with a cargo to deliver or goods to pick up. At the end of the day they returned to drink the health of *William* and *Sophia* and enjoy a hearty rabbit pie that *Sophia* had made for them.....

Jazz bands were very popular between the wars and competitions were held to raise funds for local hospitals, and associated with the ENGINEERS ARMS was the Hell Devils Jazz Band, providing entertainment at the pub and occupying the time of young and old alike.”

*William Henry Such* – see also BEEHIVE, Portway Road, and NEW INN, Halesowen Street.

#### Smethwick Telephone 7/3/1931

“Matters of great importance were under consideration with the application of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers for permission to erect a hotel on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton Road at a point near the Smethwick and Oldbury housing schemes.....

Mr. Hurst said he had the honour to apply to the Bench on behalf of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, a fully licensed public house, to a site at Warley, on the new main Wolverhampton Road, at the corner of Albert Road [the WERNLEY]..... The Bench considered the matter in private for a long time. Eventually the Chairman said that the application would be granted subject to the surrender of two full licences in the centre of Oldbury – the BROWN

LION, Birmingham Street, and the ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street – and also subject to certain minor alterations to the plans.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 2/5/1931

“Worcester Licensing Committee on Monday confirmed the provisional order granted to Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, sanctioning the removal of the publican’s licence from the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, Oldbury, to premises to be erected at the corner of the Wolverhampton-Birmingham arterial road and Albert Road at Warley, in the Oldbury division.

Mr. J. G. Hurst, KC, who appeared with Mr. M. Holdsworth to make the application said that since the construction of the arterial road there had been remarkable building development at the site of the proposed licence. In addition to closing the CROSS KEYS, his clients would surrender two more full licences in the district of Oldbury. It was mentioned that these licenses would be the BROWN LION in Birmingham Street, and the ENGINEERS ARMS in Stone Street. The estimated cost of the new building was stated to be £14,000, exclusive of the site.”

It closed at 10pm on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1933.

It was demolished.

### **FLASH TAVERN**

Flash Road, (Flash Terrace), The Green, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

#### LICENSEES

George Green [1851] – [1872]

#### NOTES

*George Green*, retailer of beer, Flash Terrace. [1851]

#### 1851 Census

Flash

[1] *George Green* (27), iron pot caster and beerseller, born Smethwick;

[2] Ann Green (25), wife, born Dudley;

[3] James Green (2), son, born America (British subject);

[4] Ann Green (8 months), daughter, born Oldbury:

*George Green*, beer retailer, the FLASH, The Green [1855]

#### 1861 Census

Flash Road – FLASH TAVERN

[1] *George Green* (37), retail brewer, born West Bromwich;

[2] Ann Green (36), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] James Green (12), son, born America;

[4] Ann Green (10), daughter, born Oldbury;

- [5] Sarah Green (8), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Jane Green (6), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] George Green (4), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] Elenor Green (1), daughter, born Oldbury:

*George Green*, retailer of beer, Flash Road. [1862]

*George Green*, beer retailer, Flash Road. [1864], [1865]

#### 1871 Census

Flash Road – FLASH TAVERN

- [1] *George Green* (46), publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Ann Green (45), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Sarah Green (19), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Jane Green (17), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] George Green (13), son, born Oldbury;
- [6] Abraham Green (3), son, born Oldbury:

### **FLOWER POT**

Birmingham Street, (Halesowen Street), OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

#### LICENSEES

Job Grigg [ ]

Joseph Green [1818] – [1829]

Grigg [1826]

James Haden [1829] – [1838]

James Haycox [1850]

John Hewes [1853] – [1861]

Joseph Elwell [1861]

Ann Elwell [1866]

#### NOTES

##### Birmingham Chronicle 10/1/1822 - Deaths

“Lately, at Oldbury, near this town, Mr. *Job Grigg*, late of the FLOWER POT, of that place. He was a man universally esteemed, and his death much lamented by a numerous circle of friends and acquaintance.”

##### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/12/1823

“On Monday, a battle for £20 between Jack Griffiths, of West Bromwich, and Ben, the brick-maker, of Oldbury, took place at the back of the FLOWER POT, Oldbury. Griffiths threw his castor into the ring at twelve o’clock, and was followed by Ben. Griffiths was seconded by Belasco, and Ben by Bill Hall; level betting on both. The battle lasted an hour, in which they fought 15 as gallant rounds as ever were witnessed in the Prize Ring. On stripping they appeared in excellent condition; both nine score men, Griffiths rather the stoutest.

Round 1. Sparring for some time; both cautious; Griffiths let fly with the left hand; the brick-man parried

well; they then rallied without advantage. Another pause, when the brick-man planted a blow on Griffiths' peeper, and grassed him, amidst thunders of applause from the 'Black Diamonds.'

2. On coming to the scratch they eyed each other with caution. Ben made play, which Griffiths stopped well, and returned the compliment with interest under the listener. A rally, in which Griffiths had the advantage, who laid Ben out. 3 to 2 on Griffiths.

3. On coming up, the effects of the last round were apparent.

They both seemed determined to settle it this round. Ben made play, broke ground, and rallied to a stand, closed and broke ground again. A pause, when Griffiths put in a terrible blow under Ben's wind, which he returned by one on Griffiths's peeper, and grassed him. This round lasted seven minutes, and it was of itself a good fight, without any more. Equal betting.

4. and 5. Both cautious, and bellows to mend; counter hitting, and Griffiths down in both rounds.

6. A short pause to obtain an open. Ben made a hit, but Griffiths got away cleverly, and retreated from two well meant right-handed hits; Griffiths at length made play, drove Ben all over the ring, and fell from his own blow. 4 to 3 on Griffiths.

7. This round commenced with severe counter-hitting, and reciprocal punishment, till Griffiths went down. 6 to 4 on Ben.

8. A fine round till both went down; some dispute between the seconds about Ben hitting Griffiths while falling.

9, 10, 11. These rounds were of the most manful description. Griffiths was undermost.

12. On coming to the scratch they appeared in dishes. Griffiths' science was excellent, and Ben as quick as a cat on his legs. It was a complete portraiture of prize-fighting; greater skill and courage could not be displayed; stopping, getting away, returning, and claret flying all over the ring. Griffiths down. Five to four on Ben.

13, 14. They appeared careful of throwing a chance away.

Griffiths closed Ben's peeper, and put in some smart compliments under the ribs. Ben returned them on his pumpkin, and laid his eye-lash completely open; rallied, till Griffiths went down. Both men and seconds covered with claret.

15<sup>th</sup> and last round, it was evident it could not last long.

Griffiths stood on his legs like a tree, and Ben seemed determined to win. Ben placed an effective hit on Griffiths' eye; but he returned it with his left hand, which he used like a hammer under the listener. A rally of the most manly description; both determined not to fall; a fine struggle for the throw, but parted without advantage to either; a pause. Griffiths made play with his left hand; a sharp rally; Ben hit him a back-handed blow on his box of ivories, when he was reeling, and broke his jaw. This round lasted eight or nine minutes. Remarks. There had not been witnessed for some time such a battle in that part of the country. Griffiths shewed that best science, and Ben the quickest on his legs. The equal fighting of both gave little chance for betting, and they must be pronounced out and outers."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/2/1824 - Advert

"To be Sold by Auction by Henry Jacob, at the house of Mr. *Green*, the FLOWER POT, at Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, this present Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, at eleven o'clock (under an execution from the Sheriff) all the Moiety or Half Share, belonging to John Broomfield, of and in the Working Tools, Pit Ropes, ten Horses with their gearing, Rail-road Waggons, and other Effects, at the Grange Colliery, at Oldbury aforesaid.

Further particulars may be known by applying to Mr. Henry Nock, on the premises, or to the Auctioneer, 20, Newhall Street, Birmingham."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/4/1826 - Advert

"Valuable Dwelling Houses, Gardens, and Building Land, in the town of Oldbury, and county of Salop. To be Sold by Auction, by J. Harrison, at Mr. *Grigg's*, the sign of the FLOWER POT, in Oldbury, on Friday next the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, precisely at three o'clock in the afternoon....."

#### Birmingham Chronicle 1/3/1827 - Deaths

"On the 14<sup>th</sup> ult, aged 42, Hannah, wife of Mr. *Joseph Green*, of the FLOWER POT INN, Oldbury. Her

death will be long lamented by a numerous circle of friends and acquaintance.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/3/1828 - Advert

“Freehold at Oldbury, Household Furniture, Anvils, Bellows, Vices, &c.

To be Sold by Auction, on Wednesday, March 19, 1828, at four in the afternoon, at the sign of the FLOWER POT, in Oldbury.....”

Birmingham Journal 14/6/1828

“On Thursday last, a man of the name of William Farrell was apprehended at Smethwick, on a warrant for a robbery, which he committed in November, 1817. It appears that at that period, he broke into the FLOWER POT public house, at Oldbury, and after carrying away a quantity of bacon and other articles, he attempted to possess himself of the box of a Club, which held its meetings at that house. Having to go through the landlord's room to the place where the box was deposited, he on his return, struck the box against the bed, which awoke the landlady, and a pursuit was consequently made which ended in his apprehension and committal to Shrewsbury gaol. The constable in whose custody the prisoner was placed, secured him ironed in the kitchen of his house, but Farrell, by means of a nail picked the lock of his irons, and effected his escape. No tidings had been received of him until Thursday last, when the son of the landlord, who was proceeding towards Smethwick, observed Farrell upon the banks of the Birmingham canal, and from his information, the prisoner was apprehended yesterday and forwarded to Shrewsbury gaol upon the original Judge's warrant, to take his trial for the offence.”

Birmingham Journal 2/8/1828

“Shropshire Assizes.....

Death recorded ..... William Farrall, for breaking into the FLOWER POT public house, at Oldbury, in November 1818, and stealing a flitch of bacon, the property of *Joseph Green*.”

[The prison records show the sentence as life.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/8/1829 - Advert

“Freehold Building Land and Coal Mines, at Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction by J. Harrison, at Mr. *Green's*, the FLOWER-POT INN, Oldbury, on Monday, Sept. 21, 1829, at four in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/11/1829 - Advert

“Freeholds, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. Kempson, at the house of *James Haden*, called the FLOWER POT, in Oldbury, on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1829, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced, and in such lots as shall then be determined upon, seven Freehold Houses.....”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 31/1/1830

“Kearns, who lately fought Collins, of Oldbury, can be matched against him again for ten pounds. His money will be ready at the FLOWER POT, Oldbury, on Tuesday evening.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/5/1833

“Isaac Hadley, of Oldbury, challenges Ezra Parker, of West Bromwich, to fight him in a twenty-four feet ring for £25 a side. His money is ready at the FLOWER POT, Oldbury.”

London Gazette 13/3/1838

“Notice is hereby given, that by indentures of lease, and release and assignment, bearing date respectively the lease the 3rd, and the release and assignment the 5th, days of March instant, *James Haden*, of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, Licenced Victualler and Cooper, conveyed and assigned or otherwise assured unto Edward Round, of Tipton, in the county of Stafford, Timber Merchant, and William Hill, of Bradford-street, in the parish of Aston juxta Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Wood Turner, all his real and personal estate, goods, chattels, and effects, whatsoever and wheresoever, upon trust,



for the equal benefit of themselves and all other the creditors of the said *James Haden* who shall execute the said indenture of release and assignment within three calendar months from the date thereof; which said indentures of lease, and release and assignment were respectively duly executed by the said *James Haden* on the said 5th day of March instant, in the presence of George Hinchliffe and William Hayes, both of West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, Attorneys at Law, who on the same day attested the execution thereof by the said *James Haden*; and the said indenture of release and assignment was, on the 8th day of March instant, duly executed by the said Edward Round, in the presence of, and the same was on the same day attested by, the said George Hinchliffe; and the said indenture of release and assignment was, on the 9th day of March instant, duly executed by the said William Hill, in the presence of, and the same was on the same day attested by, John Suckling, of Birmingham aforesaid, Attorney at Law; and notice is hereby further given, that the said indenture of release and assignment now lies at the office of John Suckling, Solicitor, Union-street, Birmingham aforesaid, for the perusal and signature of the creditors of the said *James Haden*; and that such of the said creditors as shall not, by themselves or their duly authorised agents, execute the same indenture within three calendar months from the date thereof, will be excluded from all benefit to be derived therefrom; and all persons indebted to the estate of the said *James Haden*, are requested immediately to pay the amount of their respective debts to the said Edward Round or William Hill, or to Messrs. Hinchliffe and Hayes, Solicitors, West Bromwich, or Mr. John Suckling, Solicitor, Birmingham.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/5/1840 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Thomas Pitt Stokes, this present Monday, May 18, at the FLOWER POT INN, in the town of Oldbury – a large quantity of Fixtures, Casks, Furniture, &c, on account of the house being to be taken down.

Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneer, Castle Street, Dudley.

The sale to commence in the morning at eleven o'clock.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/5/1840 - Advert

“The Sale of Furniture, Fixtures, &c at the FLOWER POT INN, in Oldbury, by Mr. T. P. Stokes, will take place Tomorrow (Tuesday) May 26; and did not take place on Monday last, as advertised in this paper.

The sale will commence in the morning at ten o'clock.”

Birmingham Journal 22/6/1850 - Advert

“Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned, as Retail Brewers, carrying on business at Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, was this day Dissolved by mutual consent. All Debts due to and owing from the said business will be Paid and Received by the undersigned *James Haycox*, who will in future carry on the said Business on his own account.

Witness our hands this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1850.

*James Haycox*, John Haycox.

Signed by both parties in the presence of Henry Smythe, Church Square, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 27/7/1850 - Advert

“Sale at the FLOWER POT, in Birmingham Street, Oldbury, of all the Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, strong iron-bound Casks, Four-pull Beer Machine, three iron Boilers, Mashing Tubs, two Vats, capital Malt Mill, Pocket of prime Hops, and other Effects.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Prince, on Monday Next, July 29, the Property of Mr. *James Haycox*, under a Deed of Assignment and Distraint for Rent.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

*John Hewes*, retailer of beer, Birmingham Street. [1851]

Worcestershire Chronicle 19/10/1853

“At the Public Office, before John Green, Esq, on the 11<sup>th</sup> instant, two young men, named Charles Taylor and Richard Sanders, were brought up on a charge of breaking into a house, the property of Mr. John Fletcher, with intent to commit a felony, on the night of Saturday week; and also with stealing an iron bucket, the

property of Mr. *John Hewes*, of the FLOWER POT, Oldbury. The house of Mr. Fletcher has been unoccupied for several days, as that individual had just changed his residence. In the cellar there were several hogsheads of ale, and it was doubtless with a view of obtaining some of this that the prisoners broke into the house. They were, however, interrupted in their proceedings by Superintendent Simmons, who, with another officer (the appearance and movements of the prisoners having excited their suspicion) watched them to the house. On finding that their midnight adventure threatened to involve them in very serious difficulty, the prisoners at once precipitated themselves from the house, but were finally captured. They had no ale with them, but about fifteen gallons had been previously missed. The bucket, which was left behind, was found to be the property of Mr. *Hewes*. Committed to the Sessions on both charges.”

Worcester Journal 22/10/1853

“Worcestershire Michaelmas Sessions.....

Charles Taylor was charged with having, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October instant, stolen ale, the property of John Fletcher. Prosecutor formerly kept the OLD TALBOT INN, and on the day named locked the house up, and left a quantity of ale in the cellar. He also secured a trap-door to the cellar. Next morning the trap had been disturbed, and about fifteen gallons of ale was gone.....”

[Charles Taylor, who had been previously convicted, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. Richard Sanders was found not guilty. The charge of stealing a bucket was withdrawn.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/12/1855

“On Friday, before Captain Bennitt, a man named James Millington was charged with attempting to murder Caroline Palmer, by cutting her throat on the night of Sunday. The case was heard at the Oldbury Court House, and excited some interest.

The witnesses examined were the woman Caroline Palmer (who is going on very favourably, and who gave her evidence without any inconvenience, except that she complained of soreness in the throat), T. R. Cooper, Esq, John Jones, the navigator, Benjamin Holloway, the militiaman, *John Hewes*, the landlord of the FLOWER POT, William Parkes, a grinder (who was one of the first persons who saw the prisoner lying under the Blacking Mill wall, and who took the knife out of the prisoner's hand, and wiped the blood off it on the grass), and police constable Simmons.

It was the landlord, Mr. *John Hewes*, who heard the prisoner when he and Palmer were in his house, saying that that should be the last time that she (meaning Palmer) should go there.

The usual caution was read to the prisoner, and he replied, ‘I have nothing to say.’ In the course of the proceedings the prisoner asked Palmer if she did not shake at him, while they were in the FLOWER POT public house, the pocket of her gown, which apparently contained money, for the purpose of aggravating him. She replied in the negative.

Captain Bennitt informed the prisoner that he stood committed to the Worcester Assizes to take his trial for attempting to murder Caroling Palmer. The prisoner walked back to the police station, and in the course of the afternoon he was conveyed to Halesowen, en route for Worcester.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 12/3/1856

“Worcester Lent Assizes.....

James Millington, 23, collier, stood indicted for cutting and stabbing Caroline Palmer, at Oldbury, on the 16<sup>th</sup> December. Mr. Cook for the prosecution, the prisoner was undefended.

Caroline Palmer deposed: On the 16<sup>th</sup> of December I was at the FLOWER POT, at Oldbury. I went there between six and seven o'clock, and left about eleven. A man named John Jones, and Millington, the prisoner, were also there. Jones walked down the street with me. I had lived with Millington for seven or eight months, till a fortnight before the day named. He came to my house on that morning, and I told him to go away. As I was walking down the street with Jones, after leaving the FLOWER POT, Millington came up to me, and made a ‘snatch’ at my throat. I did not feel anything at the time, and went about 100 yards further before I found that my throat was cut. I went back to the FLOWER POT, and a soldier took me to Mr. Cooper's surgery. When I left Mr. Cooper's, the prisoner again came up to me, and held me with one hand, while he cut my throat and chin again. I put up my hand, and my fingers were also cut. I then became insensible, and remember nothing more.

By the Prisoner: I never threatened to stab or poison you.

John Jones corroborated prosecutor's testimony, but he could not swear that the prisoner was the man. Several other witnesses were called, but their evidence was merely a recapitulation of the facts detailed above.

Police Constable Simmonds stated that he went in search of the prisoner, and on the following day, Monday, found him lying insensible in a field, with his throat cut; a knife was on the ground near him. When he recovered, I told him the charge, and he at once admitted that he cut the girl's throat. Mr. Cooper, surgeon, of Oldbury, examined the wounds on the girl's throat, which he said involved no danger to her life. He also examined the prisoner, and found him suffering from a jagged wound in the throat. He was insensible for hours, and quite cold and stiff.

His lordship, in summing up, pointed out to the jury that the prisoner was indicted for the intent to murder, and also for inflicting grievous bodily harm. It would be for the jury to decide upon which charge the prisoner was guilty.

After some deliberation, the prisoner was pronounced guilty of intent to murder.

The learned judge, in passing sentence, said he was quite concurred in the verdict. Sentence of death was then recorded against the prisoner."

AND

Nottingham Journal 20/3/1856

"At the Worcester assizes last week, James Millington, a young collier, was indicted for cutting and wounding Caroline Palmer, at Oldbury, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. The parties had lived together for some months, and on the prosecutrix saying she would have nothing more to do with him, the prisoner inflicted a severe wound on her throat and afterwards attempted to destroy himself. He was found guilty of wounding with intent to murder, and sentence of death was recorded; but the judge intimated that he would advise Her Majesty as to what extent her mercy should be extended to the prisoner."

Worcester Journal 13/9/1856

"On Monday last the following convicts were removed from our County Gaol, to that at Leicester..... James Millington, sentenced at our last assizes to transportation for life."

London Gazette 23/4/1858

"Whereas a Petition of *John Hewes*, now and for six years last past of Birmingham-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Shoemaker and Retail Brewer, and for the last eight months, or thereabouts, also carrying on business as a Carrier to and from Oldbury and Birmingham, 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 *John Hewes*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *John Hewes* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 5th May next at ten in the forenoon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *John Hewes*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Joseph Heapy Watson, Registrar 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."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1859

"At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before Captain Bennitt and R. W. Johnson, Esq., Mary Ann Custon was brought up on remand, charged with having on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February stolen one pair of women's boots, the property of Jonah Jephcott, coal seller and shoe dealer, of Oldbury, who keeps a stall in the Market Place, adjoining Mr. Perrens' house. The prisoner, it was stated by the wife of the prosecutor, took the boots from the stall between nine and ten o'clock on the night of the 12th ult. Prosecutrix concluded that prisoner had taken them, because she saw her standing close to the stall at the time above mentioned, and when she was gone the boots were missing. Prosecutrix further stated, that from information she received on the 18<sup>th</sup> ult, she went to the prisoner's house and accused her of the theft. Prisoner denied it, and said she had bought a pair of a woman at the bottom of the Market Place, for which she had given 4s 9d. Prosecutrix gave information to the police, and Police-sergeant Simmonds apprehended the prisoner at the house of her father.

The boots produced were stated by the prosecutrix to be her property, and identical with the pair she saw on the prisoner's feet. The above is the substance of the evidence taken at the first examination on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult. Yesterday, Eli Bell, a miner, residing in Oldbury, swore that he saw the prisoner take the boots from the stall on the night in question, put them under her shawl, and walk off with them. He had been walking with the prisoner that night, and after she had taken the boots he went with her to the RED COW INN, when he left her.

This witness was then cross-examined by the prisoner with the view of showing that after the robbery he went with her to several other public houses the same evening, but he distinctly swore that he never went with her into any house but the RED COW. The prisoner, however, swore that Bell had been with her to the FLOWER POT and the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, and several witnesses were accordingly called by the Bench to ascertain which statement was true. These witnesses corroborated the statement of the prisoner, having seen her in company with Bell at the houses above named. One witness also proved that instead of Bell leaving the prisoner in the RED COW, they both left together.

Under these circumstances the prisoner was dismissed on the charge of felony, and admitted to give evidence against Eli Bell, who was forthwith placed in the dock on the charge of having committed perjury. The various witnesses having been examined, and deposed as above stated, Bell was fully committed to take his trial at the ensuing Worcester Assizes."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1859

"Worcester Spring Assizes ..... Bills Ignored.....

Against Eli Bell, charged with perjury at Oldbury, on the 1st of March."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1861 - Advert

"If the things that are left at *John Hewes's*, the FLOWER POT INN, Oldbury, belonging to Thomas and William Ward, Tamworth, are not fetched away in fourteen days from this date they will be Sold to defray expenses."

#### 1861 Census

Birmingham Street – FLOWER POT

- [1] *Joseph Elwell* (27), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Ann Elwell* (28), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] *George Elwell* (4), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Benjamin Elwell* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Mary Ann Rushton* (18), servant, born Ironbridge:

*Joseph Elwell* died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1864.

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/10/1866 - Marriages

"On the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, at St. Andrew's Church, Netherton, by the Rev. S. L. Harrison, curate, John Jordan, NEW INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, to *Ann Elwell*, FLOWER POT INN, of the same place."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/1/1867 - Advert

"FLOWER POT INN, Oldbury.

Clearing Out Sale of the Brewery Plant, Public House Fixtures and Fittings, Household Furniture, and other Effects, on Monday, February the 4<sup>th</sup>, commencing at Eleven.

A. Atree, Auctioneer."

#### Birmingham Journal 2/2/1867 - Advert

"Clearing Out Sale at the FLOWER POT INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. A. Atree, on Monday Next, February 4.

Household Furniture, Public House Fittings, and Effects, Brewing Plant, slate-bottomed Bagatelle, Malt Crusher, &c, &c.

Particulars in catalogues.

Sale to commence at Eleven.”

Closed

## FOUNTAIN

45, (15), Albion Street, (New Village), Brades, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

John Nutting Taberner

Charles Frederick Thompson, maltster, Churchfields, West Bromwich

Charles Thompson, Churchfields, West Bromwich (acquired c.1909)

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired c.1914)

## LICENSEES

Thomas Babbs [1841] – [1880]

John Nutting Taberner [1881] – **1893**);

Mrs. Mary Ann Taberner (**1893 – 1897**);

George Wainwright (**1897 – 1899**);

Thomas Broughton (**1899 – 1901**);

Thomas Dimsdale Bullus (**1901 – 1904**);

Thomas Henry Bates (**1904 – 1907**);

William Henry Spencer (**1907 – 1911**);

John William Wharton (**1911 – 1914**);

George Potter (**1914**);

Samuel Arthur Wheale (**1914 – 1923**);

Mary Ann Wheale (**1923 – 1927**);

Joseph Aston (**1927 – 1938**);

Henry Knaggs (**1938 – 1946**);

Charles Edwin Lyddiard (**1946 – 1952**);

Albert Edward Webb (**1952 – 1958**);

Frank James Parrott (**1958 – [1962]**)

Ken Male [c. 1980]

Malcolm L Keeling [1999] – **2004**)

## NOTES

15, Albion Street [1871], [1873], [1881]

45, Albion Street [1891], [1892], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939]

### 1841 Census

New Village

[1] *Thomas Babbs* (30), publican;

[2] *Sarah Babbs* (30);

[3] *Samuel Babbs* (10);

[4] *Elizabeth Babbs* (5);

[5] Mary Babbs (2);

[6] Joseph Fardo (25), mill wright:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/8/1842

“John Rhodes and John Burton, of Oldbury, are matched to run half a mile, for £5 a side, tomorrow (Monday), at two o’clock; £2 a side has been deposited in Mr. C. Vaughan’s (the stakeholder) hands; and the rest of the money is to be made good on the morning of the race, at Mr. *Thomas Babb*’s, the FOUNTAIN TAVERN, Brades New Village, near Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/10/1842

“The nine miles race under the hour, over a quarter of a mile of ground, by John Rhodes, of Brades New Village, near Oldbury, came off on Monday last. A vast multitude of persons assembled, and the backers of the man offered level bets, but there were but few takers. Exactly at 25 minutes to 3, all being in readiness, the word was given and the man started in prime style, accomplishing the first mile in 5 minutes and 9 seconds; the first four miles in 23 minutes, and ultimately the whole distance in 5 minutes under the hour. The betting kept increasing on the man throughout the race, but no takers. After the first two miles the offers on the seven miles were £2 to 10s, but no takers. The friends of John Rhodes having heard that George Armstrong’s backers have stated that he would run Rhodes 30 miles, and give him one mile, Rhodes will accept the challenge if Armstrong means running; or he will run against Armstrong’s time 10 miles; or run with Armstrong 10, 12, 16 miles, or any length, providing the said Armstrong will give him one minute start, for from £10 to £30. The money is ready any time at Mr. *Thomas Babb*’s, the FOUNTAIN TAVERN, Brades New Village, near Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/1/1847

“John Hancox of the Brades Works, near Birmingham, will shoot a match at 11 pigeons each with B. Challenger of Wednesbury, for £5 or £10 a side, on the same conditions as Bagwell of Wednesbury and the lad Beesley of Wood Green shot on Monday last. The money is ready at any time at the FOUNTAIN TAVERN, Brades New Village; or the match can be made at the last deposit of the renewed match between Bagwell and the lad Beesley.”

*Thomas Babbs*, beer retailer, Brades Village. [1850]

1851 Census

Newtown

[1] *Thomas Babbs* (43), steel cutter, born Oldbury;

[2] Sarah Babbs (45), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Samuel Babbs (20), son, steel cutter, born Oldbury;

[4] Elizabeth Babbs (18), daughter, assists at house, born Oldbury;

[5] Mary A. Babbs (12), daughter, assists at house, born Oldbury;

[6] Thomas Babbs (7), son, born Oldbury;

[7] Eliza Burgess (18), house servant, born Oldbury:

Worcestershire Chronicle 22/9/1852

“Oldbury Petty Sessions.....

Thomas Lowe, beerhouse keeper, was fined 20s and costs, for having his house open during the hours of divine service, on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> August.

*Thomas Babbs* was fined 10s and costs; and Richard Merris, 5s and costs, for similar offences.”

Birmingham Journal 21/5/1859 - Advert

“Freehold Property, New Brades Village, Oldbury, Worcestershire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Hawkins, on Tuesday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 1859, at the house of Mr. Charles Sturges, the VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, Oldbury, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

All those Two substantially-built Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, together with a valuable Plot of Building Land adjoining the same, and together also with the Out-buildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at New Brades Village, in Oldbury aforesaid, fronting to a street leading out of the Oldbury and Dudley Turnpike Road called Albion Street, and the said Plot of Land having also a frontage to a street called Salop Street.

The Property is in the occupation of Richard Davies and Isaac Thomas, and adjoins the FOUNTAIN TAV-ERN, kept by Mr. *Thomas Babbs*, and produces a yearly rental of £17 11s.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. H. Plunkett, Solicitor, Oldbury and West Bromwich; or to the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

#### 1861 Census

Albion Street

[1] *Thomas Babbs* (53), steel cutter and publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Sarah Babbs* (58), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Mary A. Babbs* (22), daughter, waiter, born Oldbury;

[4] *Thomas Babbs* (19), son, steel cutter, born Oldbury;

[5] *John W. Babbs* (17), son, born Oldbury:

*Sarah Babbs* died in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1864.

*Mary Ann Babbs* married *John Nutting Taberner* on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1865.

*Frank Nutting Taberner* died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1870, aged 2.

#### 1871 Census

15, Albion Street – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *Thomas Babbs* (63), widower, steel cutter, born Oldbury;

[2] *John W. Babbs* (27), son, imbecile, born Oldbury;

[3] *John Nutting Taberner* (33), son-in-law, blacksmith, born Nuneaton;

[4] *Mary A. Taberner* (32), wife, born Oldbury;

[5] *Frederick B. Taberner* (4), son, scholar, born Oldbury:

*Frederick Babbs Taberner* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1878, aged 12.

#### Birmingham Mail 12/4/1881 - Deaths

“On the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst, at Brades Village, Oldbury, in the 74<sup>th</sup> year of his age, *Thomas Babbs*; much respected.”

*John Nutting Taberner* = John Tabberner = John Tavender

#### 1881 Census

15, Albion Street

[1] *John N. Taberner* (44), licensed victualler, born Nuneaton;

[2] *Mary A. Taberner* (43), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Jane Taberner* (53), visitor, born Nuneaton;

[4] *Maria Yates* (21), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton:

#### 1891 Census

45, Albion Street – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *John N. Tabberner* (54), licensed victualler, born Nuneaton;

[2] *Mary A. Tabberner* (52), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *John F. N. Tabberner* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] *Ada Nickless* (16), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/5/1893 - Died

“On the 13<sup>th</sup> inst, in his 12<sup>th</sup> year, John Frederick Nutting *Taberner*, only child of the late *John* and *Mary Ann Taberner*, of Albion Street, Brades Village, Oldbury.”

*Thomas Dimsdale Bullus* = Thomas Dimsdale Bulluss = Thomas Dimsdale Bullar

1901 Census

45, Albion Street – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *Thomas Bullus* (30), preserve maker's clerk, born West Bromwich;

[2] Sarah Bullus (29), wife, born Essington;

[3] Sarah Pace (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Thomas Dimsdale Bullus* showed pigeons. [1903]

Birmingham Mail 22/3/1904

“Today, at the Oldbury Police Court, Mr. F. Dawes, solicitor, made an application for temporary transfer of the license of the FOUNTAIN INN, Brades, near Oldbury, from *Thomas Dimsdale Bullar* to *William Henry Spencer*. The latter's character, he explained, was quite satisfactory, and he produced a lease of the premises to Mr. *Spencer* for seven years. Under that lease the applicant was a bona fide tenant, and it was agreed that he should purchase the stock and fixtures, and the business would be entirely his own. In the lease, however, there was a tied clause to Bates Brewery, West Bromwich, and he was informed that, rightly or wrongly, the Oldbury justices had passed a resolution to the effect that where there a tenant came into possession if there were a tied clause in the agreement or lease he could not hold the license. If the Bench insisted upon that resolution being carried into effect in this case, which was a perfectly bona fide one, then he should ask them to grant a temporary transfer in the name of Catherine Bates, the brewer to whom the house was tied. He further asked that the usual seven days' notice required should be dispensed with.

The justices retired to consult in private, and upon returning into court Mr. A. M. Chance said they had agreed to waive the notice and grant the transfer to Catherine Bates.

Mr. Dawes: I understand the Bench refuses to grant the transfer to *William Henry Spencer*.

Mr. Chance: That is all I have to say. You have got the concession you asked for.

Mr. Dawes did not press for an answer to his enquiry, and the matter dropped.”

Birmingham Mail 12/4/1904

“Today, at Oldbury Police Court, an interesting point was raised by Mr. F. Dawes in connection with an application for the transfer of the license of the FOUNTAIN INN, Brades Village, Oldbury, from *Thomas Henry Bates* to *William Henry Spencer*. He mentioned that a similar application was made three weeks ago, but it was refused by the magistrates on the ground that there was a tie upon the trade by the brewers, Messrs. Bates, of West Bromwich. Mr. *Spencer*, continued counsel, was a person with an excellent character, who had purchased all the fixtures and stock at a cost of £100. The lease was granted before the application was made for the transfer of the house three weeks ago, and now *Spencer* threatened that if he could not have the license in his own name he would withdraw from all negotiations with the brewers. The result of this would be that instead of getting a bona fide tenant the brewers would have to put a manger into the house. He contended that if the magistrates insisted on carrying out their resolution that no person could hold a full license where the house was tied to the brewers, it would bear very hardly upon both parties.

After a few minutes' deliberation, Mr. Lavender said the Bench could not alter their decision of three weeks ago. Mr. Dawes pressed the magistrates to state the reason of their refusal, but this they declined to do.”

Birmingham Mail 2/5/1905

“At the Oldbury Police Court, today, Johnathan Stone (40), of Chaters Passage, Tipton, was charged with assaulting *William Henry Spencer*, the landlord of the FOUNTAIN INN, Brades Village, and also with refusing to quit. When asked to leave the house, defendant caught hold of the landlord by the neck and threw him across a table, breaking three glasses and three jugs. He was then ejected by two customers, but returned and broke a window, doing damage to the extent of 3s.



Defendant was fined 40s and costs in each case, amounting in all to £4 18s, or one month's hard labour."

### 1911 Census

45, Albion Street – FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] *John W. Wharton* (43), safe maker, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Eliza J. Wharton* (48), wife, married 22 years, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Mabel Wharton* (20), daughter, typist, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Lilian Wharton* (19), daughter, works at home, born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Arthur Wharton* (11), son, born West Bromwich:

*John William Wharton* also worked at Withers' Safe Works, West Bromwich.

### Black Country Bugle

#### Letter from Mrs. R. Hill - Murder At The Fountain

"I do remember my mother telling me that the FOUNTAIN INN, or to give it its correct name the PRETTY FLEUR, the name was engraved on the windows, was haunted by a young woman.

The story as I remember was, a young soldier home on leave, went to the FOUNTAIN INN to see his sweetheart. She was the barmaid. I don't know what caused him to do it, but he shot and killed her. He was caught and hanged at Winson Green Prison. His name was Fletcher and he lived in Junction Street, Brades Village....."

It is believed that Thomas Fletcher had gone to the pub, to shoot himself in front of Lily Wharton. The banns had been read for their wedding before it was called off. He was not on leave, but had returned from a gold prospecting expedition in the USA. He was working for a local firm at the time.

Somehow (a struggle?) she was shot, and Fletcher then turned the gun on himself. They were both taken to hospital, where Lily died and Fletcher survived.

He was sentenced to death, and a petition was raised by his family containing 8,000 signatures, but he was eventually hung at Worcester by Ellis assisted by Pierrepoint.

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/4/1913

"Death of Victim of Brades Village Sensation.

A development has taken place in connection with the Brades Village shooting sensation. Late last night the girl Lilian Wharton died in West Bromwich District Hospital. It will be recalled that yesterday week Thomas Fletcher, a young labourer of Junction Street, Brades Village, went into the FOUNTAIN INN, Albion Street, where Miss Wharton lived with her father, and it is alleged that he shot her with a revolver. He afterwards, it is stated, turned the weapon on himself and blew away part of his forehead. It was generally expected that the girl might recover, whereas the condition of the man was so serious that he was not expected to get better. The doctor stated last night that the man is in about the same condition. The inquest on the girl has not yet been fixed, but it will probably be held tomorrow morning."

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/4/1913

"The Coroner's inquest in the Oldbury shooting tragedy, which had caused a great sensation in the district, was opened yesterday at the Law Courts, West Bromwich by the Borough Coroner (Mr. J. Clark), and adjourned till Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup> inst, after the evidence of identification. The inquest was on the body of Lilian Wharton, aged 21, who resided with her parents at the FOUNTAIN INN, Albion Road, Brades Village, Oldbury, and who died in the West Bromwich District Hospital on Tuesday night.

The Coroner said that the facts, as far as he they had been reported to him were shortly these.

On 1 April Fletcher went to the house of the young woman, where she apparently took part in conducting the business.

After Fletcher had been there quite a short time the young woman came running out of the tap-room, where they had been together, and said Fletcher had shot her.

When her mother went into the tap-room Fletcher was also found to be shot, and was lying on the floor. Both Fletcher and the girl were taken to the West Bromwich District Hospital, where the latter died on 8

April.

The post-mortem examination had been made by the hospital doctor, who gave the cause of death as peritonitis, due to the entrance of the bullet into the abdomen.

As it was suggested that the wound was caused by Fletcher shooting the young woman, it was possible for a verdict of wilful murder to be returned against him.

They could not go on with the inquest that day, as amongst other reasons Fletcher was still in the hospital and unable to attend.

The doctor had informed him that Fletcher was recovering, and in the course of ten days or a fortnight he would be able to come out.

At the adjourned inquest he hoped that Fletcher would be sufficiently recovered to attend, and the case would be presented to the jury in full.

*John William Wharton*, licensee of the FOUNTAIN INN, Brades Village, was then called, and identified the body was that of his daughter, Lilian, who assisted him in the business.

Previous to 1 April, she had been keeping company with Thomas Fletcher.

On that day witness left home at 7am to go to work. About 11am he received information which caused him to return home immediately.

When he got there he found his daughter had been taken to hospital, and his wife said that Thomas Fletcher had shot her.

Fletcher was lying on his back in the tap-room, bleeding from a wound in his right temple. Later he was taken to hospital.

Witness had from time to time visited his daughter in hospital, and last Sunday she was able to communicate with him.

The Coroner remarked that he would not take that at present.

Witness further stated his daughter died about 8.30pm last Tuesday.

This was all the evidence taken, the inquest being adjourned.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/4/1913

“Thomas Fletcher, aged 28, described as a labourer, of Dudley Road, Brades Village, Oldbury, was brought before Mr. W. Parks at a Special Court at Oldbury on Saturday, and charged with the murder of Lilian Wharton, aged 21, who resided with her parents at the FOUNTAIN INN, Albion Street, Brades Village, of which her father is the licensee.

The affair took place on 1 April. Both Miss Wharton and Fletcher had been keeping company, and it was arranged they should be married at Easter, but it is alleged that friction arose between the parties, and the girl declined to continue the friendship.

About 10.30 on Tuesday morning, Fletcher went to the girl's home and called for a drink. This was given to him by the girl, who also supplied him with a second one, and it is alleged that on this occasion he drew a revolver from his pocket and shot the girl in the side. He then turned the weapon upon himself, and blew away part of his forehead.

Both were removed to West Bromwich District Hospital, and a week later the girl died from peritonitis, following the injuries.

Fletcher's condition gradually improved, and on Saturday he left the hospital under police escort, and was taken to Oldbury police station.

Upon arrival the usual procedure of identification was taken before the magistrates.

He looked very ill, and had his right eye and head bandaged.

The first witness called was Superintendent Davies, who said that on 14 April he saw the prisoner in the hospital, Dr. Keane being present at the same time.

After cautioning him, he informed him of the death of Miss Wharton, and then charged him with murdering her, but he made no reply.

The Superintendent added that he did not propose to call any further evidence. The matter was in the hands of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and he applied for a remand until Wednesday at 10.30, when further evidence will be called.

The accused, who had nothing to say, was accordingly remanded, and removed to Winson Green.”

Dundee Courier 29/4/1913

“At the inquest at West Bromwich yesterday upon Lilian Wharton (21), daughter of an Oldbury license-holder, who died in the local hospital from a bullet wound, a verdict of Wilful Murder was returned against Thomas Fletcher (28), a labourer.

Parties were to have been married. The girl broke off the engagement on the ground that Fletcher had no home for her.

It is alleged Fletcher then shot her, and wounded himself in the head. The girl died seven days after.”

On 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1913, at the Assizes held at the Shirehall, Worcester, before Mr. Justice Bray, Thomas Fletcher was indicted for ‘feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, did kill and murder Lilian Wharton’ and on 9<sup>th</sup> June, was indicted for ‘attempting to commit suicide’ (this was not proceeded with). He was found guilty and sentenced to hang.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/6/1913

“A petition is being organised, to be presented to the Home Secretary, for the reprieve of the man Thomas Fletcher, who at Worcestershire Assizes on Saturday was sentenced to death for the murder of his sweetheart, Miss Lilian Wharton, daughter of Mr. *J. Wharton*, licensee of the FOUNTAIN INN, Albion Street, Brades Village, in April.

The proceedings aroused much interest locally, and the petition, which is being arranged by Messrs. Sharpe and Darby, the solicitors who acted on behalf of the accused at his trial, is receiving much support.

The Vicar of Oldbury, the Rev. A. P. Birley, is taking an active part on Fletcher’s behalf.”

Leeds Mercury 24/6/1913

“Thomas Fletcher applied for leave to appeal against the sentence of death which was passed upon him at the Worcester Assizes, for the murder of Lilian Walton [sic].

On behalf of the prisoner it was submitted that an alleged confession made by the prisoner should not have been taken as evidence, on the ground that prisoner was not in a fit condition to know what he was saying at the time.

Counsel also submitted that the Judge omitted points in favour of the prisoner in his summing up, all of which, he said, went to confirm the statement of the prisoner that the shooting was an accident. The prisoner was engaged to be married, and a day had been fixed for the wedding.

After hearing legal arguments, the Court dismissed the application.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/7/1913

“Upon inquiry at the offices of Messrs. Sharpe and Darby, who are acting on behalf of Fletcher, the *Gazette* representative was informed that no communication of any description had yet been received from the Home Secretary.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/7/1913

“Thomas Fletcher, of Dudley Street, Oldbury, who murdered his sweetheart Lilian Wharton of Brades Village, Oldbury, was executed at Worcester Prison yesterday morning. He met his death without fear.

The execution took place in a coach-house, about thirty yards from the main buildings of the prison.

Fletcher walked firmly from the condemned cell across the intervening space, and stepped into the coach-house, smiling as he did so, and in a second or two paid the penalty of his crime.

He maintained to the end the story that the shooting had been an accident, and that he did not mean to kill the girl, and though he expressed to the chaplain during his incarceration his regret, he never expressed any fear as to his fate or hope of reprieve.

As he walked across the yard, Pierpont, the assistant executioner, walked on one side of him, and on the other side a warder.

Having regard to Fletcher’s collapse when he was sentenced to death, it was feared that he would need assistance, but he did not.

He followed the chaplain and the executioner Ellis, at a vigorous pace across the yard, gazing fearlessly ahead of him.

The execution was fixed for eight o'clock, and was over in a couple of minutes.

During the night Fletcher had slept since his sentence, soundly, indeed, the Press representatives were informed that at no time has he showed the slightest fear or nervousness.

The following letter was received by the mother of Fletcher yesterday:

'Dear Mother.

Just a few lines to you for the last time. I want you all to cheer up and look after yourselves. I am ready to go now that my time is here, but I have nothing to fear.

It was an accident and you can see how my luck is. You can't go apart from my luck. I have not had fair play in my case, but I am willing to go, and I have wished many times since I was in prison that I should die. I should have been dead the first week I was in prison if my wish had come true.

I have suffered enough and don't want to suffer any more.

I hope it will be better in the next world, then I shall have no more troubles and no worrying.....'

Then followed a few sentences asking his mother to remember him to his relatives and friends."

### 1939 Register

45, Albion Street – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *Henry Knaggs*, date of birth 12/10/1899, licensed victualler, ARP warden, married;

[2] Doris (Knaggs) Marsden, dob 17/1/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Thomas E. Coupe, dob 9/9/1875, riveter, gas-holder, public works, married;

[4] Joseph S. Rider, dob 11/12/1904, riveter, gas-holder, public works, single:

[Doris married Marsden in 1955.]

*Malcolm Keeling* was married to Sandra.

[2007]

### Halesowen News 17/1/2008

"The site of a derelict public house in Oldbury could be transformed if new planning proposals are given the go ahead. An application to build housing on the site of the FOUNTAIN INN, on Albion Street, was submitted to the council earlier this month. If approved the plans would see the pub bulldozed and replaced by six new, modern-style homes, with parking. Residents have until Monday January 28 to comment on the plans."

It was demolished in 2008.

Housing (Fountain Gardens) was built on the site. [2014]

## **FOUNTAIN**

139, (13), Bromford Road, (Bromford Lane), OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

George Thompson, Langley, Oldbury

George Jerrams, brewer, Tat Bank, Oldbury

City Brewery Co. Ltd., Birmingham

Holdings Brewery Co. Ltd. [1902]

## **LICENSEES**

John Fowler [1841] – [1842]  
William Johns [1845] – [1851]  
Charles Hinsley [1851] – [1855]  
Richard Davis [1861] – [1873]  
Enoch Jones [1880] – **1889**;  
Charles Humphries (**1889 – 1895**);  
Issacher Allen [1891] (**1895 – 1897**);  
City Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1897 – 1900**)  
Holders Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1900 – 1905**);  
Tom Newbold [1901]  
Ernest Deakin [1902] manager  
Thomas Davenson (**1905 – 1906**):

## NOTES

Bromford Road [1864], [1871]  
13, Bromford Road [1873]  
139, Bromford Road [1896], [1901]

It stood on the side of the Tame brook.

### 1841 Census

Bromford Lane

- [1] *John Fowler* (25), publican;
- [2] Catherine Fowler (25);
- [3] Harriot Fowler (17);
- [4] Josh Fowler (24), brewer;
- [5] Eliza Fowler (4);
- [6] John Fowler (3);
- [7] Hannah Fowler (2):

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/1/1842 - Advert

“Old Licensed Public House.

To be Sold by private Contract, all those desirable Freehold Premises, with Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, known as the FOUNTAIN INN, at Bromford, near Oldbury, situated on the high road between Oldbury and West Bromwich, and surrounded by Collieries and Iron Works.

Apply to *John Fowler*, on the premises.”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/4/1842 - Advert

“Freehold Inn and Premises, at Bromford, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Newbold, at the TALBOT HOTEL, in Oldbury, on Wednesday next the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, at five o'clock in the afternoon, under and subject to such conditions as shall then be produced. All that capital Freehold Inn and Premises, called the FOUNTAIN, in the occupation of Mr. *John Fowler*, situate near to the Bromford Works, and within about a quarter of a mile of the town of Oldbury; comprising two parlours, bar, kitchen, club-room on the second floor, 24ft by 14ft, good and airy chambers, spacious attics, and excellent cellarage under the whole of the building; together with a detached Brewhouse, a newly-erected Gig-house, and superior Stabling for six horses, with excellent loft over the same, Piggeries, and other requisite Outbuildings, and a Pump and Well of good water; forming altogether most commodious and convenient premises for carrying on the public business, and possession may be had upon the completion of the purchase.

The Premises, which are in full trade, have within the last two years been put into a thorough state of repair at a very considerable expense, and may be viewed on application to the Tenant.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Carters, Kerr, and Carter, Solicitors, Oldbury, who will show a plan of the premises; to Mr. Wm. Riley, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneer, Dudley.”

*William Johns* was also a barge owner, Bromford colliery. [1845], [1850]

#### 1851 Census

Bromford Lane

- [1] *William Johns* (43), innkeeper, born Shawley, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Johns* (31), wife, born Gatcom, Gloucestershire;
- [3] *Richard Johns* (70), father, widower, formerly boatman, born Kenley, Worcestershire;
- [4] *George Johnson* (4), son-in-law, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Maria Caswell* (21), servant, born Oldbury;
- [6] *John Bridge* (20), lodger, agricultural labourer, born Ampin, Herefordshire:

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/6/1851 - Advert

“Freehold Tavern, known by the Sign of the FOUNTAIN INN, at Bromford, fronting the Turnpike Road from Oldbury to West Bromwich, about 200 yards from Bromford Works.

By John Roderick. To be Sold by Auction, on the premises, on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> day of July next, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.

Lot I. All that capital Freehold Tavern; consisting of six bed-rooms, front spirit bar and tap-room, large parlour, sitting-room, kitchen, scullery, arched vaults, capital Brewhouse, Malt-room, Stabling for eight horses, with Lofts over, large Shed, and extensive Yard, with Carriage Entrance.

Lot II. The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above old-established and respectable Tavern, most desirably situated for business, having valuable Societies attached, now on the occupation of Mr. *Johns*. Valuation about £140.

For particulars apply to Mr. Bartleet, Solicitor, Waterloo Street; or to the Auctioneer, 54, New Street, both of Birmingham.”

#### London Gazette 24/6/1851

“Notice is hereby given, that by an indenture of conveyance and assignment, dated the 7th day of June 1851, and made between *William Johns*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford-road, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, of the first part; *Joseph Barrows*, of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Wine and Spirit Merchant, of the second part; and the several other persons whose names and seals are thereunto subscribed and set (being respectively creditors of the said *William Johns*), of the third part; all the freehold messuages or dwelling-houses, and other freehold property, and all the household furniture, stock in trade, and other the personal estate of the said *William Johns*, are conveyed and assigned by the said *William Johns* unto the said *Joseph Barrows*, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, upon certain trusts therein expressed, for the benefit of himself and all other the creditors of the said *William Johns* (parties thereto, of the third part); which said indenture was executed by the said *William Johns* and *Joseph Barrows*, respectively, on the day of the date thereof, and the execution of the said indenture, by the said *William Johns* and *Joseph Barrows*, is attested by *Jesse Bartleet*, of Birmingham aforesaid, Solicitor; and notice is hereby also given, that the said indenture now lies at the office of the said *Jesse Bartleet*, situate in Waterloo-street, in Birmingham aforesaid, for execution by the creditors of the said *William Johns*, and such of them as shall neglect to execute the same will be excluded the benefit thereof.”

*Richard Davis* = Richard Davies

#### 1861 Census

Bromford Road –FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] *Richard Davis* (30), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Sarah A. Davis* (24), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *John R. Davis* (1), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Mary A. Williams* (20), servant, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/5/1862

“The work people belonging to the firm of Messrs. Wright and Sons, of the Broadwell Forge, Oldbury, to the number of about forty, sat down on Monday evening last to a capital dinner, provided for them at Mr. *Davis*'s, FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, to celebrate the occasion of the marriage of Mr. Owen Wright, one of the firm. The worthy hostess had catered with her usual liberality and success, and deserved the compliments she got for the manner in which the dinner was placed on the table. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, and a bumper to the health and prosperity of the bride and bridegroom, songs and glees wound up a jovial evening.”

Birmingham Journal 29/11/1862 - Advert

“Important Freehold Building Land, on the Bromford Road.

Mr. A. G. Altree will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, December 16, 1862, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Davis*, FOUNTAIN INN, adjoining the land, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that desirable Freehold Building Land, close to the Railway Station, at Oldbury.

The Land has 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>yards of frontage to the Bromford Road, and contains about 792 square yards, and is bounded on the north-east side by a brook of excellent water. On the site is a Cottage, producing a rental of £7 16s per year.

For particulars, apply to Mr. A. G. Altree, Auctioneer and Estate Agent, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 18/4/1863 - Advert

“Valuable Front Freehold Building Land, situate in Bromford Lane, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. A. G. Altree, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday Next, April 21, at Five o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that valuable Piece of Front Freehold Building Land, adjoining the FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury, containing in the whole 800 square yards or thereabouts.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. A. G. Altree, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Estate Agent, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/4/1864

“J. Kirkham and S. Jones of Westbromwich. These district men have signed articles to run 140 yards, for £10 a side, at the Yew Tree Grounds, Wall Heath, on May 2. £5 a side is down in the hands of Mr. *R. Davis*, FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford, Oldbury, to whom a further deposit must be made on Monday, April 18. W. Jones of Oldbury, referee.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/4/1864

“Yew Tree Grounds, Wall Heath, Dudley. Kirkham of Westbromwich and Samuel Jones of the same place continue to make good their deposits to Mr. *Davis*, FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, the final stakeholder, for the seven score yards match, for £5 a side, which comes off at the above grounds on Monday, May 2, for £10 a side.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/2/1867

“W. Rogers of Westbromwich will fight A. Cottom of the same place, for £15 or £25 a side at catch weight, and will meet him at the house of *R. Davis*, FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury, to make a deposit and draw up articles, any night next week.”

1871 Census

Bromford Road – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *Richard Davis* (40), publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Sarah A. Davis* (34), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *J. R. Davis* (11), son, born Oldbury;

[4] *Sarah Davis* (6), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] *Catherine Johnston* (20), general servant, born Redditch:

### Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1874 - Died

“On the 24<sup>th</sup> inst, aged 44 years, Mr. *Richard Davis* of the FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury; deeply regretted by his family and friends, and by the members of the Licensed Victuallers’ Association of Oldbury.”

Sarah Ann *Davis* married *Enoch Jones* in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1876.

### Worcestershire Chronicle 12/4/1879

“Worcestershire Easter Quarter Sessions.....

James Adams, (49), puddler, was indicted for uttering a false florin to Sarah *Jones*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. Mr. Streeten prosecuted.

The prisoner offered the florin in payment for some beer. He pleaded that he did not know it was a bad florin; but it appeared that he afterwards offered the same coin to another publican, Joseph Parkes, the same night. Parkes bit a piece out of it. Prisoner said that he got the florin in change for a sovereign at the APPLE TREE INN, but the landlord of that house denied that change was given to the prisoner. Now he said he got the coin among his wages.

Guilty; sentenced to nine months’ hard labour.

Maria Jones (44), charwoman, with whom the last prisoner lived, was indicted for uttering a counterfeit half-crown. She offered it in payment for some bread, &c, and was identified as the person who had twice endeavoured to pass counterfeit florins.

Guilty; nine months’ hard labour.”

### 1881 Census

Bromford Road – FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] *Enoch Jones* (51), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Jones (44), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] John Davis (21), son, fitter (iron), born Oldbury;
- [4] Sarah Davis (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Florence Green (7), visitor, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Elizabeth Randle (22), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

### West Bromwich Weekly News 3/9/1881

“Charles Mellish, porter, a native of Woolwich, was charged with stealing twelve £5 Bank of England notes, £2 in gold, and a horse and trap, the property of his master, Mr. Walter Cooper, grocer, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, on the 20<sup>th</sup> August.

Prosecutor stated that on the 20<sup>th</sup> August prisoner was in his employ. On that day he had to deliver goods. He started from the witness’s shop about ten in the morning with a horse and cart, and was accompanied by his son, a boy about two years of age. Prosecutor had been in the habit for some months of sending all his silver to Mr. *Jones*, FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, who gave in exchange Bank of England notes and gold. On the day in question, a youth came up from Mr. *Jones*’s to seek the money, and prosecutor handed him a bag containing £62 in silver, and the youth accompanied prisoner to the FOUNTAIN INN. Prisoner was directed to receive the notes and gold in exchange for the silver. As Mellish was a long time away prosecutor made inquiries about him. He afterwards went to the Post Office, where he sent off telegrams to different places. He then gave information to Superintendent Hardman at Oldbury. He did not see prisoner again till the following Wednesday morning at Birmingham where the latter was in custody. Prisoner had been in his employ about two months, but on a previous occasion he had been employed by himself six months. Prisoner had been entrusted with money by him before; once with £84. The horse and trap was found near the Ivy House, Handsworth, with his son in the trap, some five hours afterwards.

Sarah Ann *Jones*, wife of *Enoch Jones*, FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, testified to giving the prisoner the notes and gold in exchange for the silver.

Superintendent Hardman stated that he received prisoner into custody at Birmingham on Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> inst. Prisoner made no reply when charged. He had £2 12s 3d in his possession.



Mellish pleaded guilty, and was committed to take his trial at the Quarter Sessions.”

Worcester Journal 22/10/1881

“County Quarter Sessions.....

Charles Mellish (35), grocer’s porter, was charged with embezzling £62, the money of his master, Walter Cooper, of Oldbury. Mr. Woodgate prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended. A Mr. Jones gave the prisoner twelve £5 notes and £2 in gold to take to his master. He did not do so, but absconded to Birmingham. His defence was that the money was stolen from a cart he was driving, while he was in a public house. Sent to prison for fifteen months with hard labour.”

Smethwick Telephone 22/3/1884

“*Enoch Jones*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury, was charged with selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. Mr. Forrest appeared for the defence. A fine of 20s and costs was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1884

“The annual licensing session for Oldbury Petty Sessional division was held yesterday.....

The whole of the licenses were renewed with the exception of those held by.....

*Enoch Jones*, FOUNTAIN INN ..... all of which were deferred until the adjourned licensing day.”

Smethwick Telephone 27/9/1884

“The adjourned licensing session for the division of Oldbury was held at the Police Court on Tuesday.....

*Enoch Jones* ..... whose licenses had been adjourned at the annual meeting, were called before the Bench, and after being cautioned as to their future conduct the applicants’ licenses were all renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/10/1888

“Yesterday Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, respecting the death of *Enoch Jones* (59), the landlord.

*Sarah Jones*, deceased’s wife, stated that about a fortnight ago he met with an accident and fell halfway down the stairs, injuring his ankle. A doctor was called in the next morning, and he continued to attend deceased until the time of his death.

*Sarah Parkes*, daughter of the deceased, said on Thursday night last, about 11.30 she was assisting her father to get into bed, when he suddenly became unconscious and expired in her arms.

Dr. Latham attributed death to an apoplectic fit, not accelerated by the fall.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

Smethwick Telephone 5/1/1889 - Advert

“Unreserved Auction Sale. FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury.

Mr. W. H. Pass is favoured with instructions from Mrs. *Enoch Jones*, who has disposed of her business, to Sell by Auction, upon the above premises, on Friday Next, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1889, the surplus Household Furniture and effects – Comprising Sets of Iron Bedsteads, Feather and Flock Beds, Palliasses, Mahogany Chest of Drawers, Dressing Chest, Cottage Pianoforte (in Walnut Case), Music Stool, Cane-Seated and other Chairs, Swing Glasses, Wringing Machine, Gig, Four-Wheel Carriage, Large Shed (nearly new), Engine Fittings, Blacksmiths’ Tools, Wrought-Iron Boiler, Quantity of Wrought and Scrap Iron, and other effects. Sale to Commence at 11am prompt.

Auctioneer’s Office, 52, Church Street, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 25/1/1890

“About 7.30 on Tuesday morning, George Parker, a ganger on the London and North-Western Railway, was going along the line, when, between Oldbury and the Albion Stations, he came across the body of a man, frightfully mutilated. Both legs were cut off, his brains were protruding, and fragments of the body were scattered along the line. The police were communicated with, and the body removed to the mortuary. Subsequently the body was identified as that of Samuel Cox, aged 42, of Junction Street, Brades Village,

Oldbury. Deceased left home at 9.30 on Monday morning to attend an ironworkers' meeting at the FOUNTAIN INN, near Bromford Ironworks.

Mr. E. Docker held an inquest on Wednesday afternoon.

William Lee deposed to seeing deceased at 10.30 on Monday morning leaving Bromford Ironworks. They went together to a meeting at the FOUNTAIN INN, and left at nearly five o'clock at night. They had nine quarts of ale among six of them, but they afterwards went to HEARTS OF OAK INN, and stayed there until six o'clock. Deceased started to go across the fields home, but he (witness) remembered nothing more, because he had had too much beer. Deceased was not 'dead' drunk, but he had had more than was good for him.

George Parker deposed to finding the body fearfully mutilated between the Albion and Oldbury Stations. John Pallfreeman, a watchman at Messrs. Isons and Co.'s works, said that about 7.20am on Tuesday his dog saw something going up the embankment. He called the dog away, but he would not come, and deceased called to witness to help him up the embankment. Witness begged of him not to go along the line, but he persisted in going. Just then he saw two trains coming from opposite directions.

Police-constable Avers deposed to being sent for, and conveying the body to the mortuary.

Mr. Robinson, the station-master at Oldbury, said deceased was trespassing by going on the line.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased was Found Dead on the railway."

#### Birmingham Mail 7/1/1891 - Advert

"Fox Terrier Dog Found Friday, January 2, black and white spots; name on collar, J. Bach; if not owned within three days will be sold.

Apply, FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Road, Oldbury."

#### 1891 Census

Bromford Road – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *Issacher Allen* (38), iron worker and publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Eliza Allen* (37), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Elizabeth Allen* (16), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Eunice Allen* (13), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[5] *Frederick Allen* (11), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[6] *Issacher Allen* (9), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[7] *Job Allen* (6), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[8] *James Allen* (3), son, born West Bromwich;

[9] *Louis Allen* (11 months), son, born West Bromwich:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 28/2/1893

"Last night Mr. *Issacher Allen*, landlord of the FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, near West Bromwich, reported that a most daring robbery had been committed at his house. He stated that four strange men visited his house, and were supplied with beer. After they left he discovered that £25 in money, four watches, two gold albert chains, and two silver chains had been stolen from one of the bedrooms. The total value of the stolen property was estimated at about £50."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 4/3/1893

"Yesterday, Sergeant Cooper, accompanied by Mr. *Allen*, landlord of the FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury, visited Worcester for the purpose of seeing two men now in custody on the charge of robbing a till. The men are suspected of being concerned in a robbery of money and watches committed at the inn on Monday night. The men are *David Derbira* (18), of Bricklin Street, Wolverhampton, compositor; and *Thomas Richards* (25), of no fixed abode, commercial traveller. They were picked out from a number of others as two of four men who visited Mr. *Allen's* house on Monday afternoon, and who are supposed to have committed the robbery. About £6 was found in possession of Richards."

#### 1901 Census

139, Bromford Road – FOUNTAIN INN

- [1] *Tom Newbold* (38), publican, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Harriett Ann Newbold* (38), wife, born Wrexham;
- [3] *Thomas Edward Newbold* (15), son, railway wagon builder, born Burton, Staffordshire;
- [4] *Arthur Newbold* (13), son, packer at bandage works, born Burton, Staffordshire;
- [5] *Gertrude Elizabeth Newbold* (10), daughter, born Burton, Staffordshire;
- [6] *Ella Rowena Newbold* (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Florrie Lizzie Cutler* (15), domestic servant, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Arthur Rigby* (34), boarder, railway wagon builder, born Bolton, Lancashire:

Smethwick Weekly News 22/2/1902

“Holders Brewery Co. Ltd, were charged with permitting drunkenness, on the licensed premises of the FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, and also with supplying a drunken person with drink, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared to prosecute on behalf of the police, and Mr. Clark (of J. R. Clark and Co, Birmingham) defended.

The latter made an application to allow time to obtain more witnesses, so the case was adjourned for three weeks.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/3/1902

“The magistrates at Oldbury insist upon the owners of licensed houses having the licenses in their name and taking full responsibility. Yesterday Holders Brewery Company were charged with permitting drunkenness at the FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. On the day named two police-officers visited the premises, which are managed by *Ernest Deakin*. They found a man named Windmill staggering about, but Mrs. *Deakin* assured them that he had had no drink there for the last half-hour.

In answer to Mr. Joy, Windmill said he had consumed 3½ pints of ale in the house, which could not make him drunk, as he could carry twice as much (laughter). A fine of £4 0s 6d, including costs, was imposed, the license not to be endorsed. Windmill was fined 8s.”

AND

Smethwick Weekly News 15/3/1902

“Holders Brewery Co were charged with permitting drunkenness on the licensed premises of the FOUNTAIN INN, Bromford Lane, on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Joy (instructed by Mr. J. B. Clark) defended.

At about five minutes to five on that day two officers visited the house, which was managed by *Ernest Deakin*. In the tap room was a man named James Windmill, who was staggering about the room trying to light his pipe. Mrs. *Deakin* was there, and one of the officers asked her how it was he was drunk there, and she said that he had no drink in front of him. One of the officers then said, ‘Then he has had some,’ to which she replied that he had had none for the last half hour. Windmill then staggered out of the room, but when outside fell down. He was picked up, but refused to give his name and address, so he was taken to the station, where he gave what was required to the superintendent.

The two officers, PCs Cale and Chitty, corroborated this, and Superintendent Sheriff deposed to seeing him in a drunken condition, and obtaining from him his name and address.

In answer to Mr. Joy, Windmill said he had been in the house since about 11.30, and had consumed about 3½ pints of ale, which he said could not make him drunk, as he could ‘carry’ twice as much.

For the defence Mr. Joy submitted that the man was not sufficiently drunk to warrant a conviction, as was stated by the witnesses he brought.

Windmill was fined 2s 6d and costs, 8s in all, or 7 days, and Holders 20s and costs, £4 0s 6d in all, and the license was not to be endorsed.”

The license was surrendered on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

It became a lodging house.

Demolished

Smethwick Telephone 16/6/1906 - Advert

“Tuesday, June 26, 1906. Important Sale by Auction, by Samuel Jones, Son, and Vernon.....  
Lot 7. Freehold Property (till recently used as a licensed house, and known as the FOUNTAIN INN), with the extensive Stabling, Yard, and Premises, Bromford Road, Oldbury.”

## FOUNTAIN

6, (2), High Street, (Pit Lane), Langley Green, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Joseph Jackson  
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. [1909]

## LICENSEES

Joseph Jackson [1862] – **1892**);  
William Swancott (**1892 – 1910**): manager

## NOTES

Pit Lane [1871], [1872], [1880], [1881]  
2, High Street [1891]  
High Street [1892], [1903]  
6, High Street [1901]

It was originally an unnamed beerhouse.

*Joseph Jackson*, retailer of beer, Langley Green. [1862]  
*Joseph Jackson*, beer retailer, Langley. [1870]

## 1871 Census

Pit Lane

- [1] *Joseph Jackson* (41), widower, iron roller, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Jackson* (15), daughter, born Langley;
- [3] *Betsy Jackson* (12), daughter, born Langley;
- [4] *Nancy Jackson* (10), daughter, born Langley;
- [5] *Edward Jackson* (8), son, born Langley:

## Birmingham Daily Post 7/7/1875 - Advert

“Lost, on Sunday evening last, at Spon Lane, a white Pomeranian Dog; answers to ‘Merry.’  
The Finder will be rewarded by returning him to Mr. *Jos. Jackson*, FOUNTAIN INN, Langley.”

## 1881 Census

Pit Lane

- [1] *Joseph Jackson* (52), widower, sheet iron roller, born Rowley;
- [2] *Polly Jackson* (25), daughter, born Langley;
- [3] *Elizabeth Jackson* (22), daughter, born Langley;
- [4] *Annie Jackson* (20), daughter, born Langley;

[5] Edward Jackson (18), son, born Langley:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/3/1890 - Advert

“Wanted, horizontal Engine, 16in diameter.

Address, state price and where to be seen, FOUNTAIN INN, Langley, Birmingham.”

1891 Census

2, High Street – FOUNTAIN

[1] *Joseph Jackson* (62), widower, publican, born Oldbury;

[2] Elizabeth Jackson (32), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Annie Jackson (30), daughter, born Oldbury:

*Joseph Jackson* – see also PARK HALL TAVERN.

Birmingham Daily Post 8/11/1893

“At the Police Court, yesterday, Albert Burton, of Park Street, Churchbridge, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the FOUNTAIN INN, Langley, and with assaulting the landlord, *William Swancott*, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult.

Prosecutor alleged that whilst ejecting the defendant from his house the latter struck him several times with a stick.

Police-constable Walton also gave evidence as to the violent behaviour of the accused.

A fine of £1 8s, including expenses, was imposed, or, in default, twenty-one days’ imprisonment.”

*William Swancott*, beer retailer, 6, High Street, Langley. [1896]

1901 Census

6, High Street – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *William Swancott* (60), public house manager, born West Bromwich;

[2] Sarah Ann Swancott (55), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] William Swancott (28), son, labourer, iron, born Langley;

[4] Maud Hill (24), step-daughter, born Langley;

[5] Isabella Swancott Hill (21), daughter, born Langley;

[6] Mary Jackson (22), domestic servant, born Langley:

*William Swancott* – see also WHIMSEY.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

FOUNTAIN INN.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1909.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the

grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation.....

FOUNTAIN, beerhouse, High Street, Langley, owner Messrs. Showells Limited.....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee's investigations....."

The license was refused on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1909.

#### Evesham Standard 10/7/1909

"The Worcestershire Licensing Committee sat on Saturday to continue consideration of the 25 licenses which had been referred to them as the compensation authority by the local justices.....

In the case of the FOUNTAIN, Langley, Oldbury, Mr. Sharpe intimated, on behalf of owner and licensee, that there was no objection to the closing of the house, but he said they would claim liberal compensation. Mr. Bund: We give no promise."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/12/1909

"Mr. J. Willis Bund presided on Saturday at a meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee which was held to consider claims in respect of licences which have been refused.....

In the case of the FOUNTAIN INN, Langley, the claim was for £3,154. Mr. F. Jones, valuer, gave evidence that the premises were worth about £52 a year, but Mr. E. D. Fisher, manager of the tied house department of Messrs. Showell, said they were at present assessed for Income Tax at only £20 10s, and for inhabited house duty at £25. Mr. Bund elicited that contributions had been paid to the compensation fund on the lower amount, and passed some strictures on the claim from the fund upon the higher amount. Mr. J. B. Matthews said there might be some reproach upon the Overseers that they had not assessed the premises sufficiently high, but that was not a reason why the claimants should not be compensated for their full loss. The Committee awarded £1,760, but the claimants intimated that they could not accept that amount and must appeal to the Inland Revenue."

#### Alcester Chronicle 18/6/1910

"A meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. Willis Bund presiding.....

In the case of the FOUNTAIN INN, Langley, it appeared that the Commissioners in Inland Revenue (to whom the parties had appealed against the committee's award of £1,760) had awarded £2,000, and of this Showell's Brewery Company, the registered owners, proposed to give their manager £10. Mr. Bund remarked that the Act intended that the licensee should have at least one year's trade profit, and this arrangement appeared to him to be really a fraud on the Act and an ingenious way of the owners getting more than their share."

Compensation was paid on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1910.

The license was extinguished on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1910.

It became Langley Post Office.

#### **FOUNTAIN**

63, (15), Stone Street, (Stoney Lane), Oldbury Green, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Benjamin Lancaster, Perrott Street, Oldbury  
J. A. and A. Thompson, maltsters, Oldbury  
Isache and Clark, 82, New Street, Birmingham (acquired c.1911)  
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1946)

## LICENSEES

Francis Burns [1845]  
Samuel Nightingale [1850]  
Benjamin Lancaster [1851] – [1855]  
William Knight [1861]  
Samuel Beech [1862]  
Frederick Thomas [ ] – **1863**;  
Robert Crowshaw (**1863**)  
John Gardner [ ] – **1864**;  
Thomas Jackson (**1864** – [1870]  
John Day [1871] – [1873]  
James Baker [1880] – **1887**;  
Mrs. Ann Willis (**1887** – **1888**);  
John Thomas Yoxall (**1888** – **1889**);  
Emma Edwards (**1889** – **1890**);  
Joseph Yorke (**1890** – **1892**);  
David Willetts (**1892** – **1894**);  
Samuel Abbott (**1894** – **1898**);  
Thomas Duffield (**1898** – **1911**);  
James Henry Downes (**1911** – **1918**);  
Henry Richards (**1918** – **1920**);  
Robert Underwood (**1920** – **1922**);  
George Vernon Williams (**1922** – **1958**);  
Les Raymond Coupmail (**1958**);

## NOTES

Stony Lane [1855]  
Stoney Lane [1850], [1854]  
15, Stone Street [1873], [1881]  
63, Stone Street [1891], [1892], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939]

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/2/1845 - Advert

“To be Let, the FOUNTAIN INN, an old-licensed House, near the Alkali Works, Oldbury. No expense coming in.

Apply to the Proprietor on the premises.”

### Worcestershire Chronicle 4/6/1845

“We stated in our last that a man named John Hadley, in the employment of Messrs. Dawes and Sons, Oldbury, had died on the preceding Tuesday morning of injuries he received in a quarrel with a young man named Waterhouse, who was apprehended, and awaited a coroner's inquest, which was held on the Friday following, and, by adjournment, on Tuesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, and a most

respectable jury.

The greatest interest was excited in the town and neighbourhood, and the large concert room of the TALBOT HOTEL, in which the inquest was held, was densely crowded by persons anxious to witness the proceedings.

The evidence went to prove that Waterhouse and deceased had been drinking till one o'clock on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> ult, at the FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury, with several other persons. When the party left, Waterhouse was sober, but the deceased was very fresh, and insisted on following Waterhouse into the house of a man named Pigott, one of the party. Waterhouse, seeing him behind, turned round, and after some angry words had passed between the two, he struck the deceased three or four times. The deceased kept retreating backwards all the time, saying he would not fight, until he was knocked down. On witness going to assist him to rise up, he found him quite insensible. He died shortly afterwards.

The jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Waterhouse, who has been committed to take his trial for the offence."

Worcestershire Chronicle 23/7/1845

"Worcestershire Summer Assizes.....

Andrew Waterhouse, 22, labourer, was charged with the manslaughter of John Hadley, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May last, at Oldbury. Mr. Selfe prosecuted, and Mr. Huddleston defended. The evidence for the prosecution was as follows.

Thomas Webb: I am a labourer, of Oldbury. John Hadley, the deceased, was with me at the FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury; and also Waterhouse, the prisoner. We all went out together, about a quarter past one in the morning. There were several others with us. Hadley was drunk. We were all good friends up to the time of leaving. There was no quarrel. We went towards home. Hadley was going to his work, as it was his turn to work all night. We came near the prisoner's house, and prisoner and a girl were going in, and Hadley followed. Prisoner wanted to know what brought us there. He then struck Hadley, who had not previously offered any insult to Waterhouse. Hadley stepped back, said he would not fight, and the prisoner followed us. They went off, and in about four minutes Waterhouse came back and said he had killed one, and could do the same for another, meaning me. We were going to fight, but were prevented. I then found Hadley lying in the road.

Thomas Pigott: I married a sister of the prisoner. I was at the FOUNTAIN. When I left, between one and two in the morning, Hadley and Waterhouse were drunk. I had got home first and locked the door, and soon after I heard a noise at the door, made by Ann Hadley asking to be admitted, for they were going to drop on her brother. I opened the door, and saw the party. I saw Hadley strike Waterhouse. Waterhouse returned the blow, and then they went away. They were away about four minutes, and then I went and found Hadley in the road.

Mary Warren: Lives opposite Pigott's house. I was aroused in the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. I saw many people in the road quarrelling; saw one lying about half a yard from the pavement.

John Toy, watchman, of Oldbury: Met the party coming from the FOUNTAIN. Waterhouse appeared sober, but Hadley was drunk.

Sarah Hadley: I am the widow of John Hadley. I went on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> May to the furnaces, and found him in great pain. He said he should not live. He said he was a murdered man. He knew me. He said Andrew Waterhouse, calling him by his usual name of 'Sixy,' had murdered him. He was kicked on the left side and shoulder. He said he was worst there.

Mr. T. R. Cooper, surgeon: I visited Hadley on Tuesday. There were many bruises on the body, particularly on his head, and the cause of death was compression of the brain, caused by extravasation of blood. This was occasioned by a kick or a fall. There was a blow on the region of the stomach, caused by a kick or by deceased falling on a brick. I think compression of the brain was caused by his falling on a rounded stone. The Judge here stopped the case, as he said there was plainly a doubt as to the cause of death. He wished the jury to say whether they wanted to hear anything more. They said they did not, and returned a verdict of Not Guilty."

*Benjamin Lancaster* was also a builder. [1854]



Birmingham Journal 1/12/1860 - Advert

“An Old-Established Old-Licensed Inn, the FOUNTAIN, Oldbury Green, Oldbury.”

By Mr. J. S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the Licenses, Brewing Plant, Fixtures, Fittings, and other Effects of the above old-established Old-Licensed Inn, and now doing a good business, in consequence of the present Proprietor having made other engagements. The Premises are well adapted to do a large and good Business, there being every convenience for the same. Immediate possession may be had. Rent and Coming-in low.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to the Auctioneer, Valuer, Land Surveyor, and General Agent. Offices, Westley Street, Oldbury.”

1861 Census

Stone Street – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *William Knight* (48), victualler, born Droitwich;

[2] *Jane Knight* (50), wife, born Stoke Prior, Worcestershire;

[3] *Elizabeth Ebberts* (17), general servant, born Oldbury;

[4] *James Redding* (50), lodger, master carpenter, born Feckenham, Worcestershire:

Bromsgrove Messenger 29/6/1861 - Died

“June 24, suddenly, aged 48, Mr. *William Knight*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury, and formerly of the Hop Pole Inn, Bromsgrove.”

Birmingham Journal 11/1/1862 - Advert

“Oldbury.

To be Let, the Old-Licensed FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury, surrounded by the extensive Works of Messrs. Chance, Griffiths, Thorneycroft, and others.

Apply on the Premises, where satisfactory reasons will be given for leaving.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/11/1862 - Advert

“Rare Opportunity. The FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, on account of other engagements of the Proprietor, this very desirable Double-fronted, Old-licensed House and Liquor Vaults, situate close to the Dudley and Birmingham Turnpike Road, overlooking the Race Course, and in the immediate vicinity of very extensive Iron, Chemical, Brick, and other Works, Boat Locks, &c. Rent £25.

The Premises consist of two good front Parlours, Bar, large Kitchen, a capital Club Room three Bed Rooms, Brewhouse and Wash-house, roomy and cool Cellarage, and Stabling for four horses.

Included in the above rent is a very capital Carpenter’s or Joiner’s Shop, which has a separate entrance, and may be separately let; and two Cottages, now let to good tenants, at 2s 4d each per week, reducing the rent to something like £12, by far the most advantageous Premises in this densely populated neighbourhood.

There is also an abundant supply of good Water.

Apply to Mr. Robert H. Jones, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Accountant, Church Square, Oldbury.”

[This advert ran until May 1863. Later adverts said the proprietor was leaving on account of the illness of his wife.]

*Robert Crowshaw* = Robert Croshaw

Birmingham Daily Post 6/5/1863

“*Frederick Thomas*, who formerly kept the FOUNTAIN INN, was charged with having kept his house open for the sale of beer during prohibited hours on Sunday week. Defendant had left the house some months, and at the time of the offence *Robert Croshaw* was the occupant. As, however, the license had not been transferred, *Thomas* was liable, and he was fined 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Journal 30/5/1863 - Advert

“The FOUNTAIN INN, Oddbury [sic].

To be Sold by Auction, by Robert H. Jones, on Wednesday Next, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, at Eleven am (unless previously disposed of by private contract, of which due notice will be given), the Licences, Goodwill, and Possession, Brewing Plant, including Two capital Furnaces, of the capacity of ninety-four and fifty gallons, sixteen strike Mash Tub, Ale Coolers on stands, Barrels, &c, &c, Fixtures, Furniture, Stock-in-Trade, and Effects, of this very capital Old Licensed House and Spirit Vaults.

The House is well situated for doing a good trade, and prior to the Sale may be Let on very advantageous terms.

In-coming about £50.

Apply to Robert H. Jones, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Accountant, Church Square, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/6/1863 - Advert

“Clear-Out Sale at the FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury.

By Robert H. Jones. To be Sold by Auction, This Day (Wednesday), the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, at Eleven in the forenoon.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, together with the whole of the Stock-in-Trade, Brewing Plant, Ale Casks, Beer Machines, Tump of Hops, Furniture, Fixtures, and other Effects of this very capital old-licenced House and Spirit Vaults, the property of Mr. *Robert Crowshaw*, who is leaving the neighbourhood. The Licenses will be Sold first.

Auctioneer’s Offices, Church Square, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 18/7/1863 - Advert

“The FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury.

That well-known Old-Licensed Public House, now closed, and may be entered upon immediately. Rent and payments low. In-coming a nominal sum. The House is replete with every convenience for carrying on a good business, and is now being repapered and painted. It stands facing the Racecourse, and is in close proximity to several important Works.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. A. G. Altree, Publicans’ Valuer and Auctioneer, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/6/1870 - Advert

“FOUNTAIN INN, Stone Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. L. Courtney, Tomorrow (Tuesday), Brewing Plant, Household Furniture, and other Effects.

Sale at Eleven o’clock.

Catalogues from the Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.”

#### 1871 Census

Stone Street – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *John Day* (32), publican, born Inkborough, Worcestershire;

[2] *Elizabeth Day* (31), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Eliza Day* (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

#### 1881 Census

15, Stone Street – FOUNTAIN

[1] *James Baker* (48), blacksmith, born Whiteheath;

[2] *Emma Baker* (55), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *William Baker* (21), son, blacksmith, born Oldbury;

[4] *James T. Baker* (18), son, blacksmith, born Oldbury;

[5] *Albert E. Baker* (15), son, ironworker, born Oldbury;

[6] *Amplias E. A. Baker* (14), daughter, born Oldbury;

[7] *Alfred Baker* (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury:

#### 1891 Census

63, Stone Street – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *Joseph Yorke* (46), publican, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Elizabeth Yorke* (39), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] *Esther Yorke* (17), daughter, born Tipton;

[4] *George Yorke* (6), son, scholar, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1891 - Advert

“FOUNTAIN INN, Stone Street, Oldbury.

This old-established Licensed Free Public-house to Let. Rent £22. In-coming £80.

Apply, W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Valuer, 13, Church Street, Oldbury.”

*David Willetts* – see also MALT SHOVEL, Low Town.

Sporting Life 14/6/1897

“Rabbit Coursing. Mr. *S. Abbots*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Stone Street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, will match his dog Grey Legs to course Barnard the best of fifteen courses, 40 yards law, for £10 or £25 a side. The *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder and appoint referee. An answer through the *Sporting Life* will receive prompt attention.”

1901 Census

63, Stone Street

[1] *Thomas Duffield* (39), beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;

[2] *Sarah Duffield* (43), wife, born Oldbury:

1911 Census

63, Stone Street – FOUNTAIN INN

[1] *Thomas Duffield* (48), publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Sarah Duffield* (52), wife, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/7/1913

“Mr. W. R. Fleetwood, at Sandwell, West Bromwich, offered by auction thirteen properties, belonging to the estate of the late C. F. Thompson, situate in the neighbourhood of West Bromwich, all of which were sold.....

FOUNTAIN INN, at Oldbury, let at £80 a year, £1,650.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/2/1920

“At the Oldbury Licensing sessions yesterday, the Superintendent’s report showed there were 114 licences (69 fully licensed), representing one to every 283 persons. During the year on licensed holder was proceeded against for an infringement, and 17 persons were convicted for drunkenness.

Objection was taken by the Superintendent to the renewal of 16 licenses on the ground of redundancy, and, after private consideration, the Bench reduced these to four, to be referred for compensation. These are: BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green; FOUNTAIN INN, Stone Street; OLD BOAT, Canal-side: and MANCHESTER STORES, Church Bridge.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1920

“Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

The licenses of the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green; the MANCHESTER STORES, Park Street; and the FOUNTAIN INN, Stone Street, were renewed.

The license of the OLD BOAT INN, Canalside, was referred for compensation.

The Chairman explained that the Bench were influenced by the limited amount of money at the disposal of the Compensation Authority.”

1939 Register

63, Stone Street

[1] *George Williams*, date of birth 12/3/1885, licensee, public house, married;

[2] Florence Williams, dob 14/4/1891, unpaid domestic, married;

[3] Edith (Williams) Wools, dob, 29/6/1915, electrical inspector engineer, single:

It closed on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1958.

## **FOUR FURNACES**

7, (4), Canal Side, Whimsey Bridge, Halesowen Street, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Thomas Adams, Tat Bank, Oldbury

Showell's Brewery Co. Ltd. (leased) [1887]

## **LICENSEES**

James Price [1855]

William Ashton [1861]

Thomas Nickless [1862]

William Horton [ ] – **1864**);

Jacob Griffiths (**1864**); temporary

John Hill (**1864** – [ ]

Elijah Bird [1870] – [1873]

Richard William Morris [1881]

William Lightfoot [1884] – **1885**);

Joseph Aston (**1885** – **1887**);

## **NOTES**

It was named after the blast furnaces carried on by Captain William Bennitt.

### 1861 Census

Halesowen Street – FOUR FURNACES INN

[1] *William Ashton* (50), victualler and butty collier, born Oldbury;

[2] Sarah Ashton (48), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Sarah Ashton (19), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[4] Jane Ashton (12), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[5] Mary A. Chater (20), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Journal 9/8/1862 - Advert

“Oldbury. The FOUR FURNACES, Old-Licensed Inn, fronting the Birmingham Old Canal, near the Whimsey Bridge, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, and near the most important Wharfs, Brick Yards, Iron foundries, Collieries, and other Works.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, in consequence of the present Proprietor removing nearer to his Works.

The House consists of Front Bar, Smoke and Tap Room, Servants' and Cooking Kitchen, three Bed Rooms,

large Club Room, two Cellars, capital Brewery, and other Appurtenances thereto belonging, with enclosed Yard. Brewing regularly once a week.

Rent and coming-in very low.

For further particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 21/2/1863 - Advert

“Oldbury. The FOUR FURNACES Old-Licensed Inn, fronting the Birmingham Old Canal, and in the midst of important Tramways, Coal Wharfs, Brick Yards, on or near the Whimsey Bridge, Oldbury.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, all that well-accustomed Old-Licensed Inn, now Brewing once a week.

The House consists of three Bed and Lodge Rooms, front Tap and Smoke Rooms, Bar, Servant’s Kitchen, Brewhouse, two Cellars, Stabling for four Horses, Piggeries, and other Appurtenances, with enclosed Yard, and a good supply of Water.

Immediate possession may be had. Rent low. Valuation can be reduced to suit a purchaser.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 15/8/1863 - Advert

“Oldbury. Unreserved Sale. The FOUR FURNACES INN, near the Whimsey Bridge, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on the Premises as above on Monday Next, August 17.

The whole of the Brewing Plant, Public House Fixtures, Fittings, and Part of the Household Furniture, and other Effects; comprising Drinking Screens, Tables, and Forms; four-pull Beer Machine, Piping and Taps complete; metal-top and other Counters, 60 gallon, 40 gallon, and other Ale Casks; Working, Barm, and other Tubs; oval Mash Tub, Wort Vats and Stands, with Piping to Cellar; two large Furnaces, Doors and Bars, Pewter Ale and Spirit Measures, Spirit Casks and Bottles, Cups, Jugs, and Glasses; two eight-day Clocks, Eight Store Pigs, 4½-inch wheel Cart, with Sideboards, nearly new; narrow-wheel Cart, with Gearing, and other Effects, which appear in catalogues, to be had at the Place of Sale, or the Auctioneer’s Offices, Wesley Street, Oldbury.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.”

#### 1871 Census

4, Canal Side – FOUR FURNACES INN

[1] *Elijah Bird* (52), innkeeper, born Tividale;

[2] *Elizabeth Bird* (50), wife, born Oldbury:

#### 1881 Census

7, Canal Side, East – FOUR FURNACES

[1] *Richard William Morris* (29), bricklayer and publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Sophia Morris* (30), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *William Joseph Morris* (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] *Ellen Matilda Maria Morris* (3), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] *Alice Ann Morris* (1), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/11/1881

“Local Liquidations.....

Yesterday a petition for liquidation was filed in the Oldbury County Court by *Richard William Morris*, of the FOUR FURNACES INN, Canal Side, Whimsey Bridge, Halesowen Street, licensed victualler and bricklayer. The liabilities are estimated at £350. Mr. S. H. Forrest, Church Street, Oldbury, is the solicitor in the matter.”

#### London Gazette 22/11/1881

“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 *Richard William Morris*, of the FOUR FURNACES INN, Canal Side, Whimsey Bridge, Halesowen-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Bricklayer.

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. Samuel Henry Forrest, Solicitor, 21, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 2nd day of December, 1881, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 17th day of November, 1881.

Samuel H. Forrest, 21, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Solicitor for the Debtor.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 3/12/1881

“A meeting of the creditors of *Richard William Morris*, of the FOUR FURNACES INN, Halesowen Street, licensed victualler and bricklayer, was held yesterday, at the Office of Mr. S. H. Forrest. The statement of affairs showed liabilities £449 9s 5d, and assets £3. It was resolved to accept a composition of 1s in the pound, payable in four months. Mr. Forrest being entrusted with the registration of the resolution.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 10/12/1881 - Advert

“Public House to Let, immediate possession, Old-licensed House, the FOUR FURNACES. Apply on the Premises, Oldbury.”

FOUR FURNACES INN, Canal Side, near Whimsey Bridge, Halesowen Street. [1887]

Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1887

“The annual Licensing Meeting for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday at the Police Station.....

Superintendent Hardman reported ..... There was one licensed house in the division which had not been occupied for ten or twelve months. He intended to oppose the renewal of that license, on the ground that there was no necessity for its continuance. The house referred to was the FOUR FURNACES INN, Canal Side, Hales Owen Street.....

Mr. Jackson, on behalf of the owner and lessee, Mr. W. Showell, applied for the license of the FOUR FURNACES INN to be renewed. Mr. Jackson explained that the license was held by a man named *Aston*, but he had left the district and could not be found. Mr. Wright (clerk) said he thought an application should be made for a transfer.....

The Bench, after a short deliberation, refused to renew the license of the FOUR FURNACES INN.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/9/1887

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Session.....

Mr. Shakespeare applied for the transfer of a license attached to the FOUR FURNACES INN, canal side, Hales Owen Street, from *Joseph Aston* to Thomas Slater. He explained that the house in question had been a licensed house for a number of years. The matter came before the justices at the annual licensing meeting in the shape of an objection to the renewal of the license upon the part of Superintendent Hardman, on the ground that there was no necessity for it, as the requirements of the locality were amply provided for.....”

AND

West Bromwich Weekly News 24/9/1887

“The FOUR FURNACES INN. Mr. Shakespeare, in making an application for a renewal of the above license, explained that it had been a licensed house a number of years, and on the licensing day the matter came before them and an objection was made to the license by the Superintendent. The house was on the Canal Side and was principally used by persons taking boats along the canal, who generally called to take their meals, and then went on. The house, for the last nine months, had been closed because there was some difficulty with the tenants.

The Clerk pointed out that Sergeant Stanton gave evidence that the house had not been used since the last general licensing day.

Mr. Shakespeare said that any how it was closed in consequence of the tenant taking the license away.

Messrs. Showell leased the house, but they could not put in a new tenant until the man gave the license up. All he asked them to do was reconsider their previous decision not to renew the license because of the hardship not only to the tenant, but to Messrs. Showell also, who leased the premises. If the house had been closed because of bad conduct or anything of that character, it would have been a different thing, and if the house had been used the license would have been granted without hesitation. There was a tenant in the house, but he had not sold anything out of respect for their previous decision, but he simply asked them, was it fair to inflict the pecuniary loss to the tenant and lessee, simply through the fault of a tenant who went away with the license and caused the house to be closed. He pointed out, however, that unless the magistrates were prepared to renew the license on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, he ought not to press for the transfer now, and would ask them to take the two together.

*Joseph Aston* was then called, and in reply to Mr. Shakespeare, said he sold the license by auction, and that Mr. W. H. Pass was the purchaser. On the form being handed to witness showing the purchase, he denied that he had placed his signature on the paper.

Witness: All I want is my day's money for coming here.

Mr. Shakespeare: You are not worth paying, and can stand down.

Mr. Shakespeare explained that this was the kind of difficulty they had had with *Aston* all along, his object being to get money.

Mr. W. H. Pass was then called, and on entering the box he asked if he should be worth paying.

Mr. Shakespeare: Let me hear the decision first. (Laughter.)

Mr. Pass then stated that Mr. Pardoe sold the license and he (Mr. Pass) bought it for £1. The paper was then a blank, and Mr. *Aston* signed it the next morning, and he had held the license ever since. He bought it because he thought it a pity for the house to go wrong.

Mr. Avery: Was it not a funny way of doing business to sign a blank form?

Mr. Shakespeare said it was the public house way of doing it, and was always done. If they bought a license from a man, or lent him money on it, they could not tell who they would have to transfer it to, and they were bound to take it on a blank form in that way.

Sergeant Stanton said he had taken the memorial which was signed by a number of tradesmen in favour of the license, to them, and in most cases they stated that they did not know the person that the license was for when they signed, but the men deal at their shops. He also stated that there was a conviction against Thomas Slater.

Mr. Shakespeare said if there was any objection to the man himself, he would undertake to have another, and let it in abeyance for a time. The Magistrates deferred their decision."

[The magistrates did not change their decision.]

## FRENCH HORN

25, (11), Littlefields, Rounds Green, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Alma Jones

John Edward Jones

Joseph Hanson

Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

## LICENSEES

James Sadler [1850] – [1854]

John Rowley Ballard [1859] – [1862]  
Thomas Smithyman [1863] – [1865]  
John Jones [1870]  
Edward Jones [1871] – [1873]  
John Hebbard [1880] – [1881]  
Mrs. Alma Jones [1884] – [1888];  
John Edward Jones [1886] – **1889**;  
Charles Humphries (**1889 – 1890**);  
Thomas Brinold (**1890 – 1891**);  
Joseph Hanson (**1891 – 1893**);  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (**1893 – 1902**);  
Benjamin Simpson [1896] manager?  
John Smith (**1902 – 1908**):

## NOTES

11, Littlefields [1871], [1881]  
25, Littlefields [1891]

*James Sadler* issued tokens from here.

## 1851 Census

### Little Field

- [1] *James Sadler* (34), victualler and brickmaster employing 36 men, 10 women, 8 boys, 30 girls, born Oldbury;
- [2] Mary Ann Sadler (33), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Benjamin Sadler (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] Samuel Sadler (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] William Sadler (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Jesse Sadler (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Nancy Sadler (3), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Septimus Sadler (1), son, born Oldbury;
- [9] David Sadler (3 months), son, born Oldbury;
- [10] Tamar French (22), house servant, born Tipton:

*James Sadler* was a member of the jury at Worcestershire Midsummer Quarter Sessions in June 1852 and at the Worcestershire Michaelmas Sessions in October 1855.

## Birmingham Journal 13/12/1856 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale. To Horse Dealers, Contractors, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Tuesday Next, at the Stables, Portway Road, near the FRENCH HORN, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

Six Capital Waggon and other Horses; two sets of Thiller Harness, complete; together with Seven Carts, six 4½ and 3 inch Tires and Chaff Box; belonging to Messrs. Samuel and *James Sadler*, who have no further use for them.

Sale to commence at Twelve o’clock.

Auctioneer’s Offices, Church Square, and Church Street, Oldbury.”

## Worcester Journal 2/4/1859

“Oldbury Petty Sessions, Tuesday, March 29.....

Samuel Cook, innkeeper, was fined 5s and costs for keeping his house open for the sale of beer, before half-past twelve o’clock in the afternoon of Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. *John Ballard*, innkeeper, for a similar



offence on the same day, was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

### 1861 Census

Little Field – FRENCH HORN INN

- [1] *John Ballard* (40), victualler and carpenter, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Ballard* (38), wife, born Willeston, Cheshire;
- [3] *Hannah Ballard* (13), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Ellen Ballard* (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Emma Williams* (18), general servant, born Oldbury:

*John Rowley Ballard* – see also RED COW and WHIMSEY.

### Birmingham Daily Post 2/4/1863 - Advert

“Sale by Private Contract. FRENCH HORN INN, Oldbury.

By A. G. Atree. This noted Old Licensed House, now doing a brewing weekly, besides a good business in spirits. It stands surrounded by brickyards, ironworks, mining operations, and other works, and is doing a good in and out-door trade. In-coming about £100.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to A. G. Atree, Auctioneer and Valuer, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 26/9/1863 - Advert

“Whiley Street, Langley, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Hawkins, at the House of Mr. *Smithyman*, the FRENCH HORN INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, on Tuesday Next, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, at Six o’clock in the evening, by order of the Mortgagee, under certain terms of Sale, and subject to the conditions then and there to be produced – all those Two very desirable Freehold and substantially-built Messuages, or Dwelling Houses, Out-buildings, and Premises, situate in Whiley Street, Langley.....”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/5/1864 - Advert

“Sale This Day, at 6pm.

By Mr. Bateman, at the FRENCH HORN INN, Littlefields, near Oldbury.

Freehold Dwelling Houses, Garden, and Premises, situate near Summer Row, Rounds Green, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 6/2/1869

“Oldbury Board of Health.

The usual monthly meeting of this Board was held yesterday, Mr. Joseph Collins presiding.....

Attention having been called to the dangerous nature of the road near the FRENCH HORN, which had become narrowed in consequence of mining operations being carried on by Mr. Aston and Mr Bridges, the Clerk was instructed to write to those gentlemen on the subject.”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 8/1/1870

“Oldbury Local Board.....

The Inspectors of Nuisances reported that the road to Rounds Green, near to the FRENCH HORN public house, was still in a dangerous state; and Mr. Wright, the clerk, said that Messrs. Aston and Jackson, brick-makers, had taken no notice of his letter. On the motion of Mr. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Showell, it was agreed that the clerk should be instructed to proceed against the firm, unless within twenty-one days they repaired the road, which was injured by their operations.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 3/8/1870

“*John Jones*, landlord of the FRENCH HORN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, was charged with selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday last. The case was proved by Police-constable Turner, and the defendant was fined 1s and costs.”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 3/9/1870

“Oldbury Local Board.....

Mr. Young attended the Board on behalf of the Gas Company, and suggested that they should light the last lamp at Little Fields, and arrange with the landlord of the FRENCH HORN.”

*Edward Jones* issued tokens from here, bearing Ale and Porter.

### 1871 Census

11, Littlefields – FRENCH HORN

[1] *Edward Jones* (31), victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Mary Ann Jones (29), wife, born Tipton;

[3] Thomas James Jones (10), son, born Oldbury;

[4] John Edward Jones (8), son, born Oldbury;

[5] Mary Elizabeth Jones (5), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Sarah Ann Jones (2), daughter, born Oldbury;

[7] Edward Jones (1 month), son, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1873

“At the Police Court, yesterday, before Messrs. W. H. Dawes, T. Avery, and Dr. Houghton, William Hadley (18), labourer, of Titford, near Oldbury, and William Pratt, alias Cotterill (16), collier, Warley, near Oldbury, were charged with stealing and receiving £8, belonging to *Edward Jones*, licensed victualler, landlord of the FRENCH HORN, Oldbury. Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Jackson for the prisoners.

At the outset Mr. Shakespeare stated that money had been stolen to the amount of £37, and there was no doubt it had been taken by prosecutor’s son and given to the other prisoners. The father of Hadley had made reparation to a certain extent by returning £8 of the money upon discovering the theft. Under the circumstances, with the consent of the Bench, prosecutor would not proceed with the case.

Mr. Shakespeare having stated the facts of the case, the magistrates said it was a distressing case, and if they had followed their own inclination they would have adopted the suggestion made, but they were of opinion that there must be judicial investigation.

From the evidence, it appeared that prosecutor was in the habit of putting the ‘takings’ from his business in a cash-box in his bed room, and having no servant or anyone that he might suspect as being likely to steal, he left the key of the cash-box about in various parts of the house. His son, John Edward *Jones*, aged ten years, made the acquaintance of the prisoners two or three years ago, and on a Friday, about two months ago, he was with Hadley, who was employed at the Marl Hole, when Hadley said to him, ‘You can get a sovereign.’ The boy *Jones* said, ‘Perhaps I might.’ Hadley asked him if his father had a cash-box, and if he had seen the money. On receiving an affirmative reply, he asked *Jones* to get a sovereign, and promised to give him rabbits, birds, and other things if he did so. On the following day *Jones* got the key of the cash-box from a chest of drawers in his father’s bed room, unlocked the box, and took out a sovereign. This he gave to Hadley, who took him to his father’s house, gave him some apples and a bunch of roses, and told him that if he would ‘go and get some more’ he would buy him some ‘nice birds.’ *Jones* thereupon went home and took £4 from the cash-box. Hadley had told him to conceal the money in his stockings and shoes, in order that his mother might not hear it ‘tinkle.’ *Jones*, however, did not adopt this precaution, but wrapped the money in a piece of paper, and put it in his pocket. He then went to the Marl Hole and gave the money to Hadley. Hadley then took him and another boy named Allen to a confectioner’s shop and treated them to cakes, sweets, and ginger-beer. On the next day *Jones* met Hadley again, and on that occasion Hadley gave two of the sovereigns to Pratt. *Jones* told Pratt that he had given the money to Hadley, whereupon Pratt turned to Hadley, and said, ‘We will buy him a nice canary.’ Hadley replied, ‘We won’t buy him no fine things, or his father will think he gave us the money.’ They all then went on an excursion to Stourbridge, Hadley and Pratt paying the fares. When they came back Hadley gave *Jones* three rabbits, and *Jones*, when asked where he had them from, told his parents that he had ‘worked for them at the Marl Hole;’ Hadley gave them to him for assisting him. On several subsequent occasions the boy *Jones* took the sums of £7, £10, and £8, amounting in all to £37; Hadley asking him each time to take as much as he could.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> ultimo prosecutor missed 10s from his cash-box, and when counting the money two days after-

wards he missed £10. In a week afterwards the father of Hadley brought him £8, and this led to the discovery of the robbery.

When the prisoners were arrested, and charged with stealing the £8, they both said they wished they had never seen the money, and if they 'got out' of this they would take care never to 'get into it again.'

Mr. Jackson submitted that there was no independent corroborative evidence except that of the policeman who arrested the boys, the evidence of *Jones* being that of an accomplice.

Both prisoners were committed to the Sessions for trial, bail being refused."

[At the Worcestershire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions in October 1873, Hadley and Pratt were found guilty of stealing the money, the jury recommending them to mercy. Hadley was sentenced to four calendar months' hard labour, and Pratt to three months' hard labour.]

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/8/1876

"Oldbury. Yesterday afternoon the pleasant monthly gathering of several of the principal tradesmen of the town took place at the FRENCH HORN INN, when an excellently provided dinner was partaken of. After ample justice had been done to the meal, Mr. B. T. Sadler (the chairman of the Local Board of Health) presided. Several complimentary toasts were drunk, and in the course of a very pleasantly-spent afternoon, the Chairman explained the origin of what is now regarded as an agreeable social meeting, which strengthens the ties of friendship and good feeling."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/7/1878

"Oldbury Local Board.....

[Here is a long discussion about the prevention of contagious diseases, including the sanitary state of the district.]

Mr. Moore said ..... Some of the inhabitants had to travel half a mile to get a pail of water. Another point was the condition of the privy accommodation in the town. He knew of a case where there were but two privies to fourteen houses, and another in which there were only two privies to nine houses. Mr. Collins said he was surprised at Mr. Devis, the inspector of nuisances, allowing such a state of things. Mr. Moore said they must go to the root of the matter. They wanted some men to go and clean away the refuse about the houses. Mr. Jordan said that the Sanitary Committee would have looked after such cases as those spoken of by Mr. Moore, had they been reported to them. Mr. Moore said the Sanitary Committee must have known about it. Mr. Showell remarked that he heard with profound astonishment a member of the board making such a statement as that which they had just heard. Addressing the inspector of nuisances, he asked him if he knew anything of the matter. Mr. Moore said there was also a bad case at the back of the FRENCH HORN, where the refuse from the public house and others ran into an open cesspool. Mr. Devis said it had been often reported to the Board, but there was no other outfall. Mr. Moore said he should like the Sanitary Committee and the Board to go and see the place. Mr. Devis said the houses near had drained into the same place for years – ever since the marl-hole was opened. With regard to houses with insufficient privy accommodation, the matter had been before the Board time after time. In fact, notices had been served upon the owners of the property, but they had not been carried out.....

(Just four years ago, namely on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July, 1874, we published a special article on Oldbury from a Sanitary Point of View, the subject being suggested by the high rate of mortality ..... One crying nuisance at Little Fields, where the liquid refuse of a group of houses runs to an open pool close by, soddening the ground on the way, is today just as it was in 1874 ..... Ed.)"

[See also GEORGE AND DRAGON 17/7/1874.]

#### London Gazette 18/1/1881

"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 *John Hebbard*, of the FRENCH HORN, Littlefields, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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 office of Mr. Samuel Henry Forrest, Solicitor, 21, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 31st day of January, 1881, at half-past ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 14th day of January, 1881.

Samuel H. Forrest, 21, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Solicitor for the Debtor.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 5/2/1881

“A meeting of the creditors of Mr. *John Hebbard*, licensed victualler, of the FRENCH HORN, Littlefields, Oldbury, was held at the office of Mr. S. H. Forrest, on Monday. The statement of affairs showed total liabilities £570; the assets £30. A resolution was passed accepting a composition of 2s 6d in the pound, secured payable in three months after the registration of the proceedings. Mr. S. H. Forrest was entrusted with the registration of the resolutions.”

1881 Census

11, Littlefields – FRENCH HORN

- [1] *John Hebbard* (48), widower, blacksmith, born Oldbury;
- [2] Samuel Hebbard (26), son, blacksmith, born Oldbury;
- [3] Ann Hebbard (20), daughter, housekeeper, born Oldbury;
- [4] George Hebbard (18), son, blacksmith, born Oldbury;
- [5] Essie Hebbard (14), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Charles Hebbard (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Frank Hebbard (10), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Thomas Hebbard (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [9] Martha Hebbard (16), visitor, born Wednesbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/9/1881 - Advert

“FRENCH HORN INN, Oldbury.

Full-licensed to Let, with immediate possession; surrounded with brickworks. In-coming £120.

Apply to W. H. Pass, Smethwick.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1889

“Re *J. E. Jones*, publican and haulier, Oldbury.

Yesterday, at the West Bromwich Bankruptcy Court – before Mr. Registrar Watson – *John Edward Jones*, of the FRENCH HORN INN, Littlefields, Oldbury, publican and haulier, came up for his public examination. Mr. C. Woollett, represented the Official Receiver, and Mr. Wathall (from the office of Mr. Thomas, of Birmingham) appeared for the debtor.

The statement showed liabilities of £302 4s 8d, assets £19 13s 4d, leaving a deficiency of £282 11s 4d. A private meeting of creditors was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, and an offer of a composition of 2s 6d in the pound was submitted, and refused. He attributed his failure to taking to an insolvent business.

In reply to Mr. Woollett, the bankrupt admitted that on the death of his father he married his step-mother.

The bankrupt was allowed to pass.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/11/1889 - Advert

“FRENCH HORN, Oldbury.

This well-accustomed full-licensed Inn to be Let. Incoming £100. Low rental.

For further particulars apply to William H. Pass, Auctioneer and Estate Agent, 52, Church Street, Oldbury.”

1891 Census

25, Littlefields – FRENCH HORN

- [1] *Joseph Hanson* (37), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Maria Hanson (37), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Joseph Hanson (10), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] Ada Gibbs (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury;
- [5] John Hewitt (22), lodger, agent, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1892

“Yesterday at the Oldbury Police Court, *Joseph Hanson*, landlord of the FRENCH HORN INN, Rounds Green, was summoned for supplying two youths, named Alfred Nash and Eli Besseker, under sixteen years of age, with intoxicants, on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst and also with permitting drunkenness on the same date. Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended.

It was alleged that on the date named Nash, in company with three other boys, visited defendant’s house about 8pm. They went into the tap-room, and were supplied with half a pint of ale and a bottle of ginger beer, for which they paid 3d. They afterwards had two quarts of beer, four-pennyworth of whisky, and four-pennyworth of rum. The lads left about 8.43, three of them being very drunk.

Police-constable Bibb deposed to seeing the lad Nash very drunk in Church Street about nine o’clock. One of the boys, named Evans, was picked up in Talbot Street in a drunken and unconscious condition, and did not recover until four o’clock on Monday afternoon.

For the defence, Mr. Sharpe contended no spirits were supplied to the lads.

Defendant’s wife admitted, in reply to Superintendent Speke, that the boys were drunk when they visited their house, but she positively denied that the lads were supplied with either beer or spirits.

Mr. Heaton said the Bench considered it a most serious case, and defendant would be fined £5 and costs for selling spirits to children, and the license would be endorsed, and in the other case the defendant would have to pay the costs.

Mr. Share pointed out that the maximum penalty under the section for supplying children was 20s and costs for the first offence. Mr. Wright said that was so.

Mr. Heaton then said the defendant would be fined 20s and costs in each case for supplying the boys with intoxicants, and the license would be endorsed in the first case, and for permitting drunkenness 40s and costs. The fines and costs amounted to £7 3s.

Mr. Sharpe asked the Bench not to endorse the license. Mr. Heaton said the license would be endorsed, and it was a question as to whether an indictment for perjury should not be made as to the evidence given in the case.”

*Joseph Hanson* – see also GEORGE AND DRAGON.

#### Bromsgrove Messenger 8/2/1896

“*Joseph Hanson* and Maria Hanson, both of Hurst Green, were charged with selling ale without a license. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted on behalf of the police, Mr. W. Waldron defended, and Mr. J. W. Clulow watched the proceedings on behalf of Messrs. H. Mitchell and Co., the lessees of the house.

Mr. Sharpe explained that the real occupier of the premises was Mrs. Rebecca Walton, who was the mother of the defendant, Maria Hanson. Rebecca Walton resided with her son at the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Oldbury, where she had been conducting his business. He urged that it was necessary for the license of a beerhouse to be the real resident occupier, and, therefore the person who undertook that responsibility was not justified in remaining away from the business and allowing someone else to conduct it. The case was made more serious by the fact that the defendant, *Joseph Hanson*, was formerly the landlord of the FRENCH HORN INN, Rounds Green, where he was convicted for offences under the Licensing Act, and finally compelled to give up the house. He had since applied for a license at Dudley, but had been refused, and they now found him shielding himself under the license of his mother-in-law and carrying on her business.

Mr. Clulow produced an agreement showing that Rebecca Walton was the occupier of the beerhouse in question. Mr. Waldron admitted that Mrs. Walton was the proper tenant of the house, but said she had been compelled to conduct the business of her son at Oldbury, who had recently been in ill-health.

Mr. Sharpe said the police did not wish to press the case, but they desired to put the occupation of the house upon a proper footing. His friend, Mr. Waldron, had promised to pay the costs, and had also agreed that the business in future should be conducted by the proper person.

Ultimately the Bench allowed the case to be withdrawn on defendants paying the costs – 10s 9d each – and two guineas, the solicitor’s fee.”

Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. were fined £1 and £2 16s 6d costs, on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1897, for permitting drunkenness.

### 1901 Census

25, Littlefields

- [1] *John Smith* (52), brick burner, born Bewdley;
- [2] Sarah A. Smith (53), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] John P. Smith (22), son, brick yard labourer, born Oldbury;
- [4] Kate Smith (20), daughter, dressmaker, born Oldbury;
- [5] Sarah A. Smith (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Thomas Smith (13), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] Isaac Smith (10), son, born Tividale:

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/3/1905

“The death took place in West Bromwich District Hospital yesterday of Thomas *Smith*, aged 17, who lived at the FRENCH HORN INN, Little Fields, Rounds Green, Oldbury, and who was employed as an engine-driver at the Globe Brickworks, Rounds Green. On Tuesday, while the engine which draws the wagons out of the marl-hole was in motion, deceased’s foot slipped and his left leg was drawn between the winding drum and the bedding of the engine. His cries for help were heard by Adam Hall, who was at work close by, and he stopped the engine and extricated deceased, who had sustained very serious injuries. These included lacerated wounds to the left leg and foot and injuries to the right arm.

He was taken to the West Bromwich District Hospital, but was unable to recover from the shock and died as stated.”

### Birmingham Mail 7/6/1905

“At West Bromwich County Court today, before his Honour Judge Smith, *John Smith* and Sarah Ann *Smith*, of the FRENCH HORN INN, Littlefields, Rounds Green, Oldbury, applied for compensation against the executors of the late Ezra Hadley, brick manufacturer, of the Globe Brick Works, Rounds Green, in respect of the death of their son, Thomas *Smith*.

Mr. H. Jeffries, who appeared for the applicants, explained that the deceased boy was engaged at the Globe Brickworks on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March last driving an engine, when he fell between the drum and bedding of the engine. He sustained injuries to the thigh, breast and arm, and from the effects of these he died two days afterwards. His parents claimed compensation as partial dependents upon the deceased youth’s earnings. A communication had been received from the solicitors to the respondents (Messrs. Jordan and Co.), intimating that £25 had been paid into Court, and that sum, together with costs, the applicants were willing to accept.

The Judge made an order accordingly.”

The license was surrendered on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1908.

### Smethwick Telephone 8/8/1908 - Advert

“Preliminary Announcement.

An Important Sale of Freehold Properties and Building Estates, Oldbury and Langley.

By Messrs. Samuel Jones, Son, and Vernon, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1908, at 6.30 for 7 o’clock pm prompt.....

Little Fields, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

Lot 2. All that Freehold Premises, known as the FRENCH HORN, Little Fields, Rounds Green Oldbury, the License of which has recently been surrendered.”

### Smethwick Telephone 15/8/1908 - Advert

“Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1908.

Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Properties, Building and Mining Estates.....

Little Fields, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

Lot 2. All that Freehold Premises known as the FRENCH HORN, Little Fields, Rounds Green, Oldbury (the License of which has recently been surrendered). The House contains Hall, large Front Bar, Smoke Room,

Back Parlour, Kitchen, Spirit Room, Pantry, good Cellarage, and Four good Bedrooms. Outside in paved yard, with double Gateway Entrance, are Stabling and usual Outbuildings. This Property has a long frontage to the road, and could easily be converted into Two or Three Dwelling Houses.”

## GATE

Eel Street, Church Bridge, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

William Wood [1861]

## NOTES

### Birmingham Journal 17/8/1861 - Advert

“The GATE INN, Church Bridge, Oldbury.

For Disposal, that Corner Retail Beer House, in a densely populated locality, surrounded with Brickyards and other Manufactories. Valuation only required.

For further particulars, apply on the Premises.”

### Birmingham Journal 12/10/1861 - Advert

“To Publicans, Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others.

Unreserved Sale at the GATE INN, Corner of Eel Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by A. G. Altree, on Monday Next, October 14.

All the Household Furniture, Brewing Plant and other Effects; comprising a capital four-pull Beer machine, 90 gallon Copper Boiler (nearly new); 70 and 90 gallon Iron Boilers, Grates and Fittings, pair of strong Vats and Piping, 12 strike Mash Tub (nearly new); 7 half-hogshead Ale Barrels, Gathering and other Tubs, pewter Ale Measures, Windsor and other Chairs, strong square drinking, mahogany and other Tables, large Copper Fountain, thirty hour Clock, a powerful Galvanic Battery, Gas Fittings, Tump of Hops, about 50 gallons of prime fresh Ale, 30 gallons of Beer, Pegs and Bowls, a strong body covered Spring Cart, &c, &c, the property of Mr. *William Wood*, being sold under a distraint.

Sale to commence at Eleven for Twelve o'clock precisely.

Catalogues at the Auctioneer's Office.

A. G. Altree, Auctioneer and Valuer, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.

NB. The Premises to be Let.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 14/10/1861 - Advert

“Sales by Auction This Day.....

At the GATE INN, Eel Street, Oldbury.

By A. G. Altree, Household Furniture, Tump of Hops, Brewing Pant, Four-pull Beer Machine, Copper and Iron Furnaces, Ale and Ale Barrels, powerful Galvanic Battery, String Spring Covered Cart, &c, &c.

Sale to commence at Eleven for Twelve o'clock precisely.

Catalogues at the Office of the Auctioneer, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.

NB. The Premises to Let.”

## GATE

90, (16), (23), Rood End Road, Langley, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Mr. A. Taylor  
William Savage  
Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. [1891]  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1957]

## LICENSEES

Joseph Underhill [1841] – [1850]  
Miss Sarah Underhill [1851] – [1860]  
William Savage [1861] – **1890**);  
James Lord (**1890 – 1891**);  
Arthur Francis Carrington (**1891 – 1893**);  
Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. (**1893 – 1894**);  
Thomas ‘Tom’ Williams (**1894 – 1918**);  
John Thomas Williams (**1918 – 1920**);  
Edward Hanson (**1920 – 1927**);  
Victor Haynes (**1927 – 1930**);  
Walter Hooper (**1930 – 1956**);  
Joseph David Ballish (**1956 – 1961**);  
James William Norris (**1961** – [1962]  
Bill Bostock [1992]

## NOTES

16, Rood End Road [1873]  
16, Rood End [1881]  
23, Rood End Road [1891]  
90, Rood End Road [1901], [1939], [1990], [1996]

### 1841 Census

Rude End

- [1] *Joseph Underhill* (70), publican;
- [2] Nancy Underhill (70);
- [3] Thomas Underhill (40), warehouseman;
- [4] Daniel Underhill (30), labourer;
- [5] *Sarah Underhill* (30);
- [6] Henry Underhill (25):

*Joseph Underhill*, beer retailer, Rood Lane. [1850]

### 1851 Census

Rood End

- [1] *Sarah Underhill* (41), unmarried, victualler, born Oldbury;



- [2] Thomas Underhill (54), brother, nail warehouseman, born Oldbury;  
[3] Henry Underhill (36), brother, tinner of pots, born Oldbury:

*Sarah Underhill* was also a shopkeeper. [1854], [1860]

#### 1861 Census

Roodend Road – GATE INN

- [1] *William Savage* (39), innkeeper, born Birmingham;  
[2] *Sarah Savage* (38), wife, born Birmingham;  
[3] *Sarah A. Savage* (15), daughter, born Birmingham;  
[4] *Thomas Savage* (12), son, scholar, born Birmingham;  
[5] *William Savage* (9), son, scholar, born Birmingham;  
[6] *Albert Savage* (6), son, scholar, born Birmingham;  
[7] *Rebecca Savage* (4), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;  
[8] *Samuel Savage* (2 months), son, born Oldbury;  
[9] *Thomas Underhill* (64), father-in-law, brewer, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Journal 9/8/1862 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Inn & Dwelling House, situate at Rood End, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Edward Cox (by order of the Mortgagees), at the SWAN INN, Spon Lane, West Bromwich, on Monday Next, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

All that Old-Licensed Inn or Public House, known by the Sign of the GATE, with the Out-buildings and Garden at the back thereof, situate at Rood End, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, and now occupied by Mr. *Savage*. Also, all the Two Dwelling Houses, with the Out-buildings and Gardens thereto belonging, situate at Rood End aforesaid, near to the said Inn, one whereof is now occupied by John Woodhouse, and the other untenanted.

For particulars, apply to Mr. Edward Caddick, Solicitor, New Street; or to the Auctioneer, St. Michael Street, West Bromwich.”

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/1/1863

“H. Williams of Dudley and J. Thompson of Birmingham are matched to run six score yards, for £5 a side, Williams to receive five yards start; to come off near the GATE INN, Oldbury, on Monday, Jan 26, to start by first report of pistol, and Mr. *Savage*, of the GATE INN, Oldbury, final stakeholder and referee, who has £1 a side down; another £1 a side is to be made on Monday, Jan 12, the third on Monday, Jan 19, and the final £2 a side on the morning of running.”

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/2/1863

“H. Williams and J. Thompson. These men have made their money good to Mr. *Savage*, of the GATE INN, Oldbury, for their six score yards match, for £5 a side, which comes off on Monday, Feb 2, at Rood End, Oldbury. The men to toe the scratch between two and three o’clock.”

#### Sporting Life 7/2/1863

“GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury.

Thompson, of Birmingham, and Williams, of Dudley. These pedestrians met on Monday last, at Mr. *Savage*’s, the above house, to run their six score yards, for £5 a side, according to fixture. There was a very large attendance interested in the event, Thompson being the favourite at 6 and 7 to 4. On coming to scratch shortly after two o’clock, Thompson looked in beautiful form; Williams, on the contrary, in bad health, and hardly fit for the undertaking. The men got off by mutual consent, Williams with a slight lead, which, however, availed him little, as Thompson made all the running, landing himself an easy winner by two yards. Referee, Mr. *Savage*.”

AND

“Arthur Ackers, of Birmingham, and Ike Baker (the pugilist), of West Bromwich, are matched to run 120

yards, for £5 a side, at Aston Cross, on Monday, February 16. A small sum is down in the hands of Mr. *Savage*, the GATE INN, Rood End, near Oldbury, where the men meet this day (Saturday) to increase the stake and draw up articles.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/3/1863

“J. Thompson of Birmingham and Hughes of Worcester are matched to run five score yards, for £5 a side. To come off at Rood End, near Oldbury, on Monday, March 23. £3 a side is down, and the same sum and a further deposit of £1 a side to be made on Monday, March 9, to the stakeholder and referee, Mr. *Savage*, of the GATE INN, Oldbury. The race to be run between one and three, to start in 15 minutes, or go by report of pistol.”

Sporting Life 25/3/1863

“GATE INN, Rood End, near Oldbury.

There was a very numerous attendance at Mr. *Savage*'s, at the above place, to witness a most interesting match between Young Thompson, of Birmingham, and W. Hughes, late of Worcester, five score yards, for £5 a side. As usual, considerable delay was experienced in getting the men to the mark, it being past four o'clock before the men presented themselves stripped for the contest. A level piece of ground on the high road was chosen, and at length they got on the score. Hughes, who was waited on by the veteran Allsop, who had trained him for the contest, won the toss for choice of sides, which, however, was not of any material advantage. Thompson, who is a comparative novice (never having run more than once, on the same ground with Williams of Dudley, some two months back), had the kind attention of the renowned Arthur Ackers, of Birmingham, who had trained him for the encounter. Fifteen minutes were allowed on the scratch, but, at the expiration of which they got off, Thompson with three-quarters of a yard start, when a brilliant race ensued, Thompson coming in a winner by a quarter of a yard only. Some little money changed hands at evens, Hughes for choice. Mr. *Savage*, landlord of the GATE, and final stakeholder, officiated as referee.”

Birmingham Journal 9/5/1863 - Advert

“To Builders. Tenders Wanted for the Erection of Four Cottages, at Rood End, near Oldbury. The Plans and Specifications may be seen at the GATE INN, Rood End, (Mr. *William Savage*'s), on and after Monday Next, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May. Tenders to be sent in on or before Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May. The lowest Tender not necessarily to be accepted.”

London Gazette 22/4/1864

“*William Savage*, of the GATE INN, Rood End, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualer and Journeyman Hook and Eye Blacker, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, on the 16th day of April, 1864, is hereby required to surrender himself to George Steward Watson, Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 4th day of May next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at his Chambers, High-street, Westbromwich. George Steward Watson, Esq, of Westbromwich, is the Official Assignee, and Henry Jackson, of Westbromwich, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

London Gazette 6/5/1864

“*William Savage*, of the GATE INN, Rood End, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualer and Journeyman Hook and Eye Maker, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, on the 16th day of April, 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, at Oldbury, on the 16th day of May instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said bankrupt to surrender. George Steward Watson, Esq, of Westbromwich, is the Official Assignee, and Henry Jackson, of Westbromwich, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/5/1864

“At the County Court, yesterday, the following bankrupts came up before Mr. A. M. Skinner, the Judge, for their last examination and discharge.....

*William Savage*, Rood End, Oldbury, licensed victualler, supported by Mr. F. Jackson, and opposed by Mr. Shakespeare. For fraudulent removal of goods, the case was adjourned for two months with protection, and leave was given to the registrar to bring an action for the recovery of the goods.”

Birmingham Journal 21/5/1864 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury.

In the Matter of *William Savage*, of the GATE INN, Rood End, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, and Journeyman Hook and Eye Blacker, adjudged Bankrupt on the 16th day of April, 1864. An Order of Discharge will be delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of two months from this date, unless an Appeal be duly entered against the Judgement of the said Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court.

Dated this 16th day of May, 1864.

John Brooks, High Bailiff.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/5/1866

“Rabbit Fancy.

W. Fox of Rood End will show his yellow and white doe rabbit for weight against any other fancier within 20 miles of home, for £5 or £10 a side. Money always ready at Mr. *W. Savage*'s, GATE INN, Rood End, near Oldbury, Worcestershire.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/12/1866

“H. Fox of Rood End, near Oldbury, will match his dog Sport to run E. Markwick's dog Sam, the best of 21 courses, at the Royal Oak Grounds, Manchester, for £20 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Savage*'s, the GATE INN, Rood End.”

1871 Census

Rood End – GATE

[1] *William Savage* (49), publican and japanner, born Birmingham;

[2] Sarah Savage (49), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] Thomas Savage (22), son, glass cutter, born Birmingham;

[4] William Savage (19), son, glass cutter, born Birmingham;

[5] Abel Savage (16), son, bolt maker, born Birmingham;

[6] Rebecca Savage (14), daughter, born Birmingham;

[7] Samuel Savage (11), son, born Oldbury:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/10/1872

“Aston Cross Grounds.....

G. Hadley of Oldbury and W. Hodgetts of Hoyley are matched to run 120 yards, for £15 a side, on Saturday, Oct 26. £10 a side is down in the hands of Mr. *Savage* of Rood End, who is final stakeholder. Both men are in active training, Hadley under W. Nicholls, and Hodgetts under the care of Constable of Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/5/1873 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Properties, Rood End, near Oldbury, Worcestershire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Gilbert and Son, on Thursday Next, June 5 (by order of the Executor of the late Mr. A. Taylor), at the BLUE GATES INN, Smethwick, at 6 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read – the Following Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. That Freehold Old-Licensed Public-House, called the GATE INN, Rood End, near Oldbury, in the occupation of Mr. *William Savage*, with Brewhouse, Stabling, Yard, and large Garden, now producing, at an extreme low rent, £14 per annum.

Lot 2. All those Seven nearly-new Freehold Houses, in Rood End Road (near last lot), being Nos.18 to 21 both inclusive, in the occupation of Savage, Hemming, Moss and others, with spare Building Land for the erection of two or three other Houses; Gardens, large paved Yard, Wash-houses, and other Out-offices. This Property is substantially built, well let to good tenants, and produces at the present low rents £60 9s per annum.

For particulars, apply to Mr. Joseph Ansell, Solicitor, Temple Street; or the Auctioneers, 17, Colmore Row, Birmingham.”

#### 1881 Census

16, Rood End

- [1] *William Savage* (59), publican, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Sarah Savage* (58), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Rebekah Savage* (24), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Samuel Savage* (20), son, glass flattener, born Rood End:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 20/8/1881

“House to Let, four-roomed, good Brewhouse and Out-houses. Rent 3s 9d. Apply, *William Savage*, GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Mail 9/4/1887 - Advert

“Mare (brown Nag) Lost, 15 hands, black tooth, chipped knee. Apply, GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/4/1889

“Last night, Mr. E. Docker (coroner) opened an enquiry at the GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury, respecting the death of William Anderson, aged three months, the child of Ann Anderson.

Elizabeth Morris, residing at Rood End, said that on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March the grandmother of the deceased saw her, and explained that her daughter had a little brother with her father at home, and he would not allow her to enter the house. The grandmother said the deceased would not live long, and then the mother could go to service. While living with her the mother had frequently slapped the deceased on the face. As the child grew worse the mother was told that she must get apartments elsewhere unless she called in a doctor. Dr. Lyddon’s assistant came next day, and said deceased might probably recover, and he ordered lime-water to be given, as the condensed milk was too heavy. The child died on Monday morning.

Margaret Fox, of Handsworth, said that about three weeks ago she was on a visit to the last witness, who was her sister. On several occasions she had seen Anderson slap and shake the child because it cried. When witness remonstrated she was told to mind her own business. The mother once gave her the child, and witness said that if she dropped it it would kill it. Anderson replied that it would not matter. She had heard the mother curse the deceased several times.

At this stage the inquest was adjourned until today.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/5/1889

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. Edwin Docker (Coroner) held the adjourned inquest at the GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury, respecting the death of William Ezra Anderson, the illegitimate child of Annie Anderson, of Eel Street, Oldbury, who died under suspicious circumstances on the 15<sup>th</sup> ult.

The Coroner said they would remember the inquest was adjourned on the last occasion in consequence of the suspicion attached to the contents of one of the bottles of cordial the mother had been giving the child, in order that an analysis might be made. He then read the report of Mr. Horace Swift, MD, the county analyst, which stated that from a prolonged investigation he was satisfied there was neither mineral nor organic poison in the stomach and intestines. Similarly poison was not present in the cordial in sufficient quantity to be likely to be fatal.

After the taking of further evidence the jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, adding as a rider that while they thought there was not sufficient evidence to justify a verdict of manslaughter, there had been great neglect on the part of the mother of the child in not securing medical attendance. Such conduct

was censurable, and they wished the Coroner to convey this to the mother of the child.

The Coroner, in reading the verdict to the mother, said he hoped it would be a warning not only to her but to others in Oldbury also.”

London Gazette 15/12/1891 - Notice

“*William Savage*, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given, that all creditors or other persons having claims or other demands upon or against the estate of *William Savage*, formerly of the GATE INN, Rood End, in the parish of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, but latterly of Rood End aforesaid, out of business (who died on the 31st day of October, 1890, and probate of whose will was granted by the District Registry at Worcester, on the 27th day of November, 1890, to Sarah Ann Robinson (wife of William Robinson), the daughter of the said deceased, and Thomas *Savage*, the son of the said deceased, the surviving executors therein named, are hereby required to send the particulars of their claims or demands upon or against the estate of the said deceased, to the said Sarah Ann Robinson and Thomas *Savage*, or to us, the undersigned, as their Solicitors, on or before the 10th day of January next; after which day the said Sarah Ann Robinson and Thomas *Savage* will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have had notice; and that they will not be liable for the assets so distributed to the person or persons of whose claims or demands they shall not have had notice.

Dated this 11th day of December, 1891.

Ansell And Ashford, 38, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, Solicitors for the Executors.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1891 - Advert

“Compact Freehold Properties, Rood End, Oldbury.

Mr. Thomas Howell is instructed by the Devises under the will of the late Mr. William Savage to Sell by Auction at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday, June 10, 1891, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society, the undermentioned Desirable Properties.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/3/1891

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, Mr. H. Jackson applied on behalf of *James Lord*, landlord of the GATE INN, Rood End, for the sanction of the Bench to certain alterations and additions which it is proposed to make at the above-named inn. He produced plans, and explained that the public house in question was an old-fashioned one, and in a very dilapidated state. It was proposed to provide extra sleeping accommodation, and also extend the club-room.

Mr. Heaton said the magistrates considered they had no jurisdiction in the matter, and pointed out that it was a question for the licensing justices.”

1891 Census

23, Rood End Road – GATE INN

[1] *James Lord* (52), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] Mary Lord (48), wife, born West Bromwich:

Smethwick Telephone 1/8/1891

“GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury.

Mr. W. H. Pass is favoured with instructions from Mr. *James Lord*, who has disposed of his business, to Sell by Auction, upon the above premises, on Thursday Next, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1891, a quantity of surplus Household Furniture and Effects, comprising German Stand, Cane-seated and other Chairs, Pictures, Wrought Iron Safe, Mahogany Hair-seated Sofa, Well-bred Sow and 12 Pigs, Chestnut Cob (12½ Hands), Cart Shed, Perambulator, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at 10am prompt.

Auctioneer's Office: 13, Church Street, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 18/6/1892 - Advert

“GATE INN, Rood End, near Oldbury.

Proprietor, *T. A. Carrington*.

Now Re-Opened, Re-Built, and Complete, with Every Comfort.

Michell And Co's Ales, Highest Award, Paris, 1889.

Wines, Spirits and Cigars of the Best Quality.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 1/9/1894

“The members of Oldbury St. John's FC held their annual dinner at the club house, GATE HOTEL, Rood End, on Monday, when upwards of 40 friends and players sat down to an excellent supper, served up in Host *Williams's* best style. After the removal of the cloth, the President (Mr. George Jerrams) occupied the chair, and Mr. Charles Tripe the vice-chair. A very excellent programme was gone through.

The Chairman, in the course of a few remarks, said he was very pleased to see so many of the leading tradesmen of the town supporting St. John's FC. He was sure they had a very able secretary, and he wished the club every success.

A very enjoyable evening was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, &c.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1894

“At the Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. J. E. Wilson, J. W. Wilson, and T. Lavender – Thomas Hill, New Street, was charged with unlawfully wounding Police-constable Jones.

The officer, whose head was bandaged, stated that on Saturday night he saw the prisoner and another man go into the GATE INN, Rood End. The landlord ordered them out, and witness accused the prisoner of being drunk, and advised him to go home. Prisoner thereupon picked up a brick, and threw it at him, striking him on the eye, cutting his forehead, and knocking him down. Prisoner kicked him on the right shoulder, and afterwards ran away.

Dr. Buttery said that the constable was suffering from partial concussion of the brain.

The accused was committed for trial.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/10/1894

“Worcestershire Quarter Sessions.....

Thomas Hill (23), driller, was convicted of maliciously wounding Police-constable Jones on September 22. Prisoner struck the policeman with a brick upon the face, causing two severe cuts on the forehead and permanently displacing the officer's nose. The jury found the prisoner guilty of malicious wounding, and he was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.”

#### Sporting Life 15/12/1897

“H. Morris, of West Bromwich (late Birmingham), and W. Walton, of Great Bridge, Tipton (well-known Midland pedestrians), are matched to run 120 yards off a mark, at the Lyndon Grounds, West Bromwich, on Monday, January 24, for £15 (open for £20 a-side). £7 10s a-side is now deposited with the proprietor of the GATE INN, Oldbury. The next deposit, of £5 a-side, is due on December 25, and the final deposit, of £2 10s a-side, on the day of running. The *Sporting Life* to be final stakeholder and appoint pistol-firer and referee.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 3/2/1900

“On Wednesday afternoon Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury, respecting the death of George Glazebrook (56), ironfounder of Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, who died under singular circumstances on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult ..... Accidental Death.”

#### 1901 Census

90, Rood End Road

[1] *Thomas Williams* (43), publican, born Langley Green;

[2] *Harriet Williams* (43), wife, born Langley Green;

[3] *Harriet M. Williams* (23), daughter, born Langley Green;

[4] *Ernest Williams* (16), son, carpenter, born Langley Green;

[5] *Ethel Williams* (11), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Annie Newby (20), domestic servant, born Coseley:

Smethwick Weekly News 8/6/1901

“On Saturday last the members and friends of the GATE HOTEL, Rood End, Social Club had their annual outing, the place selected being the Forest Hotel, Bromsgrove. The party, numbering about fifty, were conveyed by brakes. On arrival at the Forest Hotel the members and friends sat down to an excellent dinner, got up in the host’s best style, to which full justice was done. After the removal of the cloth the large bowling green was very much appreciated by most of the members, and some good games were played. Others strolled through the fields and lanes and enjoyed the country very much. About seven o’clock they mustered in the large concert room, where some excellent songs were rendered, greatly to the enjoyment of the party and visitors present, at eight o’clock the start was made for home arriving there at 10.40pm, and a most enjoyable outing in every way passed off splendidly.”

Smethwick Weekly News 6/7/1901

“A concert took place last evening, at the GATE HOTEL, Rood End, for the benefit of J. Archer, who had been out of employment for a considerable time. Mr. Tom Ponter occupied the chair, and a good company were present. The artistes acquitted themselves well, and Mr. J. T. Judge, as usual, was the ‘lion’ of the evening.

Mr. Ponter spoke highly of Mr. Archer, and hoped that a good item would be forthcoming to recuperate his misfortune.

An excellent array of artistes were present and acquitted themselves well.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/1/1908

“The quarterly licensing meeting of the Oldbury magistrates was held yesterday, and in considering the number of applications for the transfer of licenses, Mr. A. M. Chance, who presided, mentioned that no music licenses would be granted that day. They would be considered at the annual Licensing Sessions next Tuesday, when they intended to reduce the number of music licenses.....

Plans were presented for a proposed alteration to the GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury, *Thomas Williams* being the licensee. Mr. Chance said they had already considered the plans, which they had sanctioned.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/10/1909

“Mitchell and Butlers’ representative (Mr. Fred Lones) presided at the annual dinner of the GATE INN Bowling Club, Rood End, Oldbury, where about sixty members and guests sat down to an excellent repast provided by host *T. Williams*.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/11/1910

“Benjamin Butcher (32), labourer, of Rood End, Oldbury, was brought up at Oldbury yesterday charged with stealing a pair of boots valued 3s 11½d, the property of Thomas Bastable, a boot dealer, of Rood End Road, Oldbury, on November 19. He was further charged with stealing a couple of fowls belonging to *Thomas Williams*, licensee of the GATE INN, Rood End, on the same date. Prisoner was committed for trial to the Quarter Sessions on both charges.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/1/1911

“Worcestershire Sessions.....

Benjamin Butcher (33), pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing a pair of men’s boots belonging to Thomas Bastable at Oldbury. The Chairman said there was hardly a year since 1897 in which the prisoner had not been convicted. He was sentenced to fifteen months’ hard labour.”

1911 Census

Rood End Road – GATE INN

[1] *Thomas Williams* (53), publican, born Langley Green;

[2] Harriet Williams (53), wife, married 34 years, born Langley Green;

[3] Ethel Williams (21), daughter, assistant, born Langley Green;

[4] Ella Lawrence (18), housemaid, born Wormley, near London:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/9/1911

“On the Bowling Green.....

GATE INN (Rood End) v OLD ENGINE (Smethwick).

This tie for the runners-up medals of the Langley League was played at Londonderry on Saturday.....”

[OLD ENGINE won by 153 to 125.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/10/1912

“A large gathering assembled yesterday at Trinity Wesley Church, Barker Street, Rood End, Oldbury, to witness the nuptials of Mr. Edward Hanson and Miss Ethel *Williams*, youngest daughter of Mr. *Tom Williams*, of the GATE HOTEL, Rood End, Oldbury.

The bridegroom, who had just returned from the United States, was accompanied to the church by Mr. J. *Williams* (brother of the bride), and the bride was escorted by the father, who gave her away. She was dressed in cream silk, trimmed with Irish point lace, and carried a magnificent bouquet, consisting of orchids, lilies of the valley, and other flowers. The bridesmaids were the Misses Polly Smallwood, Ella Lawrence, Ethel Smallwood, and Gladys Simms.

After the ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. Cloudesley Shovel, a reception was held in the large assembly room of the GATE HOTEL. The presents were numerous and costly.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/3/1913

“Mr. H. Walker (Messrs. Caddick and Yates) applied on behalf of *Thomas Williams*, licensee of the GATE INN, Rood End, for the approval of certain structural alterations. It was stated that the alterations were in connection with the improvement of the bowling green.

Mr. E. Wood, architect, West Bromwich, gave evidence as to the proposed alterations.

Superintendent Davis said he had no objection to make.

The Chairman said that subject to certain conditions as to the fencing of the bowling green, the application would be granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/5/1915

“A special meeting of the licensed trade of Oldbury and district was held yesterday afternoon at the GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury.

Mr. E. Lawrence Levy (chief agent, Midland District National Trade Defence Association) attended and delivered an address upon the present situation so far as the licensed trade was concerned. He urged patience rather than precipitancy, and begged the licensed trade to await developments. No one, least of all the trade, was anxious to bring about a political crisis at the present time. Even the Radical press was preaching the possibilities of concessions, and the trade must see to it that so far as it could all facilities should be given for mutual satisfaction.

The following resolution was unanimously passed on the motion of Mr. Clee, seconded by Mr. A. Davis, and supported by Mr. C. Cotton: ‘That this meeting of the licensed trade of Oldbury and district earnestly protests against any further taxation of the licensed trade, overburdened as it already is with the weight of the war taxation so recently imposed. This meeting is further of opinion that the penalisation of the whole of the trade and the community for what is the alleged offence of a small section of workers is contrary to the level-headedness and spirit of fairness which are national characteristics.’”

Jack Judge performed here in a benefit concert for Will Round (who had been crippled in WW1) on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1916. See also BELL, Rood End.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/4/1918

“Mr. *Thomas Williams*, of the GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury, left property of the value of £7,630, with net personality of £3,165.”

AND

Smethwick Telephone 13/4/1918



“Mr. *Thomas Williams*, of the GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury, licensed victualler, who died on January 29<sup>th</sup>, left estate valued at £7,631. All his property he left to his four children, Ernest and John Thomas *Williams* and Mrs. Smallwood and Mrs. Hanson.”

*Thomas Williams* – see also CHEMICAL.

*John Thomas Williams* was in occupation at the time of the Licensing Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1918.

On 15<sup>th</sup> July 1919 the bowling green became included in the licensed area.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/5/1920

“Arthur James Smith, of 59, Mornington Road, Smethwick, and Joseph Rowley, of 55, Emacote Road, Witton, Birmingham, were each fined £5 at Oldbury yesterday on a charge of stealing a silver watch, a gold chain and gold seal, of the total value of £13, the property of Edward Hanson.

Prosecutor left his waistcoat, containing the watch and chain, on the rockery adjoining the bowling green at the GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury. The defendants delivered some beer to the licensed premises, and, it was alleged, annexed the watch and chain.

Both defendants pleaded guilty and asked for leniency, saying it was the first time they had transgressed.”

GATE Bowling Club was founded in 1924.

It was still extant in 2001.

*Victor Haynes* – see also WINDMILL, West Bromwich.

#### Smethwick Telephone 19/7/1930

“The magistrates granted a temporary transfer of the license of the PLOUGH INN, Oldbury Road, from *Walter Hooper* (who is going to the GATE INN, Rood End), to Mrs. Harriet Maria Smallwood, of the PERROT ARMS, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Mail 26/1/1939

“Darts Teams Title. Fifth Round Draw for Lord Lonsdale Trophy.

The draw for some of the fifth round matches in the county section of *The People* National Darts Teams Championship has now take place. Matches must be played by February 11. The winning team in the county finals will take part in an area final, winners of which will play in the national contest at Earl’s Court, London, on May 27.....

Warwick, Hereford and Worcester ..... Section C.

GATE INN, Oldbury, near Birmingham v The Stars Darters, SEVEN STARS, Lye.”

#### Birmingham Mail 12/8/1939

“The principal bowling event last Saturday was the qualifying stage of Mitchells and Butlers 10<sup>th</sup> annual individual merit competition.....

George Bradburn played well to put out *Walter Hooper* (GATE) 15-8 for this young player has displayed splendid form of late.”

#### Sports Argus 2/9/1939

“Works Bowls League.....

The final of the new Junior Cup will take place on Saturday, 16 September, at the GATE, Rood End, Oldbury. The contesting teams are BRC Ltd B v Chance Bros.”

#### Birmingham Mail 20/9/1939 - Advert

“Bar Generals (two), live in, liberal outings.

GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Mail 18/12/1939 - Advert

“Bar Generals (two) Required; plenty of time off.  
Write or call, GATE INN, Oldbury. Mrs. *Hooper*.”

*Walter Hooper* was married to Lucy.

1939 Register

90, Rood End Road

- [1] *Walter Hooper*, date of birth 11/2/1884, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Lucy Hooper, dob 19/7/1885, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Walter W. W. Hooper, dob 29/3/1916, electric engineer assembler/fitter, single;
- [4] Harold Hooper, dob 30/8/1919, pattern maker, wood and metal, single:

Evening Despatch 19/9/1945

“For taking away a motor-car (which was subsequently found abandoned at Smethwick) from the GATE INN, Oldbury, without the owner’s consent, Francis H. Ainge, 21-year-old coalman’s mate, of 104, The Oval, Smethwick, and Philip H. Pugh, 19-year-old warehouse hand, of 158, Lodge Road, Winson Green, Birmingham, were fined £5 and £3 respectively at Oldbury today.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/1/1946

“Harold *Hooper* (27), a pattern-maker, of the GATE INN, Rood End, Oldbury, was fined £5 7s at West Bromwich yesterday for driving a motor-car without due care and attention in Jowetts Lane, Hill Top, on the night of 2 December.

It was stated that he collided with a woman, one of three people walking arm in arm in the roadway, going in the same direction as himself, and she received fatal injuries.

The Stipendiary (Mr. B. G. Grimley) said it was difficult to understand the mentality of people who walked in the roadway at night when there was a good footpath. It was a most improper thing to do, and pedestrians who did it should be prosecuted.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/8/1946

“H. Greaves (COCK AND MAGPIES, Warley) won the annual merit bowling competition promoted by Mitchells and Butlers Ltd., defeating H. Hooker (GATE, Rood End) in the final by 21-8.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/10/1950

“Bowlers attached to the SHIRELAND, Smethwick – already Warwickshire and Worcestershire first division champions – gained another honour on Saturday. Mr. James Garvey won the individual merit championship of the British Bowlers’ Savings and Benevolent Association at Portland Road.

Mr. Garvey, a 50-year-old flour traveller, beat Mr. J. Bonas (GATE INN, Oldbury) to become first holder of the *Birmingham Gazette* trophy. It was a close struggle, for at the 26<sup>th</sup> end the two men were level at 18 all. Garvey recovered well, however, and won an exciting game by 21-19.

The proceeds of the competition benefit the Birmingham Council for Old People. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham will present the prizes at the White Horse Hotel, on November 28. Among them will be two tankards for winner and runner-up presented by the *Birmingham Gazette*.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/10/1950

“Before a record crowd Jack Ridley, Kings Heath Park, repeated his 1945 success by winning the 22<sup>nd</sup> Farcroft charity floodlight bowling tournament at Handsworth last night, beating Harold *Hooper* (GATE) 21-20. With the scores level at the last end Ridley snatched victory by one shot. The final was one of the best ever seen in the tournament.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/9/1951

“The second round of the Farcroft charity floodlight bowls tournament at Handsworth last night opened with a surprise when Bert Sankey (Lightwoods) defeated Harold *Hooper* (GATE), last year’s finalist, 15-7.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/10/1954

“The *Hooper* brothers of GATE Bowling Club had good second round wins in the Farcroft floodlight bowls tournament on Saturday.

Walter, losing 4-5 at the seventh end against B. Sankey (Lightwoods), made a break of 11 to win 15-5. His brother Harold had a more difficult task to beat J. Evans senior (Five Ways, West Bromwich) 15-11.”

*Walter Hooper* – see also PLOUGH, Smethwick.

*Joseph David Ballish* = Joseph D. Ballisch

Birmingham Daily Post 18/8/1958

“While he was congratulating a bowls team on winning the Oldbury and District Charity Bowls Competition last night, Coun. William Hayes collapsed and died. Coun. Hayes, who was chairman of the Oldbury Baths and Public Halls Committee, had been invited to present the shield to the winners of the final between the GATE INN and the WERNLEY HOTEL, held at the PHEASANT INN, Warley. The GATE INN was successful. A few minutes before he died Coun. Hayes had been talking and joking with some of the 150 spectators. He was a Socialist and was first elected to Oldbury Council in 1945, representing the Broadwell Ward. In 1946 he was elected to the Worcestershire County Council. He was president of the Oldbury Civilian Disabled Association. He was a diesinker and lived in Vicarage Road, Langley. He leaves a widow.”

Plans for alterations were approved on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1961.

A bowls team from here took part in the Crossfield Cup. [1969]

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/8/1986

“Drunken funeral-goers sparked off a police investigation when they ‘borrowed’ an Oldbury pub’s silver trophy – to place it on the grave of their dead friend as a memorial gesture. Police were called in after the 16-inch tall bowling club trophy and another shield went missing from a locked cabinet in the lounge of the GATE pub in Rood End Road, Langley. But while police officers were following up the case, pub relief manager Brian Bannister carried out his own detective work and managed to track down the culprits. The mystery began when the lock on the cabinet was found to have been forced, and the trophies belonging to the Dudley and District Bowling League had gone. After checking with the barmaid Mr. Bannister found that a group of mourners has stopped at the pub after the funeral of local footballer Dennis Harbutt at Oldbury Cemetery. Mr. Harbutt, who lived in nearby in Gresham Road, was a keen footballer until he died after a heart attack at work. Some of his soccer club friends had been at the funeral. Mr. Bannister revealed, ‘One or two of his mates were singing and had a few drinks, but were no real problem. Later in the evening members of the pub’s bowling team said someone had broken the lock on the cabinet. I called the police. The next day we started doing our own investigation and we finally pinned it down to the two lads from the funeral.’ He said he managed to get in touch with someone who knew them and said if the trophies were recovered no further questions would be asked. ‘Within 15 minutes they rang the pub and said the cup was on the grave of the chap who had been buried. When I went down the trophies were a bit muddy, but still there.’ He added, ‘I think it was done in memory of the lad who was buried. It was not theft for gain – it was more theft for memorial.’ The complaint to police has now been withdrawn.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/5/1989

“Marksmen from an Oldbury public house were right on target to boost the Hillsborough Disaster Fund – with a 1,000,001 darts marathon. Members of the darts team at the GATE in Rood End Road were joined by customers during the marathon throw which lasted almost two days.”

A bowls team from here took part in the Walton Homes team championship. [1991]

Sandwell Evening Mail 22/8/1992

“*Bill Bostock* made a bold leap from running a pub as a brewery employed manager to being the boss in charge of his own destiny manning the beer pumps. There’s a lot more at stake for the licensee taking on a business that doesn’t guarantee to pay the wages. But experience in any bar-room capacity is a key to likely success in the drinks trade and *Bill*, who has been pulling pints for more than 15 years, was well prepared for his new challenge. He also knew that in changing course on a career path that led him to the GATE INN, Oldbury, he was on familiar ground. It’s an area he knows well from years spent behind bars at the MER-RIVALE and LONDONDERRY, two landmark pubs in Warley.

After nine months as a leaseholder proving he could keep the GATE open for trade on a buoyant note, *Bill* doesn’t regret joining the ranks of the self-employed. He did start out with one big advantage. The GATE has long been the home of a strong bowling club and it’s only a short skip to the bar for the more social encounters. The grounds at the GATE are an unexpected delight, when revealed from behind an ordinary looking pub exterior. They provide a setting for not only an immaculately kept bowling green – complete with floodlights – but also a garden area all well maintained by club stalwart Harry Nash and other willing volunteers.

Children have their own adventure playground at a pub with far more to it than first meets the eye. *Bill* even found space to build a barbecue stall. Inside the pub, he and his wife Marie serve food and drink in bars looking a treat after major improvements. They have kept one lounge as a quiet spot for customers content to sit, chat or catch up on the news in their daily paper. There’s a TV to keep bar regulars entertained although I found them enjoying some friendly banter with Marie, a landlady who manages to cook hearty meals that look great value and keep a lively presence at the bar counter.

Tom Fergusson, who has been using the GATE for about 40 years, drops in every day for his lunch. ‘It’s a friendly pub and they don’t charge a lot for a good meal. It saves me cooking at home,’ he says. Local businessmen eating at the GATE also know they get a square deal. There’s a big demand for sirloin steak on crusty bread, served up for just £2.25. Pints of Mitchells and Butlers and Banks’s traditional mild also go down well. ‘It’s the sort of pub that appeals to a lot of middle-aged people but there’s plenty of activity for all age groups,’ says *Bill*, who plays for one of the bowls teams. Football also gets into the pub’s list of sporting fixtures.

*Bill* is pleased with results so far of his go-it-alone venture. ‘It isn’t the easiest time to be in business but we are not doing too badly,’ says the licensee running the kind of pub that deserved to succeed.

Pub Facts.

Pick of the Pints: Carling Black Label; M&B Mild; Stones Bitter.

Plus Points: Clean bars. Friendly atmosphere.

Food: Easy-on-the-pocket lunchtime meals.

Bar Price of a Pint: M&B Mild, £1.04; Banks’s Mild, £1.06; Stones Bitter, £1.10; Carling, £1.22.

Opening Hours: 11.30am to 2.30pm and 5pm to 11pm, Monday to Thursday. Open till 3.30pm Friday.

Open all day, Saturday. Normal Sunday hours.”

A soccer team from here took part in the Warley and District Sunday League. [1992/3], [1993/4]

[2008]

Closed [2009]

It became a builders’ supply warehouse.

## GATE

Bristnall Fields, Hill Top, Warley Wigorn, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

John Hurley [1847]

## LICENSEES

Benjamin George Hurley [1841] – [1843]

John Hurley [1845] – [1847]

## NOTES

### 1841 Census

Hill Top

[1] *Benjamin Hurley* (22), publican;

[2] Ann Hurley (20):

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/1/1843 - Advert

“Important Freehold Properties, at Causeway Green.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Newbold, at the house of Mr. *Benjamin George Hurley*, called the GATE INN, at Bristnall Fields, near Worley Wigorn, on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1843, at five o'clock in the afternoon, under such conditions as will be produced, an in the under-mentioned or such other lots as will be determined at the time of sale.....”

### Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/4/1845

“On Tuesday last, at the petty sessions held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, an excise information was heard before the sitting magistrates, Captain Bennitt and John Green, Esq, against Mr. *John Hurley*, a publican, residing at Bristnall Fields, in the parish of Halesowen, charging him with selling spirits without a proper excise license for the same. Mr. Twentyman, supervisor for the Smethwick and Oldbury districts, appeared on behalf of the excise. It appeared that the defendant had, on several occasions, supplied parties with spiritous liquors, in direct violation of the Act 6 Geo.IV cap.81, sec.26. The magistrates, in accordance with the act, convicted the defendant in the full penalty of £50 but afterwards mitigated it to £12 10s and, in addition, £3 to be paid to defray the expense of the prosecution.”

### Birmingham Journal 9/10/1847 - Advert

“Important Freehold Property, situate at Bristnall Fields, in the Parish of Hales Owen, in the County of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Newbold and Smith, on Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1847, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. Parish, called the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury (by order of the Assignees of Mr. *John Hurley*, a bankrupt), subject to conditions to be then and there produced, and in the following lots.

Lot 1. All that very superior, old-established, well-accustomed, and comfortable Public House, called the OLD GATE INN, together with the Nail Warehouse, Cottage, Nail Shop, and three Pieces of Pasture Land, and three large and productive Gardens thereunto belonging, situate at Bristnall Fields, within a short distance of the populous town and neighbourhood of Oldbury, in the occupation of Mr. *John Hurley*, and containing altogether 2A 3R 12P or thereabouts. The House contains an Entrance Hall, a very excellent Tap Room, Bar, Provision Shop, spacious Club Room (with Partition), Malt Room, two capital Cellars, five lofty and comfortable Chambers, Brewhouse, extensive Yard, Stable and Loft over, Pigstye, Pump, and a Well of excellent Water. There is a good business connected with the house, and from the situation it is much admired and resorted to as a Summer and Pleasure House. It was built by the present occupier, without regard to expense.

Lot 2. All that well-built, compact, and genteel Villa Residence, called Bristnall Villa.....”

### Worcestershire Chronicle 10/11/1847

“Birmingham Court of Bankruptcy.....

In re *John Hurley*, of Halesowen, victualler.

The insolvent, who was unopposed, passed his last examination.”

London Gazette 17/12/1847

“Whereas the Commissioner acting in the prosecution of a Fiat in Bankruptcy awarded and issued forth against *John Hurley*, of Bristnall-fields, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, Victualler, Dealer and Chapman, hath duly certified, that the said *John Hurley* hath in all things conformed himself according to the directions of the Acts of Parliament made and now in force concerning bankrupts; this is to give notice, that, by virtue of an Act, passed in the tenth and eleventh years of the reign of Her present Majesty Queen Victoria, Intituled ‘An Act to abolish the Court of Review in Bankruptcy, and to make alterations in the jurisdiction of the Courts of Bankruptcy and Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors,’ the Certificate of the said *John Hurley* will be allowed and confirmed by the Vice Chancellor of the High Court of Chancery acting in Bankruptcy, unless cause be shewn to the contrary, on or before the 7th day of January 1848.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 7/8/1848 - Notice

“John Balguy, Esquire, one of her Majesty’s Commissioners authorised to act under a Fiat in Bankruptcy, bearing date the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 1847, awarded and issued against *John Hurley*, of Bristnall Fields, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, Victualler, dealer and chapman, will sit on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1848, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon, at the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, in Birmingham, in order to Audit the Accounts of the Assignees of the estate and effects of the said bankrupt under the said fiat, pursuant to the Acts of Parliament made and now in force concerning bankrupts; and the said Commissioner will also sit at the same place, on the same day, at twelve o’clock at noon, 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.

Spencer and Rollings, Solicitors, Birmingham; Agents for Atkinson, Sanders, and Atkinson, Solicitors, Manchester.”

Birmingham Journal 12/8/1848

“Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *John Hurley*, of Bristnall Fields, victualler.

This was a meeting for the auditing of the assignees’ accounts, and also for the declaration of a dividend. After the auditing of the accounts had been gone through, the declaration of the dividend was adjourned.”

London Gazette 24/10/1848

“In the Matter of *John Hurley*, of Bristnall-fields, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, Victualler, Dealer and Chapman.

I Hereby give notice, that the creditors who have proved their debts under the above estate may receive a First Dividend of 4s 1d in the pound, upon application at my office, as under, on any Friday, between the hours of eleven and three. No Dividend will be paid without the production of the securities exhibited at the time of proving the debt. Executors and administrators will be required to produce the probate of the will or the letters of administration under which they claim.

F. Whitmore, Official Assignee, No.7, Waterloo-street, Birmingham.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 12/8/1850 - Died

“On the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, in his 64<sup>th</sup> year, much respected, Mr. *John Hurley*, of Bristnall Fields, near Oldbury.”

**GEORGE**

34, Birmingham Road, (Birmingham Street) / Broadwell Road, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Mrs. Sarah Farr, Smethwick  
George Thompson, Langley [1888]  
George Jerrams, brewer, Tat Bank, Oldbury  
Holders Brewery Co. Ltd.  
Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. (leased)  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired c.1920)  
Enterprise Inns [1996]

## LICENSEES

Mrs. Sarah Farr [1870] – [1878]  
John Rogers [1880] – **1886**;  
James Thornton (**1886 – 1888**);  
William Powell [1888] ?  
Charles King (**1888 – 1892**);  
George Horton [1891] – [1892] manager?  
Charles Stansfield Pike (**1892 – 1893**);  
Henry Mitchell and Co. (**1893**);  
Samuel Abbott (**1893 – 1895**);  
Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. (**1895 – 1898**);  
Harry Joseph Cox [1896] manager?  
Frederick Bollard (**1898**);  
Albert Barnett (**1898 – 1900**);  
Holders Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1900 – 1902**);  
Mrs. Ellen Dickinson [1901] manager  
Charles Stamps [1902] manager  
Robert Jones (**1902 – 1909**);  
Samuel Raybould (**1909 – 1910**);  
Mary (Patrick) Tranter (**1910**);  
William Baker (**1910 – 1923**);  
Joseph Lindon (**1923 – 1948**);  
John Stockley (**1948 – 1951**);  
Walter Higgins (**1951** – [1962]  
Marie Hunt [1993]  
Kulwinder Singh [2001]

## NOTES

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/5/1869 - Advert

“The Broadwell Freehold Building Estate, in the Town of Oldbury, adjoining the Oldbury Railway Carriage Company's Works, and close to the Oldbury Railway Station.

Messrs. Ludlow and Daniell will Sell by Auction, at the PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, in the town of Oldbury, on Tuesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June next, at Four for Five o'clock in the afternoon, and subject to conditions then to be read.....

Lot 1. A valuable Plot of Freehold Building Land, adjoining the GEORGE INN Public House, the property of Mrs. *Sarah Farr*, having a frontage of 12 yards to High Street, in the town of Oldbury, and a like frontage to a newly laid-out street at the back, and containing about 560 square yards.....”

### 1871 Census

#### Birmingham Street

- [1] *Sarah Farr* (54), widow, victualler, born Holmes Chapel, Cheshire;
- [2] Alfred Farr (19), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [3] Esther Hughes (30), general servant, born Wolverhampton:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/10/1874 - Advert

“General Servant (good); one used to a public house preferred. No family. Mrs. *Farr*, GEORGE INN, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1875 - Advert

“Girl (strong, respectable) Wanted. One used to public house preferred. Apply, Mrs. *Farr*, GEORGE INN, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/12/1875 - Advert

“Barmaid. Wanted, a respectable young Person of good address and appearance, and who would not object to assist in domestic work occasionally. Apply, personally, to Alfred *Farr*, GEORGE INN, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/4/1876 - Advert

“Servant (strong, respectable) Wanted, about 23. No family. From country preferred. Mr. *Farr*, GEORGE INN, Oldbury.”

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 6/7/1878

“Worcestershire Quarter Sessions.....

David Bates (50), labourer, to obtaining by false pretences from Martha Shaw, at Oldbury, on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, two pints of beer, the property of Abel Shaw; and from *Sarah Farr* three pints of beer, with intent to defraud. Fourteen days' hard labour, he having been already three months in prison.”

*Sarah Farr* – see also ODDFELLOWS ARMS, New Street.

*John Rogers* = John Rodgers

### 1881 Census

#### Birmingham Road

- [1] *John Rogers* (27), victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Annie Rogers (25), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] Ernest Rogers (3), son, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Bertie Rogers (1), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] Stewart Letts (14), lodger, born Halesowen;
- [6] Mary Letts (17), lodger, born Halesowen;
- [7] Mary Bercot (20), servant, born Greet's Green:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/12/1884

“On Monday night the annual meeting of the members of the Oldbury Cricket and Football Club was held at the GEORGE INN, Birmingham Street; Mr. Hollyhead presiding. The report presented by Mr. W. Eardley (secretary) showed that there was a balance of £35 11s due to the treasurer. During the past season the first team had played 18 matches, of which 8 were won, 6 were lost, and 4 drawn. The total number of runs scored was 1,294, against 751 by their opponents. The second team played 17 matches; won 5, lost 7, and drawn 5. The Football Club (first and second teams) had played 35 matches, of which they won 20, lost 9, and 6 were drawn. During the evening a handsome writing desk was presented to Mr. H. Hinckley, late secretary to the Cricket Club, in recognition of the services rendered by him to the club during the nine years



he held the office of secretary.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1885 - Advert

“Worcestershire. Important Sale of Freehold Spirit Vaults and Building Land, Oldbury, near Birmingham. To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hawkins and Son, on Tuesday Next, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at 6 o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

Lot 1. All that important substantially-built Corner Spirit Vaults and Dwelling House, known by the Sign of the GEORGE INN, situate on the corner of Birmingham Road and Broadwell Road, Oldbury aforesaid, comprising front Spirit Vaults, Bar Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, Club Room, four Bed Rooms, three Cellars, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stabling, and enclosed Yard, with pair of Entrance Gates, in the occupation of Mr. *John Rogers*, held under a lease, of which eight years are unexpired on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September next, at rental of £55 up to September 29, 1889, and £60 for the remaining four years.

Lot 2. All that valuable Corner Piece of Building Land, adjoining Lot 1, having a frontage to Broadwell Road of 16 yards and 5 inches, and a frontage to a road leading out of Broadwell Road of 12 yards, and containing in the whole 193 square yards or thereabouts.....”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 8/10/1887

“Under a Distraint for Rent and Gas. GEORGE INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury. Mr. W. H. Pass will Sell by Auction upon the above premises on Monday Next, October 10<sup>th</sup> 1887, the whole of the Household Furniture, Trade Fixtures, and Effects, comprising Sets of Wood and Iron Bedsteads, Straw Palliasses, Feather Beds, Bed Clothing, Cane-seated and other Chairs, Pier Glasses, Chests of Drawers, Vats, Refrigerator, Casks, Kitchen Items, and other Effects.....”

#### 1891 Census

34, Birmingham Road

- [1] *George Horton* (48), publican, born Coventry;
- [2] *Annie Horton* (39), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *George Horton* (21), son, blacksmith, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Edwin Horton* (17), son, blacksmith’s striker, born Birmingham;
- [5] *Harry Horton* (19), son, blacksmith’s labourer, born Birmingham;
- [6] *Ernest Horton* (15), son, blacksmith’s striker, born Birmingham;
- [7] *Fanny Horton* (13), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [8] *Elizabeth Horton* (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [9] *Thomas Horton* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [10] *Florrie Horton* (7), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [11] *Minnie Horton* (5), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [12] *Edie Horton* (1), daughter, born Oldbury;

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/9/1900

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday.....

The Chairman (Mr. J. E. Wilson) said the justices had carefully inspected the licensed houses where structural alterations were proposed, and had decided to approve those of the BRADES ROAD TAVERN, GEORGE INN, Birmingham Road, NEW INNS, Langley, and to refuse those of the WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street, and the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Halesowen Street.”

#### 1901 Census

Birmingham Road – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Ellen Dickinson* (49), widow, alehouse manager, born Warley, Yorkshire;
- [2] *Emma Dickinson* (25), daughter, barmaid, born Blackpool;
- [3] *James Dickinson* (21), son, plumber, born Blackpool;
- [4] *Percy Dickinson* (19), son, electrical engineer, born Blackpool;
- [5] *Stanley Dickinson* (13), son, born Blackpool;

[6] Ada Doran (26), daughter, widow, barmaid, born Blackpool;  
[7] Vera Doran (4), grand-daughter, born Blackpool:

Smethwick Weekly News 29/3/1902

“*Charles Stamps* was charged with selling drink to a drunken person and permitting drunkenness on the licensed premises of the GEORGE INN, at the corner of Birmingham Road and Broadwell Road on the 6<sup>th</sup> March. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared on behalf of the police, and Mr. Joy (instructed by Messrs. J. B. Clark and Co, of Birmingham) defended.

It appeared that at about 9.25pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> March two officers were at the front of the GEORGE INN. There was some noise in the house, and seemed to be some disturbance. After listening for about ten minutes they went inside, and saw a man named Fred Bennett swaying about near the counter. He had a pint jug half full before him. When the officers went in Bennett exclaimed, ‘It’s all right here.’ On the other side of the counter the landlord was sitting down, and no effort was made to put the drunken man out. The officers asked how it was that he allowed the man on his premises, and he replied that he had had nothing there, and that he had put him out twice. He then pushed the mug from in front of Bennett. There were about six other men in the room sitting at tables. One of them arose, and walking up to the counter drank the beer, saying, ‘This is my ale, boss,’ and the landlord replied, ‘Oh, yes.’ The man, however, had his own beer in the mug at the table. Bennett then went out, and the landlord and the officers saw him stagger up the street.

Defendant stated that the man Bennett came in at about 9.10 and asked for beer, but was refused, and, in reply to Mr. Sharpe, said he had turned him out because he wanted it on trust – (laughter) – and he was a doubtful customer.

Mr. Joy submitted that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction.

The Bench considered the case proved, and a fine of 40s and costs, £4 14s 6d in all, was imposed.

The same defendant was also charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst.

PS Pegg said that at 8pm on that day he went to the house to make certain enquiries. He was then under the influence of drink. At 9.45 the same night he went again to the house, and defendant was called to him. The sergeant then told him that he was satisfied that he was drunk, but defendant replied that he was not drunk, and asked the sergeant what he would have to drink.

Supt Sherriff said the man was not of temperate habits, and was actually under the influence of drink when he applied for the transfer.

In reply to Mr. Joy, defendant said was suffering from relaxed condition of the throat, which changed into quinsey. This was supported by Dr. J. Pitt, who stated that a man in such a state might easily be mistaken for a drunken person.

Mr. Allbright said the Bench considered that the man was drunk, and a fine of 10s and costs, 15s 6d in all, or 7 days in default, was imposed.

In the first case the man Bennett pleaded guilty to being drunk, and was fined 2s 6d and costs, 8s in all, or 7 days.”

Smethwick Weekly News 6/12/1902

“The annual dinner in connection with Oldbury Town Football Club took place on Tuesday evening at the GEORGE INN, corner of Birmingham Street and Broadwell Road. There was a good number present, who sat down to an excellent repast. After the tables were cleared, Mr. H. Wright occupied the chair.....”

*Mary Patrick* married Mr. *Tranter* in 1910.

1911 Census

Birmingham Road – GEORGE INN

- [1] *William Baker* (41), licensed victualler, born Willenhall;
- [2] *Flora Ada Baker* (40), wife, married 20 years, born Walsall;
- [3] *Dorothy Ellen Baker* (17), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *George Baker* (13), son, school, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Evelyn Baker* (3), daughter, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Mail 10/10/1911 - Advert

“De Dion, 8-hp, good order; £50; Motor-cycle Wanted.  
*Baker*, GEORGE INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/10/1932

“The GEORGE INN Angling Society, Oldbury, fished their annual contest at Hampton Loade on Sunday last, when five prizes out of the eight were taken. The prize-winners were F. Price (6½oz), 1; E. Jones (2½oz), 2; *J. Lindon* (1½oz), 3; J. King (1oz 3½dr), 4; W. Lowe (1oz), 5.”

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Central Darts League. [1939]

Birmingham Mail 30/10/1939 - Advert

“Bar General, live in.  
GEORGE INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.”

1939 Register

34, Birmingham Road – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Joseph Lindon*, date of birth 29/11/1892, innkeeper, married;
- [2] Fanny G. Lindon, dob 5/9/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Joseph Lindon, dob 9/10/1924, tool room improver, cycle fitting factory, single:

*John Stockley* – see also TWO BREWERS, Smethwick.

Enterprise Inns Advert 11/3/1996

“A highly motivated couple with catering experience is required for the GEORGE. Imminent redevelopment of this fine old pub will provide an excellent venue for the local community and the inclusion of a catering kitchen will enable it to meet to demands of local businesses and passing trade. Estimated in-going £20,000.”

*Samantha Angela Jones*, 10 Grace Road, Tividale, unemployed, lately residing at 16 Greenhill Road, Dudley, and lately carrying on business as the GEORGE, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, the BULLS HEAD, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, the OAK AND IVY, Oxford Street, Bilston, the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Sandwell Street, Walsall, the PRINCE BLUTCHER, Stafford Street, Walsall, the ROYAL OAK, Daw End Lane, Rushall, and the SPRING MEADOW, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, filed for bankruptcy in the County Court at Dudley on 1 March 2016.

It reopened in May 2018 as a Bar and Grill serving Indian cuisine.

[2021]

**GEORGE**

37, (35), (17), Dudley Road / Albion Street, Brades Village, (Brades New Village), OLDBURY

**OWNERS**

Mrs. Phoebe Peacock, Wesley Street, Oldbury [1885]

Edward Wright, White House, Burton on Trent

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1896)

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

LICENSEES

George Purser [1841] – [1842]  
Aaron Peacock [1842] – [1860]  
Thomas Morse [1861]  
James Beasley [1862] – **1868**);  
William Whale **(1868 – 1869)**;  
James Beasley [1870]  
Aaron Peacock **(1869 – 1872)**;  
William Locker **(1872 – [ ]**  
George Locker [1873]  
William James Hadley [1877] – [1880]  
William Bill [1884] – **1885**);  
Phoebe Peacock **(1885 – [ ]**;  
Allen Brookes [1886] – **1888**);  
Thomas Parsons **(1888 – 1891)**;  
Philip Henry Jones **(1891 – 1895)**;  
Thomas Mallalieu Coates **(1895)**;  
Joseph Green **(1895 – 1896)**;  
North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. **(1896 – 1905)**;  
George Ward **(1905 – 1906)**;  
James Whitehead **(1906 – 1907)**;  
Robert Meeking Long **(1907 – 1909)**;  
David Baker **(1909 – 1910)**;  
Nathaniel Hadley **(1910 – 1913)**;  
James Day **(1913 – 1916)**;  
John Hennefer **(1916 – 1927)**;  
John Smith **(1927 – 1931)**;  
Robert Beddow **(1931 – 1932)**;  
Horace Randall Wheale **(1932 – 1934)**;  
John Owen **(1934 – 1936)**;  
Arthur Albert Wakefield **(1936 – 1950)**;  
Reginald Round Field **(1950 – 1952)**;  
Jack Kirkham **(1952 – 1954)**;  
Ruth Lilian Kirkham **(1954 – 1955)**;  
John Henry Davies **(1955 – 1958)**;  
John Henry Brown **(1958 – [1962]**  
John Boucher **(1979 – [1981]**  
Ann Williams [1993]  
Lorraine Riese [2002] – [2007]  
Adam Riese [2012] – [2015]

NOTES

Brades New Village [1850]  
17, Dudley Road [1871], [1873]  
35, Dudley Road [1891]  
37, Dudley Road [1896], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939], [1990], [2008]

*George Purser* = George Perser

1841 Census

New Village

[1] *George Purser* (32), publican;

[1] Maria Purser (35);

[3] Walter Purser (2);

[4] William Purser (1);

[5] Mary Green (35):

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/12/1841 - Advert

“To Persons desirous of opening an Establishment either as a Furniture-broker, Pawnbroker, Druggist, Draper, Grocer, &c.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, all those desirable Premises late in the occupation of Mr. *George Perser*, Draper, commanding one of the best sites in the centre of the Market of Oldbury. The front Shop is spacious and bold in its appearance, and is fitted up in a first-rate style. The remaining part of the Premises comprise back parlour, kitchen, drawing-room over the shop, and four lodging-rooms, good cellar-ing, spacious Outbuildings, Stable and Gig-house, &c.

For further particulars apply to Mr. *George Perser*, of the GEORGE INN, Oldbury; or to Mr. Robert Massey, Land Surveyor, Auctioneer, and Appraiser, 6, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/12/1841 - Advert

“Genteel Household Furniture, Fixtures, Wines, and other Effects.

Comprising Mahogany Four-post and Tent Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Chests of Drawers, Spanish Mahogany Dining and Loo Tables, Couches, Sofa, Mahogany Trafalgar Chairs, handsome Chimney Glass, Carpeting, Kitchen Requisites, Brewing Vessels, about six dozen of choice Port and Sherry Wine, four dozen of Geneva ditto, and other Effects.

The Fixtures comprise handsome circular Mahogany Counters, with drawers and shelves complete, Gas-fittings with four superb pillars, a variety of Frame-work and Shelving round the Shop, Signs, &c, &c.

Mr. R. Massey is favoured with instructions to Offer for peremptory Sale by Auction, on Wednesday next the 29th of December, upon the premises, at Oldbury, late in the occupation of Mr. *George Perser*, Draper (sale to commence at ten o'clock precisely) – all the Fixtures as described above; together with the genteel Household Furniture and other Effects, removed for the convenience of sale, the property of a Gentleman who is leaving the neighbourhood.

For catalogues apply to Mr. *George Perser*, the GEORGE INN, Oldbury; or to Mr. R. Massey, Land Surveyor, Auctioneer, &c, 6, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/2/1842 - Advert

“GEORGE INN, near the Brades, Oldbury. To Publicans and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, on the premises, by Mr. Newbold, on Monday next, February 28, the excellent and modern Household Furniture, superior Bedding, Linen, Glass, very excellent Bagatelle Board, with balls, &c, equal to new, Brewing Requisites, capital Hogsheads and Half-hogsheads, Stock in Trade, Fixtures, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Purser*, the GEORGE INN, aforesaid.

Catalogues may be had at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, and at the offices of the Auctioneer, Dudley and Stourbridge.

The sale to commence at ten o'clock.”

AND

“The sale by Mr. Newbold of Household Effects at the GEORGE INN, near the Brades, Oldbury, advertised in our fourth page for Monday the 28<sup>th</sup>, will take place on Thursday Next, the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. The alteration was not received until after that part of our impression was printed.”

*Aaron Peacock* = Aron Peacock

Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/10/1842

“John Rhodes, having been defeated in the half mile race by Burton, is now matched to run nine miles under the hour, over a quarter of a mile race ground, on the Dudley-road, near Oldbury, tomorrow (Monday) week, between 12 and 2. Joseph Purks staking £6 to Rhodes's £5; £2 a side is down; the next deposit to be made tomorrow night at *Aaron Peacock's*, the GEORGE INN, and the rest of the money on the morning of the race, at Mr. Johnson's, the BLUE BALL INN, near Oldbury.

Is it fair for a man running against time to carry a watch on his arm? – Yes, or anything else he pleases.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/10/1842

“The nine miles race under the hour, over a quarter of a mile of ground, by John Rhodes, of Brades New Village, near Oldbury, came off on Monday last. A vast multitude of persons assembled, and the backers of the man offered level bets, but there were but few takers. Exactly at 25 minutes to 3, all being in readiness, the word was given and the man started in prime style, accomplishing the first mile in 5 minutes and 9 seconds; the first four miles in 23 minutes, and ultimately the whole distance in 5 minutes under the hour.....”

Birmingham Journal 28/12/1850 - Advert

“Sale at the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1851.

A quantity of Pit Timber, Pit Tools, Skips, Rings, Gearing, Blacksmith's Tools, pair of 44-inch Bellows, Smiths' Anvil, Condensing Engine, with Boiler, &c, complete, about 3-horse power; Four-wheel Phaeton, Timber Carriage, Carts; young and useful Cart and Hackney Horses; several Pockets of Hops, and other Effects belonging to Mr. *Aaron Peacock*, removed to the above Inn for convenience of Sale.

Catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale, or of the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock.”

1851 Census

Dudley Road

[1] *Aron Peacock* (35), mine agent and victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Phebe Peacock* (35), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Hannah Reves* (19), house servant, born Sedgley:

County Advertiser 16/2/1856 - Advert

“To Royalty Masters, Butty Colliers, Farmers, and Others.

Mr. Detheridge has received instructions to offer by Public Auction, on Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1856, at Mr. *Peacock's*, the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, near Oldbury, about Twenty young, useful, and powerful Horses, with their Gearing; together with 5 dozen of Wood Skips and Wheels, 10 pairs of Tackling Chains, several Tons of Iron Squares, Hammers, Wedges, Pikes, Baskets, Blowing Tools, Dog Hooks, Shivels and other Pit Tools, Broad and Narrow-wheel Carts, &c, the property of Mr. John Fletcher, who has completed his contract under Benjamin Gibbons, Esq, at the Tividale New Colliery.

Catalogues will be ready in a few days, and may be had at Mr. *Peacock's*, the GEORGE INN; the NEW INN, Rounds Green; or of the Auctioneer, High Street, Brierley Hill.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the Morning.”

Birmingham Journal 14/3/1857 - Advert

“Sale at the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, Oldbury.

Mr. Detheridge has received instructions from Mr. John Fletcher, to Offer by Public Auction, on Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April next – Eighteen valuable Pit Horses, and Pony, Six Dozen of Brooch Skips, Seven Tons of Iron Squares, One Dozen and a Half of White Stone Skips, several tons of Old Iron, a quantity of Pit Tools, Three Broad-wheel Waggon, Twelve Broad and Narrow-wheel Carts, Two Spring Traps, a new Gig, Pony Phaeton, several sets of Harness, and other Effects belonging to Mr. John Fletcher, who has finished his contract with Messrs. Birch and Co., Tividale Colliery.

Further particulars in future advertisements; and catalogues may be had in a few days at the Place of Sale; or the Office of the Auctioneer, High Street, Brierley Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/8/1860 - Advert

“Found, a Handcart. The Owner can have it on application to Mr. *Peacock*, GEORGE INN, Brades Village, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/10/1860 - Advert

“The GEORGE INN, Brades Village. First-Class Business House.

By R. L. Courtney. To be Disposed Of, the above-named well-known Public House and Premises, which consist of a Front Kitchen, 27ft by 14ft; Front Parlour, Smoke Room, Bar, Club Room, suitable to dine 100 persons; four Chambers, Back Kitchen, two Pantries, excellent Cellars, and Brewhouse, fitted up in a superior style, no expense having been spared in completing it for the most convenient and economical mode of Brewing; large Yard, with double-gate entrance; Piggeries, Store Room, Coach-house, Harness Room, and Stable. There is also an excellent supply of hard and soft Water. The whole of the Stock-in-Trade, Fixtures, Brewing Plant, and part of the Household Furniture to be taken at a fair valuation. The rent is fixed at a moderate rate. They are now doing a good business at the House, and have five extensive Clubs held there. The present Proprietor has entered into other engagements.

Apply on the Premises; or to the Auctioneer and Valuer, High Street, West Bromwich.”

*Thomas Morse* = Thomas Mearse

1861 Census

Dudley Road – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Thomas Mearse* (34), victualler, born Gloucester;
- [2] *Jane Mearse* (38), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Prudence Lowe* (19), general servant, born Netherton;
- [4] *William Peasland* (19), general servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/6/1861 - Advert

“The GEORGE INN, Brades Village, near Oldbury.

By R. L. Courtney, as above, This Day (Friday).

1,500 Gallons of Prime Old Ale, Old Port Wine, Cider, Ale Casks, Double-bodied Phaeton, &c, &c, belonging to Mr. *Thomas Morse*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/10/1861 - Advert

“GEORGE INN, Brades Village, Oldbury.

By Atree and Son. To be Disposed Of, at Valuation, the above well-frequented, Old-licensed Premises, replete with every convenience for the large scope of business which the situation always commands. There are four Clubs attached, averaging 500 members.

Particulars on the Premises, or 1, Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/11/1861 - Advert

“The GEORGE INN, Brades Village, Oldbury.

Messrs. Atree and Son will Sell by Auction, the Licenses, and Possession of the above noted roadside House, together with the whole of the public house Fixtures and Fittings, Brewing Plant, Stock, &c.

Particulars in future papers, and at the Auctioneers, 1, Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham. Established 1840.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/11/1861 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale, at the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, Oldbury.

Messrs. Atree and Son will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday next, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1861, the Licenses and Possession of the above excellent Roadside House, and all the Fixtures and Fittings, 220 and 312-gallon wrought-iron boilers, galvanised pump, wood and iron vats, with lead and iron piping; 24-bushel mash tub, 28 prime ale casks, from 60 to 260 gallons; 5-motion ale machine, with marble front and pulls; spirit fountain, metal top; tap table, and Household Furniture, Horse Trap, and Harness, pair of handsome Lamps, Sow and ten

Pigs, Ales, Spirits, Wines, &c, &c, the property of Mr. *Morse*.  
Sale will commence at ten o'clock, the License will be offered at half-past.  
Auctioneers' Offices, Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham."

*James Beasley* = James Beesley

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/3/1863

"J. Rhodes (the Veteran) of Wolverhampton and S. Elwell of Brierley Hill have signed articles to run one mile round Aston Cross Grounds, sum not stated, on Monday, April 6. Mr. G. *Beasley* of the GEORGE INN, Oldbury, final stakeholder, Mr. Cliff referee. £1 a side is down, and a further deposit of £2 a side is to be made on Saturday evening, March 7."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/4/1863

"T. Jones (alias Brushey) of Birmingham and an Unknown from Sheffield are matched to run half a mile level round Aston Grounds, for £10 a side. They meet on Saturday evening, April 4, at *Beasley's*, GEORGE INN, Oldbury, to draw up articles."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/7/1863

"J. Gilbank of Oldbury will hop any man within 50 miles of Birmingham, 10 rising hops and one jump, for £10 or £15 a side. Money ready at P. *Beasley's*, GEORGE INN, Oldbury. To hop in six weeks from signing articles."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/8/1867 - Advert

"Oldbury. To be Sold by Private Contract, a 14-horse power Horizontal Steam Engine, together with a Boiler, Boiler Pump, Oven and Fittings, complete, the whole in good condition. Also, all the Brickwork, Roofing, Woodwork, and all other the Erections whatsoever, except the Boundary Wall, in and upon the Premises called the Anchor Forge, situate near to the Anchor Bridge, in Oldbury aforesaid.  
For further particulars, apply to Mr. *James Beesley*, at the GEORGE INN, Brades Village; or Mr. A. Wright, Solicitor, Oldbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/10/1868 - Advert

"GEORGE INN, Brades Village, near Oldbury.  
That commodious, Old-licensed House, surrounded by Mining operations, Iron and other Works, having every facility for an extensive business, situated upon the main road to Dudley, and healthily situated. The sole cause of leaving Proprietor's Mechanical calling requiring his services at a distance. In-coming about £200.  
Apply to A. Atree, Auctioneer, Church Square, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/11/1868

"East Worcestershire Election. Meeting at Oldbury.  
On Monday evening a public meeting of the friends and supporters of Mr. R. P. Amphlett, QC, the Conservative candidate for East Worcestershire, was held at the GEORGE INN, Brades Village; Mr. Jarvis Clarke presiding....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/4/1869 - Advert

"Worcestershire. Brades Village, Oldbury. Valuable Freehold Building Land.  
Mr. Charles Round will Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *W. Whale*, the GEORGE INN, Brades, near Oldbury, on Monday Next, April 26<sup>th</sup>, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced and read....."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/3/1871

"On Tuesday an inquest was held at the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, before Mr. R. Docker, Coroner, upon the body of Stephen Payne (44), Row Way, who committed suicide on Friday evening, under circumstances reported in Monday's *Post*. The Jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased committed



Suicide whilst in a state of Insanity.”

#### 1871 Census

17, Dudley Road – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Aaron Peacock* (55), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Phoebe Peacock* (55), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *James Griffiths* (30), general servant, born Tenbury;
- [4] *Eliza Jones* (20), general servant, born Dudley:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/4/1871

“The following gentlemen have been elected to represent the parish as Guardians.....  
Messrs. *James Sadler*, *T. Sadler*, *Joseph Edwards*, and *Aaron Peacock* for Oldbury.”

*Aaron Peacock* – see also WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/4/1877

“*William Hadley*, of the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, was summoned for selling intoxicating drinks during unlawful hours on Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. It was proved that a man was seen leaving the premises with a jug containing ale. The defendant admitted the offence, saying that a servant had supplied the ale through ignorance. He was fined £5 and costs.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/8/1877

“Oldbury Annual Licensing Session.....

Superintendent Kemp, inspector for the division, presented his report, from which it appeared there were held within the division 142 license of all descriptions. Since the licensing meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August last year, 8 licensed victuallers had been summoned for offences against the Licensing Acts. For permitting drunkenness 3 were fined, and 1 ordered to pay costs; for keeping open during prohibited hours 2 were fined, and 1 ordered to pay costs, and 1 was dismissed. One beerhouse keeper had been fined for selling during prohibited hours, and 3 had been summoned for permitting drunkenness – 1 was fined, 1 ordered to pay costs, and 1 was dismissed. During the same period there had been 133 males and 22 females brought before the justices for drunkenness, as against a total of 98 last year, showing an increase of 57. 153 persons were convicted and 2 discharged; 15 of the offenders were charged with drunkenness upon licensed premises, and the remainder upon the public highways.....

The whole of the applications for renewals were granted with the exception of the following, which were adjourned for further consideration to the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.....

*William James Hadley*, GEORGE INN, Brades Village.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/9/1877

“Oldbury Adjourned General Licensing Meeting.....

The applications for renewals of licenses which were held over for consideration for the general meeting, in consequence of convictions which had been recorded, were now granted.”

#### Worcester Journal 16/10/1880

“Ledbury County Court.....

*Richard Hankins*, of Yarkhill, cider merchant v *William Hadley*, of GEORGE INN, Brades Village, Oldbury. Claim for cider and cask, £2 2s 6d. Defendant said he ordered the cider for another party, who was now dead. Judgement for plaintiff.”

#### 1881 Census

17, Dudley Road

- [1] *Mary A. Hadley* (44), married, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Isaac Hadley* (23), son, steel melter, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Hannah L. Hadley* (21), daughter, born Oldbury;

- [4] Florence R. Hadley (19), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Charles Hadley (17), son, draughtsman, born Oldbury;
- [6] William Hadley (14), son, engine fitter, born Oldbury;
- [7] Esther Hadley (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] James Hadley (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [9] Fanny Jones (21), domestic servant, born Aston, Warwickshire:

West Bromwich Weekly News 21/5/1881

“On Saturday, an inquest was held before Mr. R. Docker, at the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, upon the body of Sarah Jane Whitehouse.

The evidence showed the deceased was last seen alive by a youth named Beard, on the Canal Bridge, at Brades, about seven o'clock on the Monday morning. The body was found on the following evening near the spot where she was seen by Beard.

Dr. Lyddon was called, and stated that he had examined the body of the deceased, but found no marks of violence, the appearance of the body being consistent with death from drowning.

No evidence was forthcoming to show how deceased got into the water.

The Jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1885

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. J. E. Wilson and H. Heaton – *William Bill* (41), landlord of the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, was charged with using threats towards his wife on the 31<sup>st</sup> July; also with using profane language on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst, and with being drunk at the BRADES TAVERN on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. Prisoner’s wife stated that her husband frequently threatened her, and she was forced to lock herself up in a room to prevent him striking her. Prisoner, who had been convicted three times within a period of twelve months, was bound over to keep the peace for six months, or in default twenty-eight days’ imprisonment.”

AND

Smethwick Telephone 22/8/1885

“Oldbury Police Court.....

*William Bill*, of the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on premises belonging to William Hadley, the BRADES TAVERN on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, and also with using obscene language in Albion Street on 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. He was further charged with threatening his wife, on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult. *Mary Ann Bill*, wife of the defendant, stated that her husband repeatedly threatened to ‘do for her.’

PC Smith deposed to seeing the defendant drunk in Albion Street, and also on the premises of the BRADES TAVERN, on the days respectively named.

PS Stanton stated that the man had been previously convicted three times within twelve months.

The Magistrates inflicted a fine of 20s and costs, or 14 days, for the charge of being drunk and disorderly; 2s 6d and costs for using obscene language; and ordered the defendant to find two sureties each in £10, or one in £20, to keep the peace towards his wife for the term of six months.”

Smethwick Telephone 29/8/1885

“Oldbury Licensing Sessions.....

With reference to the GEORGE INN, PS Stanton reported that the present holder of the license, *William Bill*, had been several times convicted for drunkenness, and was at the present time undergoing a term of imprisonment for having threatened his wife.

Mr. Shakespeare, on behalf of Mrs. Peacock, the owner of the house, appealed to the Bench to renew the license, as its non-renewal would materially decrease the value of his client’s property, who was endeavouring to dispose of the disorderly tenant. If the Bench would renew the license they would undertake to obtain his removal from the house.

After the magistrates had considered in private the applications for renewals, Mr. Avery announced the following decisions ..... With reference to the license of *William Bill* they found great difficulty in punishing the owner of this property by withholding the renewal after having received the assurances that she had done all she could to prevent the abuse of the license, but under no circumstances could they see their way clear to

grant a renewal to *William Bill*. If a temporary transfer was applied for they might consider the application. Mr. Shakespeare at once applied for a temporary transfer to the owner, which was granted until the adjourned meeting.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 26/9/1885

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The renewal of the license of the GEORGE INN, situate in Brades Village, of the WHITE LION INN, in Birmingham Street, and also of a beerhouse in Queen Street, was granted.”

#### Birmingham Mail 17/5/1890

“This morning Mr. E. Docker, coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, relative to the death of Mary Ann Blewitt (17), formerly of Dudley Road, Brades Village, whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal, near the Furnace Yard, on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

The mother of deceased said she last saw her daughter alive on Sunday. The deceased used to visit a public house, and stayed out very late. At about 2.15 on Sunday morning witness saw her daughter at the bottom of the entry, and she then told witness to go into the house and she would follow. Witness did not hear anything else of deceased until the body was found in the water.

Police-constable Smith said on Saturday, about midnight, he was on duty on the canal side, near Captain Bennett’s brickyard, when he saw two persons, a male and a female, standing against a wall. As he came up he turned his lamp on their faces, when he recognised one as Mary Ann Blewitt. He told deceased that her mother had complained to him about her staying out late at night. He advised them to go home, and then the pair proceeded in the direction of Whimsey Bridge. Deceased’s parents had always behaved kindly to her. Maria Hanson, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, said the deceased used to visit her house, where she met her young man, Harry Harris. They were both at her house on Saturday night. Deceased had complained of her parents leading her a miserable life, but she gave no particulars. The mother of deceased visited her house, and upon the young man going to the door she blackguarded him. Deceased said it would end in her making away with herself. She (witness) dissuaded her from that, and asked her not to come to her house if it created a disturbance at home. Several nights during the last week the deceased said she would stay no longer with her parents. Deceased had always been on good terms with Harris. Deceased said that when she got home late her mother scolded her, and if her father was up he beat her.

Henry Harris, boatman, said he resided at Rood End, and had kept company with deceased for two months. Witness met her on Saturday night at the GEORGE AND DRAGON public house, and they stayed until 11 o’clock. At fifteen minutes past two on Sunday morning he saw her home and left her at the top of the entry. Deceased would not go home for about two hours after they saw Police-constable Smith on the canal side. He persuaded her at length to go home, and she promised him to go into the house for his sake. She told him that she would make away with herself, and that he would not see her the next night. She had never complained to him about her parents. After seeing the officer she said she should never face her parents.

Edward Blewitt, uncle to the deceased, deposed to having dragged the canal, and recovered the body near to the Furnace Bridge, Dudley Road. He had no suspicion of foul play.

Dr. C. Lyddon said he examined the body. Death was due to drowning.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned, and recommended the coroner to caution Mrs. Hanson, landlady of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, for keeping the girl at her house until such a late hour.

The Coroner called Mrs. Hanson before him, and reprimanded her accordingly.”

#### 1891 Census

35, Dudley Road – GEORGE INN

[1] *Philip H. Jones* (47), mill furnace man, born Cradley;

[2] *Mary A. Jones* (46), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *George Jones* (22), son, iron roller, born Oldbury;

[4] *Emma Jones* (18), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] *Philip H. Jones* (16), son, iron roller, born Oldbury;

[6] *William Jones* (13), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] *John O. Jones* (4), son, born Oldbury;

Wellington Journal 2/5/1908 - Advert

“For Sale, light single Brougham, rubber tyres, equal to new; would suit doctor; or useful Exchange. Pony Turnout preferred.

Apply, *R. Long*, GEORGE INN, Dudley Road, Oldbury, Worcestershire.”

1911 Census

37, Dudley Road – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Nathaniel Hadley* (42), colliery fitter, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Hadley* (41), wife, married 19 years, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Gladys Hadley* (17), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Horace Hadley* (12), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Dorace Hadley* (10), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Bert Hadley* (4), son, born Tipton;
- [7] *Leslie Hadley* (3), son, born Tipton:

1939 Register

37, Dudley Road – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Arthur A. Wakefield*, date of birth 18/11/1882, publican, married;
- [2] *Marguerite B. Wakefield*, dob 10/4/1892, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Arthur J. Wakefield*, dob 12/9/1915, wood block floor layer, single;
- [4] *Frederick J. Wakefield*, dob 29/9/1923, tester, seamless steel tubes, single;
- [5] *Albert E. Wakefield*, dob 17/5/1925, labourer, acetylene welding, single:

*Arthur Albert Wakefield* – see also TWELVE BELLS, West Bromwich.

Plans to alter the Lavatory accommodation were approved on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1956.

Tipton Herald 21/5/1960

“*Tim Brookshaw*, champion National Jump jockey for the 1959 season, presented the prizes to the winners of the Tividale Darts League at the Groveland Club, Sedgley Road East, on Monday night.

*Mr. A. Chater*, League Chairman, said in his opinion the past season had been the best ever. He commended the work of the League committee as a whole and singled out the Secretary, *Mr. A. Pearson*, for special praise.

The premier award went to ROYAL OAK, Rounds Green, who were competing in the league for the first time. Runners-up were the GEORGE, Brades Village.”

*John Boucher* was married to *Mary*.

He worked for *Deris's*, Great Bridge.

A team from here took part in the Smethwick and District Charity Darts League. [1981/2]

Express & Star 1/2/2011

“A man who died after being hit by a car in the Black Country was today described by his family as ‘a true gentleman of the old school.’ *Brian Metcalfe*, aged 71, was crossing Dudley Road in Oldbury on his way to the GEORGE pub when he was hit by a Nissan Micra that failed to stop.....

*Mr. Metcalfe*, who was born in Wales, then became landlord of the JOLLY COLLIER on Junction Road, before returning to his RAF roots – as a safety equipment supervisor for Babcocks at RAF Valley in north Wales. He worked there for the past 14 years, visiting his family in Oldbury at weekends.....”

[2021]

## GEORGE

Pottery Road (Lane), (181, George Road) / Bleakhouse Road, (Hill Top, Warley), (Warley Wigorn), Warley,  
OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Thomas Whale  
Samuel Parish, Colmore Road, Birmingham  
Everill and Co., Kings Heath, Birmingham  
Sanders, Smith and Parish, Colmore Road, Birmingham  
Sarah Ann Whitehouse, Greenfield House, Smethwick  
George Humphries, Warley  
Joseph Whitehouse, Greenfield House, Smethwick [1902]  
John W. J. Kingstone Ltd. (acquired c.1920)  
Cheshire's Brewery Co. Ltd. (leased)  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired in 1936)  
Sizzling Pub Co. [2012]  
Punch Taverns  
Star (Heineken) UK (acquired 5/3/2018)

## LICENSEES

Thomas Hurley [1827]  
Benjamin Stokes Mullett [1839] – [1846]  
Elizabeth Mullett [1851] – [1855]  
Benjamin Stokes Mullett [ ] – **1860**);  
Joseph Hill (**1860** – [1862]  
Benjamin Stokes Mullett [1863] – **1864**);  
Thomas Whale (**1864** – **1887**);  
John Robert Denman (**1887**);  
William Clamp (**1887** – **1889**);  
John Hughes (**1889** – **1890**);  
Harry Walls (**1890** – **1892**);  
Charles Alfred Benton (**1892** – **1893**);  
Hannah Willis (**1893** – **1894**);  
Charles Brown (**1894** – **1902**);  
Henry Hood (**1902** – **1903**);  
Mrs. Selina Pretty (**1903** – **1906**);  
Albert William Woskett (**1906** – **1908**);  
Emma Kate Woskett (**1908**);  
Albert Cecil Charles Follis (**1908** – **1911**);  
Albert 'Bert' Edwards (**1911** – **1913**); manager  
Thomas Frederick Scriven (**1913**);  
Philip Blundell (**1913** – **1915**);  
Harvey Wallace Grove (**1915** – **1925**);  
Josiah Riley (**1925** – **1928**);  
Henry James Casley (**1928** – **1934**);  
James Shaylor (**1934** – **1940**);

Frederick Robert Mounfield (1940 – 1941);  
Archie Bosworth (1941 – 1947);  
George Thomas Baker (1947 – 1950);  
William Burrows (1950 – 1955);  
Henry Page (1955 – 1957);  
Walter Frederick Fox (1957 – [1964]  
Steve Jones (1970 – [ ]  
Jim Kelly [1978] – [1981]  
Laurence Nicholls [1984]  
Bill Chiswell [ ] – 1985)  
Alan Cox (1991 – [1992]  
Douglas Stolworthy [2002]

## NOTES

### Worcester Journal 25/3/1813 - Married

“At Hales Owen, Mr. *Thomas Hurley*, of Bristol Fields, to Miss Lucy Taylor, of Rounds Green, near Oldbury.”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 3/5/1824 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by J. E. & C. Robins, at the dwelling house of *Thomas Hurley*, the GEORGE INN, at Warley Hill Top, in the parish of Hales Owen, on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1824, at three 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 the conditions then to be produced.

Lot 1. The said Messuage or Dwelling House, now used as the GEORGE INN, with the Malthouse, Nail Warehouse, Stable, and a small Dwelling House, and other Outbuildings and Gardens adjoining, and now occupied therewith; also two Meadows or Closes of Land, called the House Piece and the Further Moor, situate at the back of the said dwelling house, containing about four acres and a half.

The above premises are now in the occupation of the said *Thomas Hurley* and his under tenants, and are well situated for carrying on business on an extensive scale, and front the road leading from Warley Hill Top to Oldbury, and also that leading from Rowley Regis to Birmingham.....”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 17/9/1827 - Advert

“Sale at the GEORGE INN, Worley Wigorn.

By Roderick. To be Sold by Auction, on the premises, on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, all the excellent Brewing Effects, Fixtures, and part of the Household Furniture belonging to Mr. *Thomas Hurley*, at the GEORGE INN, who is declining the business, consisting of capital hogshead and smaller barrels, 120 gallon copper furnace, 16 strike mashing-tub, pair of coolers, drinking-tables, chairs, benches, excellent malt mill, stock of old ale, and other effects.

The sale to commence at ten o’clock.

Catalogues may be had upon the premises, or of the Auctioneer, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 13/5/1839 - Notice

“We, the undersigned, being landowners or duly authorised Agents of Landowners within the township of Warley, Salop, in the county of Salop, whose interest is not less than one-fourth part of the whole value of the Lands subject to Tithes in the said township, do by this notice in writing under our hands, call a Meeting of Landowners and Tithe-owners within the limits of the said township, for the purpose of making an Agreement for the general Commutation of Tithes within the limits of the said township, pursuant to the provisions of an Act passed in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled An Act for the Commutation of Tithes in England and Wales; and we do hereby also give notice, that such Meeting will be held at the house of *Benjamin Stokes Mullet*, known by the name or sign of the GEORGE INN, situate in the said township, on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1839, at eleven o’clock in the fore-

noon.

Given under our hands this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1839.

John Birch, Isaac Mullett, Edward Aston, Joseph Wakeman, Caleb Bloomer, Thomas Allcock, John Sankey, D. Grainger, Caroline Meysey Wigley, by her Attorney, Thomas Tomlinson.”

#### 1841 Census

Hill Top, Warley Salop

[1] *Benjamin Stokes Mullett* (30), publican;

[2] Mary Ann Mullett (30);

[3] William Mullett (7 months);

[4] Mary Ann Dearn (11):

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/9/1846 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Public House, Malt-House, Land, and Premises, at Hill Top, Warley, in the parish of Hales Owen.

To Innkeepers, Maltsters, Capitalists, and Others

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Newbold, on the premises, on Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, inst, at five o'clock in the evening, either together or in lots, as may be determined by the proprietor at the time of sale subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that long-established and well-accustomed Public House, known as the GEORGE INN, desirably situated at Hill Top, in Warley, in the parish of Hales Owen, and the county of Worcester, now in the occupation of Mr. *Benjamin Stokes Mullett*.

The House affords superior accommodation, and comprises bar, two parlours, good tap-room, commodious club-room, 38 feet 6 inches, by 18 feet 4 inches, dairy, six comfortable and convenient sleeping-rooms, three dry arched cellars, large and well-arranged Brewhouse (in which there are copper and iron boilers, Pump, and well of excellent water), and store-room over. The out-buildings immediately attached to the House are extensive and commodious, and consist of two Stables, Cow-house, Nail Warehouse, and Piggeries. Attached to the House are a flower and two kitchen Gardens (planted with choice fruit-trees), Yard, &c.

Also an excellent Ten-quarter Malthouse adjoining to, and held with the above, having a good kiln, cistern, barley and malt-garners, pump, and a never-failing supply of water, with other conveniences; and a neat Cottage and Nail Shop adjoining the Malthouse, now in the occupation of John Morton.

Also two very valuable pieces of Grass Land, called the House Piece and Farther Moor, commanding an extensive frontage to the road leading from West Bromwich to Warley, and containing in the whole 4A 2R (more or less).

The Land is in a good state of cultivation, and most eligibly situated for building purposes, and now occupied, with the House, by Mr. *Benjamin Stokes Mullett*.

The House is in good business, which is capable, from the extent and commodiousness of the premises, of considerable increase.

Further particulars may be obtained from Messrs. Bourne and Wainwright, Solicitors, or of the Auctioneer, all of Dudley.”

#### Birmingham Journal 22/4/1848

“Election of Guardians ..... West Bromwich Union.....

For Warley, Salop: Mr. *Benjamin Stokes Mullett*.”

#### 1851 Census

Warley Salop

[1] *Benjamin Stokes Mullett* (40), maltster, born Dudley;

[2] Mary Ann Mullett (31), wife, born Cakemore;

[3] Joseph Mullett (3 months), son, born Warley:

AND (next entry)

[1] *Elizabeth Mullett* (66), widow, victualler, born Dudley;

[2] Ann Brecknall (38), daughter, widow, milliner, born Dudley;

[3] Mary Elizabeth Brecknall (14), grand-daughter, born Brierley Hill;

[4] Phoebe Ann Brecknall (12), grand-daughter, born Brierley Hill;

[5] Hannah Maria Brecknall (5), grand-daughter, born Brierley Hill:

#### Globe 25/10/1855

“Burglars in a Country Inn.

On the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst the house of Mrs. *Elizabeth Mullett*, the GEORGE INN, Worley Wigorn, was broken into by four burglars, who succeeded in carrying away £16 in cash and a silver watch belonging to the landlady, and £6 in cash belonging to one of her daughters, who, with another sister and their two children, were the only inmates. On Wednesday evening the house was, on their retiring to rest, properly secured in the ordinary manner, and at about one o'clock on Thursday morning a noise was heard by Mrs. *Mullett*, and directly afterwards she heard her chamber door opened, and saw two men enter. They had a lighted candle with them, were dressed in short dirty frocks, having their heads and faces entirely covered with black glazed calico, with such perforations only as would allow them to see and speak. Mrs. *Mullett* and one of her daughters occupied this room, and upon seeing the intruders they commenced screaming ‘Murder, thieves,’ &c. Both the burglars went up to them, placed their hands upon the throats of the two females, and quietly threatened that if they did not hold their peace it would fare much worse with them. The fellows proceeded to break open and ransack the boxes in the room, and having possessed themselves of some of their contents, they ordered Mrs. *Mullett* and her daughter to leave the bed, which the latter did, to allow the mattress, &c, being searched; no money was found there. A bottle of wine was found in the bedroom, and after imbibing part of the contents themselves, they politely asked the landlady and her daughter to taste too, ‘as they seemed low and faintly,’ but the offer was refused. As they were leaving, Mrs. *Mullett* made some noise, and one of the fellows then asked the other for a halter ‘to hang them.’ The threat had the desired effect, and they left without molestation. In the meantime a similar scene was being enacted by two other burglars, similarly dressed, with black caps, &c, in another room, where the other inmates of the house slept. They were prevented from making an alarm by being nearly suffocated with a blanket, which one of the fellows held over their mouths. The men, however, were sufficiently merciful to leave behind them, on being entreated to do so, a child’s overall and a watch, which formerly belonged to Mrs. *Mullett*’s son-in-law. About £8 was also stolen from the bar. Just before leaving they returned to Mrs. *Mullett*’s room, and asked her if she would know them again. She replied in the negative, and they rejoined that if ever she caused them to be apprehended and was seen from home, she would never return alive. They bade her not to stir for two hours, and then left.”

#### Birmingham Journal 12/1/1861 - Advert

“Wanted, a Servant Girl, accustomed to a Public House.

Apply, personally, to Mrs. *Hill*, GEORGE INN, Warley, near Smethwick.”

#### 1861 Census

Hill Top, Warley Salop – Private

[1] *Benjamin S. Mullett* (50), maltster, born Dudley;

[2] Mary A. Mullett (41), wife, born Cakemore;

[3] Joseph Mullett (10), son, scholar, born Hill Top;

[4] Alfred Mullett (7), son, scholar, born Hill Top;

[5] Benjamin C. Mullett (4), son, born Hill Top;

[6] Anne E. Mullett (2), daughter, born Hill Top:

AND (next entry)

Hill Top, Warley Salop – GEORGE INN

[1] *Joseph Hill* (30), victualler and grocer, born Worcestershire;

[2] Sarah Hill (30), wife, born Worcester;

[3] Eliza Webster (31), cousin, born Stowe, Worcestershire;

[4] Clara Crow (19), servant, born West Bromwich:

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/9/1862



“Rabbit Coursing. Warley. *J. Hill*, of the GEORGE HOTEL, Warley, begs to announce that the first day’s rabbit coursing will take place on Monday, Sept 29, and will be continued every other Monday throughout the season. *J. H.* will always have on hand a number of live wild rabbits, and sporting gentleman can be supplied either for shooting or trial of dogs.”

Birmingham Journal 8/8/1863 - Advert

“Very Desirable Freehold Property, situated at Hill Top, Warley, Salop, in the Parish of Hales Owen, in the County of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Monday Next, the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, at Six o’clock in the evening, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, subject to conditions to be then produced, and either in one or such other lots as may be determined upon.

All that very desirable Freehold Property, comprising the GEORGE INN, with Stabling, Garden, and Premises, in the occupation of Mr. *Benjamin Stokes Mullett*; also, the Dwelling House, Cottage, Malthouse, Nail Warehouse, and Premises, and Two Pieces of excellent Grass and Meadow Land adjoining; containing together about 4 Acres, and also in the occupation of Mr. *Benjamin Stokes Mullett*; the whole lying contiguous, and situated at Hill Top, Warley, Salop aforesaid, and producing an annual rental of £71.

The Property is situated about 3 miles from Birmingham, surrounded by good roads, and adjoins the Estates of F. D. Lea Smith, Esq, and D. G. Round, Esq.

For further information, apply to Mr. Brooke Robinson, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Dudley; or to Mr. *B. S. Mullett*, upon the Premises, who will show the Property.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 11/3/1865 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Dwelling Houses, Building Land, and Premises, at Blackheath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Samuel Jones, on Monday, March the 20<sup>th</sup>, 1865, at Six o’clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Whale*, the GEORGE HOTEL, Warley, near Oldbury, subject to conditions then to be produced, either together, in the following, or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.....”

1871 Census

Warley Salop – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Thomas Whale* (48), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] Ann Whale (42), wife, born Causeway Green;
- [3] Louisa Whale (13), daughter, scholar, born Causeway Green;
- [4] Thomas Whale (12), son, scholar, born Causeway Green;
- [5] John W. Whale (9), son, scholar, born Causeway Green;
- [6] Samuel Whale (7), son, scholar, born Causeway Green;
- [7] Ann Elisabeth Whale (3), daughter, scholar, born Causeway Green;
- [8] Emma Whale (1), daughter, born Causeway Green:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1875 - Advert

“Sportsmen, Publicans, and Butchers. The best maiden Show Pig in England for Sale. Apply, *Thomas Whale*, GEORGE INN Warley, near Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/5/1876 - Advert

“Smethwick. Two Roods of Freehold Building Land to be Sold, corner of Church Road, near the CHAPEL HOUSE, Smethwick.

Apply, *Thomas Whale*, GEORGE INN, Warley, near Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/7/1877 - Advert

“Hill Top, Warley, Salop, Worcestershire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Howell and Garland, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of August, 1877, at Six o’clock in the evening punctually, subject to conditions incorporating the com-

mon form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

All that Freehold Malthouse and Premises, situate at Warley, Salop aforesaid, next to the GEORGE INN, together with the Dwelling House, Nail Shop, Stable, Cart Shed, and Garden adjoining thereto, covering an area of 35 perches of Land, or thereabouts.

The Property has an extensive frontage to the main road at Warley, and forms an eligible site for the erection of Dwelling Houses, which are much wanted by the locality.

To view the Premises apply to the tenants; and for further particulars, to the Auctioneers, Smethwick, and Bennetts Hill, Birmingham; or to Mr. Wright, Solicitor, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1878 - Advert

“Malthouses (two) to Let; rent taken in malt.

Apply, *Thomas Whale*, GEORGE INN, Warley, near Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/5/1880 - Advert

“Warley Wigorn, Beech Lanes, near Birmingham.

Freehold Homestead, with Two Fields of Meadow and One Field of Arable Land, Twelve Lots of Building Land, and Dwelling Houses.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hawkins & Son, on Tuesday Next, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, at the House of Mr. *Thomas Whale*, the GEORGE INN, Warley aforesaid, at 6 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced, incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, and in the following or such other lots as may be then determined.....”

1881 Census

Bleak House Lane – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Thomas Whale* (58), licensed victualler, born Tividale;
- [2] Anne Whale (52), wife, born Aston;
- [3] Louisa Whale (23), daughter, born Causeway Green;
- [4] John Whale (19), son, teacher, born Causeway Green;
- [5] Samuel Whale (17), son, carpenter, born Causeway Green;
- [6] Annie E. Whale (14), daughter, scholar, born Warley;
- [7] Emma Whale (10), daughter, scholar, born Warley:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/1/1884

“*Thomas Whale*, landlord of the GEORGE INN, Warley, was fined 20s and costs for being drunk, in Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst.”

Birmingham Mail 3/3/1887 - Advert

“General (strong country girl) Wanted.

Apply, GEORGE INN, Warley, near Birmingham.”

*Thomas Whale* – see also BARREL, Causeway Green.

Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1889 - Advert

“GEORGE INN, Warley. About 1½ mile from the Bus Terminus, Hagley Road, near Birmingham.

Charles H. Bees is instructed by the Proprietor to Sell by Auction, without reserve (unless sold by private treaty in the interim), on Monday Next, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, on the Premises, at Four o'clock pm – the Lease, Licenses, Trade Utensils, Goodwill, and Possession of the above noted Fully-licensed Inn.

This House is much frequented by pleasure parties, from the many surrounding towns, and in the hands of an enterprising party could not fail to double the present trade. The Proprietor cannot devote the attention that the trade demands in consequence of other engagements in Birmingham.

Further particulars may be had from the Auctioneer, Union Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/2/1890

“Yesterday, at the Police Court – before Messrs. J. E. Wilson, A. M. Chance, and H. Heaton – *John Hughes*, landlord of the GEORGE INN, Warley, was summoned for keeping his licensed premises open for the sale of drink during prohibited hours on Sunday afternoon, the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. William Hinton and Thomas Williams, blacksmiths, of Langley, were charged with being upon the premises during illegal hours. Police-superintendent Clarke visited the house at a quarter-past five o’clock on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst, and found Hinton and Williams in the bar with beer before them. They told the officer they had come from Birmingham, but it was proved they resided at Langley, which was only a mile distant. The case against the landlord was dismissed, and the other defendants were fined 10s and costs.”

#### 1891 Census

Pottery Lane – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Harry Walls* (38), publican, born Quarry Bank;
- [2] *Alice Walls* (37), wife, born Cradley;
- [3] *Nelson Walls* (8), son, scholar, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Harry Walls* (3), son, born Handsworth;
- [5] *Alice Walls* (8 months), daughter, born Warley;
- [6] *Phoebe Marshall* (14), nurse, born Rood End:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1891

“Alleged Attempted Highway Robbery at Warley.

On Saturday night Lewis John Sullivan (19), of High Park Road, Smethwick, and Frank Collins (18), alias Frank Moss, Donovan, Dosser, &c, of Fawdry Street, Smethwick, were arrested by Police-constable Nash on a charge of demanding money by menaces from Samuel Stocker, of Corbett Street, Smethwick, in Thimble Mill Lane, Warley.

It appears the Stocker and a young man named Henry Merrick, a reporter on the staff of the *Smethwick Telephone*, and residing in Church Lane, were walking along Thimble Mill Lane shortly before nine o’clock on Saturday, when they were met by the prisoners and two others, who are believed to belong to the Smethwick slogging gang. The prisoners and their companions began to abuse Merrick and Stocker, and asked them if they had any money with them. The latter replied in the negative, whereupon Sullivan, it is alleged, seized Stocker, and said they must have some money, or else they would knock it out of him. Stocker and Merrick, being alarmed at the menacing attitude of the four ruffians, raised an alarm, and the latter then ran away. Information was given to Police-constable Nash at Warley, and that officer subsequently arrested the two prisoners at the GEORGE INN at Warley, Sullivan at the time being in possession of a walking-stick belonging to Stocker. The prisoners struggled violently with the constable, and two men who were in the public house had to assist Nash to handcuff them. The other two men who were with Sullivan and Collins bolted when they saw their companions captured.”

[At Oldbury Police Court on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1891, the charge of demanding money was withdrawn, and the two were found guilty of common assault, and sentenced to one month’s imprisonment each.]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 30/7/1891

“Yesterday afternoon at a special petty session held at the Police Station – before Mr. G. Heaton – James Hadley (30), of Ward End, Quinton, was remanded until next Tuesday on a charge of violently assaulting Police-constable Nash on Tuesday night, also for assaulting Samuel Humphreys at the same time and place. It was alleged that defendant was creating a disturbance at the GEORGE INN, Warley, and when Nash interfered, he struck and kicked him in a brutal manner, and upon Humphreys going to the assistance of the officer he was also assaulted.”

#### County Express 8/8/1891

“At the Petty Sessions on Tuesday, James Hadley (32), labourer, Ward End, Quinton, was charged with assaulting Police-constable Nash, whilst in the execution of his duty, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, also with assaulting Samuel Humphries, who went to the officer’s assistance on the same date. The prisoner was sent to gaol for twenty-one days with hard labour.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 12/8/1893

“On Wednesday night Mr. E. Docker (Coroner) held an inquest at the GEORGE INN, Warley, touching the death of Police-constable Williams (41), stationed at Warley, who was found hanging to the bedpost on Tuesday morning, being suspended by a piece of apron, which was tied round his neck and fastened to the post. The evidence showed that deceased had been depressed for some time, and had frequently complained of pains in the head.

The Jury returned a verdict of Death from Suicide whilst Temporary Insane. Deceased leaves a widow and nine young children.”

1901 Census

George Road – GEORGE INN

- [1] *Charles Brown* (49), publican, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Mary M. N. Brown* (33), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Bertram Brown* (9), son, born Erdington;
- [4] *Arthur Brown* (7), son, born Erdington;
- [5] *Walter L. Brown* (1), son, born Warley;
- [6] *Laura E. Frost* (33), domestic servant, born Oxford:

Smethwick Weekly News 1/2/1902

“On Wednesday noon a dinner took place at the GEORGE HOTEL, Warley, when a good number sat down to a capital spread, which was put upon the tables in first-class style by the host and hostess (*Mr. and Mrs. C. Brown*). After the removal of the cloth *Mr. W. Marigold [OLD TALBOT]* occupied the chair, and the vice chair was filled by *Mr. W. Timmins [WINDSOR CASTLE]*. Amongst those present were Councillor *W. Whitehouse*, *S. R. Caddick*, *W. Bailey*, *H. Thomas*, *W. Bates*, etc. After the loyal toasts, the Chairman, in toasting ‘The Trade’ referred to the many social questions connected with the licensing laws, and said how all were trying their utmost to keep up to the mark respecting all the Acts that bound them....”

Smethwick Weekly News 12/4/1902

“*Mr. H. Jeffries* applied for a temporary transfer of the GEORGE INN, Warley, from *Charles Brown* to *Edward Challenor*.

*Mr. J. Clark* opposed the license being transferred on behalf of the owner, *Joseph Whitehouse*. In consequence of the opposition the application was withdrawn.”

Smethwick Weekly News 19/4/1902

“*Edwin Challenor* was charged with permitting drunkenness on the licensed premises of the GEORGE INN, Warley, and also supplying drink to a drunken person. *Mr. J. S. Sharpe* appeared to prosecute, and *Mr. R. A. Willcock* defended.

*Mr. Sharpe* explained that only the case of permitting drunkenness would be taken, the other being withdrawn. He had had some conversation with his friend *Mr. Willcock*, and there would be no dispute about the drunkenness, and from further information from his friend, he and the superintendent hoped the Bench would inflict but a small penalty. The facts were briefly these. On the 31<sup>st</sup> March PCs *Bennett* and *Chamberlain* went into the GEORGE INN, Warley, and there saw three men, by name *Israel* and *Charles Price* and *Thomas Fox*. They were all drunk. The defendant was behind the bar, and there was no attempt to get rid of them. It was holiday time, and the house was full. The Prices had both been refused, and had been ordered out, but defendant was too busy to see that they went. The man *Fox* had been drinking the beer of some of his friends.

Superintendent *Sherriff* said the defendant had obtained a temporary transfer about a month ago, and later on had applied for a permanent transfer, but had been refused. He had only been in the business about three weeks.

A fine of 10s and costs, £2 19s 6d in all, was imposed, and *Israel Price*, who had been up before, was fined 5s and costs, and the others 2s 6d and costs. In each of these cases the costs amounted to 5s 6d.”

Smethwick Weekly News 17/5/1902

“*Charles Brown*, licensee of the GEORGE INN, Warley, was charged with being drunk on his licensed premises on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. T. S. Tyler, of Birmingham, defended.

PC Bennett said he visited defendant’s house at about 10pm, and found defendant in the passage drunk and staggering about. He told him he was drunk, and that he would report him. Defendant told witness to say what he had to say before a witness.

PCs Drew and Probert corroborated this statement.

Supt. Sherriff deposed to having seen defendant outside the Police Station at about 12pm. He was drunk and muddled, and smelt very badly of whisky.

For the defence Mr. Tyler submitted that the man’s action was that of a sound, sober man. Defendant suffered from rheumatism, which chiefly affected his knees and feet, and caused his one leg to be shorter than the other, hence the cause of his apparently drunken gait.

Mr. Chance said the Bench considered the case proved, and a fine of 10s and costs, 15s 6d in all, were imposed.

Mr. Tyler intimated his intention of appealing, and recognisances of £50 and two sureties of £25 were fixed.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 5/8/1905 - Advert

“GEORGE HOTEL, Warley.

Thomas Oliver’s Celebrated Ales, Sandwell Brewery, West Bromwich.

Wines, Spirits, and Cigars of the Finest Quality.

Proprietress, Mrs. *Pretty*.”

*Albert Woskett* = Albert Wosket

*Emma Kate Woskett* was in possession at the time of the Licensing Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1908.

#### 1911 Census

George Road – GEORGE HOTEL

[1] *Albert Edwards* (36), hotel manager, born Handsworth;

[2] *Ada Edwards* (33), wife, married 8 years, assisting in the business, born Sheffield;

[3] *John Bowker* (40), relative, brass worker, born Birmingham;

[4] *Amelia Bowker* (36), relative, married 16 years, assisting in business, born Sheffield;

[5] *Olive Bowker* (16), niece, assisting in the business, born Smethwick:

#### Smethwick Telephone 21/10/1911

“The enthusiasts of the bowling green at the GEORGE HOTEL (Warley) held a dinner and smoking concert at headquarters last Saturday evening. Mr. Howard Kingstone presided. Prizes were presented to the winners of the recent bowling handicap as follow: Gold medal, Mr. R. Wilson (kindly given by Mr. J. W. J. Kingstone); bottle of whiskey, Mr. W. Garner (kindly given by Mr. *Bert Edwards*).

A very good musical programme was enjoyed by all, among those who contributed to the programme were Messrs. A. Yorke, T. Savage, R. Wilson, S. Smallwood, J. Round (violin), T. Round, and H. Merritt, while the pianist was Mr. A. Yorke. A very pleasant evening was brought to a close by a very hearty vote of thanks to the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *Edwards*) for the splendid way in which they had catered for their guests, and a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. H. Kingstone for presiding.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 18/1/1913

“General Wanted (18 to 20) to assist in bar.

Apply, GEORGE HOTEL, Warley.”

*Thomas Frederick Scriven* was fined 10s and £2 11s 6d costs for supplying liquor to a constable whilst on duty.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/7/1913

“At Oldbury yesterday, *Thomas Frederick Scrivens*, licensee of the GEORGE INN, Warley, was summoned

for selling intoxicating liquor to a police officer whilst on duty, without having previously received permission from a superior officer. A member of the force was found in a drunken condition with his uniform covered with mud, and it was in consequence of the statement he made that these proceedings were taken. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted on behalf of the Chief Constable, while Mr. W. H. Riley Pearson (instructed by Mr. F. Dawes) appeared for the defence.

Mr. Sharpe said that a police constable was on duty at Warley on Saturday night, 28 June. He was passing the GEORGE INN, when Mrs. *Scrivens*, wife of the defendant, called him in, and he was supplied with two half pints of ale. After that something happened which, Mr. Sharpe said, he did not think it was necessary to particularise, and then the wife afterwards admitted that the officer had been given drink.

Mr. Riley Pearson, for the defence, said his client had only been in the house four days, and on the Saturday night there had been trouble with some Irishmen, and he had sent for the police to turn them out. About 10.30 the same night the police-constable came along, and Mrs. *Scrivens* began talking about what had happened earlier in the evening. They entered into a lengthy conversation, and she, out of her misguided generosity, asked the officer if he would like a drink, and he replied, 'Yes.' The husband himself knew nothing about it at all.

The magistrates said there were mitigating circumstances, and they would only inflict a small fine of 10s and costs."

#### Birmingham Mail 21/3/1914 - Advert

"General Servant Wanted, to assist bar when required; age 18.  
Apply, GEORGE HOTEL, Warley."

#### Smethwick Telephone 13/6/1914

"On the Green. Saturday was a very busy time in bowling circles.....

In the Langley and District League the GEORGE HOTEL, Warley, were defeated at Quinton, by the New Inns Club by 174 to 118."

*Harvey Grove* = Harry Groves

#### Smethwick Telephone 24/9/1927

"Remarkable circumstances were related when Robert Henry Norman *Riley*, of the GEORGE HOTEL, George Road, Warley, was summoned for driving a motor-cycle to the danger of the public in Londonderry Lane on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July.

Mr. Hadgkiss said that just after 11 o'clock on the evening of the day in question, a man named Frederick Ashmore was driving a half-ton Ford lorry up Londonderry Lane in the direction of the Drill Hall. He was 'hugging' his near side. When he got near the Drill Hall, the defendant was riding an Ariel motor-cycle along Broomfield with the intention of turning down Londonderry Lane. For some reason he took the corner in an extraordinary fashion, swerving on to his extreme off-side and proceeding down Londonderry Lane on his wrong side. The driver of the lorry saw him coming, and turned on to the footpath in order to let him pass. But the defendant never deviated from his course with the result that he came into violent collision with the lorry, the top of which was torn off by the impact. The defendant was thrown nine yards, and was so seriously injured that he had been in hospital.

Mr. Gough said that the submission of the prosecution was not disputed. Unhappily for the defendant he was rendered unconscious by the accident, and remembered nothing of the circumstances. Mr. Gough added that the defendant had only travelled about 200 yards when the accident occurred, having just left the house of his fiancée in Broomfield.

The Chairman (Mr. Hill) said that the Magistrates took a lenient view of the case. A fine of 10s was imposed, the special costs amounting to £3 4s, making a total penalty of £3 14s."

#### Smethwick Telephone 21/1/1928 - Advert

"Re J. W. J. Kingstone, Ltd, Smethwick.

Important Sale by Auction of 20 Licensed Houses in the County Boroughs of Smethwick and West Bromwich, and at Warley and Oldbury, all within a radius of six miles of the centre of the City of Birmingham,

and comprising in separate lots.

8 Valuable Fully Licensed Houses.

7 'On' Beerhouses, and 5 'Off' Licenses.

Together with the Seven Quarter Brewery, Offices and Premises, known as the Summit Brewery, and various Freehold Shop and Dwelling House Properties adjoining the several Licensed Houses.

By Messrs. Jones Son & Vernon, FAI, at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1928, at 4pm precisely (unless sold previously by private contract).....

Lot 24. The GEORGE INN. Freehold, Fully Licensed, George Road, at the junction of Pottery Road and Bleakhouse Road, Warley (near Warley Woods).”

#### Dudley Chronicle 1/3/1928

“Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon, of West Bromwich, held a successful property sale at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham. The lots included many licensed properties in West Bromwich, Oldbury, and Smethwick, and so keen was the competition that all the lots were sold, the sale realising altogether well over £60,000.....

GEORGE INN, freehold, fully licensed, George Road, Warley, sold for £11,250.”

#### Bilston and Willenhall Times 1/9/1928

“On Saturday about 40 members of the Excursion Club, held at the GEORGE HOTEL, Warley, had their annual outing, the place chosen being Ludlow. The party thoroughly enjoyed their day and a wide detour was made on the return journey, and the ride by charabanc thoroughly enjoyed by all the trippers.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 12/12/1931

“The Midland Red Bus Services.

Our readers will note with interest the announcement of revised services on the Bristnall Fields, Warley, and Birmingham routes. Commencing on Monday next, there will be a half-hourly service (from 7am until 8.30am each week-day) between the GEORGE INN, Warley and Birmingham.....”

*Henry James Casley* – see also FIVE WAYS, Smethwick.

Midland Red picked up passengers here for coach tours. [1935-1939]

#### Evesham Standard 2/5/1936

“Worcestershire County Licensing Committee on Saturday.....

The justice confirmed a provisional order sanctioning the ordinary removal of the publican's license from the GEORGE, George Road, Warley, Oldbury, to premises to be erected at the corner of George Road and Bleakhouse Lane, Warley, Oldbury.

Mr. Harold Eades, instructed by Messrs. Johnson and Co, Birmingham, made the application on behalf of Messrs. Mitchells and Butler Ltd, Cape Hill Brewery, Smethwick. It was not a removal in the ordinary sense, he said, but a re-building on a site immediately opposite. The new building would cost about £10,000 and would include an assembly room which could be cut off from the main building. At the court below there had been opposition from local churches and a petition was presented. No opposition was now made, however.”

It closed for trading at 10pm on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1937.

It was rebuilt on a site opposite to that of the original GEORGE.

It opened on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1937.

It had a bowling green at the rear. [1937], [2002]

Its bowling club was founded in 1937.

It amalgamated with the COCK AND MAGPIES in 1978.

#### Smethwick Telephone 19/3/1938

“Sale by Auction ..... Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1938.....

Lot 1. The well-situate Freehold Shopping, Cinema or Business Site, at present occupied by the dislicensed premises formerly known as the GEORGE INN, Warley (situate at the junctions of Pottery, Bleakhouse and George Roads), together with the Shop and Premises No.147 adjoining. Effective Frontage 70 feet. Area 1,246 square yards (or thereabouts). Vacant possession of the dislicensed premises will be given on completion.”

#### 1939 Register

181, George Road – Public House

[1] *James Shaylor*, date of birth 15/05/1901, public house manager, married;

[2] Gertrude E. Shaylor, dob 12/10/1906, public house manageress, married;

[3] Mary McCarthy, dob 25/3/1905, bar general, married;

[4] Alice A. (Hill) Parsons, dob 6/3/1919, bar general, single:

#### Birmingham Mail 10/1/1939 - Advert

“Bar-General Required, experienced or willing to learn, live in; good home suitable girl. GEORGE HOTEL, Warley.”

#### Birmingham Mail 10/5/1939 - Advert

“Barman Wanted, live out, fully experienced; good references essential. Apply, Manager, GEORGE INN, George Road, Warley.”

#### Birmingham Mail 4/4/1940 - Advert

Bar-General (experienced), good references; or smart Girl to learn considered. Apply Manager, GEORGE INN, Warley.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/6/1941 - Advert

“Bar-Generals. Two required, age 18-25; live in preferred; good home. Apply, Manager, the GEORGE, Warley. Phone Woo.2333.”

A team from here took part in the Warwickshire and Worcestershire Counties Bowling Association’s Regional League. [1940s], [1950s]

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/4/1942

“Amounts raised in National Savings by Warwickshire and Worcestershire BA clubs last year were..... GEORGE (Warley) £60.”

#### Birmingham Mail 3/2/1943 - Advert

“Barman Barmaid night & week-end Help M&B Refs. Phone Woo.2333 GEORGE, Warley.”

*George Thomas Baker* – see also STATION, and ROBIN, Smethwick.

*William Burrows* moved here from ROBIN, Smethwick. See also OLD CORNER HOUSE, Smethwick.

*Henry Page* – see also CROWN, Smethwick.

Brew XI football team was founded here in 1960.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1964 - Deaths

“*Fox*. On November 30, 1964, *Walter Frederick*, beloved husband of Lily and dear father of Patricia and John, of GEORGE HOTEL, Warley, Oldbury, died suddenly in his 62<sup>nd</sup> year. Cremation at Lodge Hill at 4pm on Friday, December 4. Cortege will leave the GEORGE HOTEL, at 3.30pm.”



A team from here were champions of the Smethwick and District Charity Darts League 'B' Section in 1970.

Warley News Telephone 8/10/1970

“Quite a few pensioners use the GEORGE INN, Oldbury, and knowing they are not the richest people in the world, new licensee, Mr. *Steve Jones*, gave them a free night out.

About 14 senior citizens sat down to a three course meal, enjoyed free drinks and made their own entertainment on the piano.....”

John Turner, who was the winner of The John Player Trophy for bowling in 1979, played here.

*Jim Kelly* was married to Ann.

GEORGE Celtic football club was based here. [1981]

A team from here took part in the Smethwick and District Charity Darts League. [1981/2]

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/2/1986

“Permission to provide floodlights for crown green bowling at the GEORGE public house, George Road, Oldbury, has been refused by Sandwell Land and Town Planning Committee following warnings of glare and dazzle from nearby residents.”

A bowls team from here took part in the Walton Homes team championship. [1991]

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/1/1992 - Advert

“Pubs with the M&B sign have it all – and to prove we feature below three of the brewery’s pubs which can offer drinkers history, comfort, and of course good beer.....

Licensee Mr. *Alan Cox* had only been in the GEORGE for a couple of hours before a team moved in to start on a facelift for the pub in Oldbury Road, Warley.

He and wife Janet – well-known from their days at the CROWN in Birmingham’s Hill Street – took over in October of last year. ‘They started work on refurbishing the bar on the very day that we moved in,’ said Janet, ‘Since then we’ve had a total refurbishment. The floor’s been relaid and there’s been a fresh coat of paint to make the place spick and span for our customers. The reaction from the regulars has been terrific.’

The most popular pint at the pub is the traditional cask conditioned M&B Mild. By George!”

AND

“Enjoy the Good Taste of M&B at these M&B Taverns.....

The GEORGE, George Road, (Island Junction, Pottery Road), Oldbury.

A comfortable, welcoming tavern with bar and lounge. Tasty sandwiches served Monday-Friday lunch-times.

Open: Mon-Sat 12.00-3.00pm, 6.00-11.00pm; Sun 12.00-3.00pm, 7.00-10.30pm.

All With Ample Car Parking.

There’s always a warm welcome at an M&B Tavern.”

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.....

GEORGE, George Road, Oldbury, Warley.”

It was closed for refurbishment in 2007.

It reopened on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

Express & Star 3/2/2020

“More than a dozen people had to be checked over by paramedics after an unknown substance was sprayed in an Oldbury pub. An ambulance, two paramedic officers and the Hazardous Area Response Team were sent to the GEORGE INN on George Road in the early hours of Sunday morning. Police believe the substance was either CS gas or pepper spray. All patients were outside the building when they got there and were discharged at the scene after being assessed.

Jamie Arrowsmith, spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said, ‘We were called at 12.22am on Sunday morning to reports of patients who had come into contact with an unknown substance at the GEORGE INN on George Road. We sent one ambulance, two paramedic officers and our Hazardous Area Response Team to the scene. On arrival, all patients were outside the building. We assessed 15 people at the scene and all were discharged at the scene.’”

Express & Star 21/4/2020

“A man has been arrested on suspicion of drink driving after a DPD delivery van crashed into a beer garden wall. Footage emerged showing the van which has smashed into the wall outside the GEORGE pub, in Oldbury, on Monday night.

The crash happened at around 8.40pm outside the pub, near the junction of Hill Top Road and George Road. West Midlands Police arrested a 26-year-old man on suspicion of drink driving. He remained in custody on Tuesday for questioning. Parcel delivery firm DPD said it was aware of the crash and had launched its own investigation.

A DPD spokesman said, ‘We are aware of the incident and are carrying out a full investigation.’

A team of five firefighters from West Midlands Fire Service attended the scene to ensure the vehicle was safe. No-one was injured in the crash and West Midlands Ambulance Service were not required to attend.”

[2021]

**GEORGE AND DRAGON**

49, (54), Halesowen Street, (49, (55), (54), Halesowen Road), OLDBURY

OWNERS

Edwin Partridge, Bromford Road, Oldbury

Needham and Crick, maltsters, Leicester

Atkinsons Ltd. [1898], [1906]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1959)

LICENSEES

Benjamin Sambrook [1829]

Solomon Woodall [1844] – [1854]

Samuel Woodall [1855]

John Woodall [1855]

Joseph Woodall [1860] – [1862]

Mrs. Lavinia Woodall [1864] – [1865]

Samuel Underhill [1867] – [1873]

Catherine Harris [1880]

Edwin Partridge [1880] – [1882]  
William Hadley [1882] – **1885**);  
Stephen Henry Pearson (**1885** – [ ]);  
Samuel Round [1886] – **1887**);  
Edwin Partridge (**1887** – **1888**);  
William Hudson Storey (**1888**);  
Joseph Child (**1888** – **1889**);  
Joseph Hanson (**1889** – **1891**);  
William Brant (**1891**);  
Mrs. Mary Ann Brant (**1891** – **1894**);  
John Allen (**1894** – **1895**);  
David Noake (**1895**);  
John Allen (**1895** – **1898**);  
Samuel Standley (**1898** – **1903**);  
Atkinsons Brewery Ltd. (**1903** – **1908**);  
William Hayes (**1908** – **1909**);  
Selina Hayes (**1909** – **1910**);  
William Henry Shilton (**1910** – **1911**);  
John Myers (**1911** – **1921**);  
Andrew Cooke (**1921** – **1923**);  
Daniel Jeavons (**1923** – **1934**);  
Claude Freer (**1934** – **1935**);  
James Freer (**1935** – **1946**);  
James Henry Bate (**1946** – **1952**);  
Harold Whitehouse (**1952** – **1955**);  
George Henry Sweet (**1955** – **1957**);  
Lilian Faith Sweet (**1957**);  
Donald Bailey Gregory (**1957** – **1958**);  
Frederick Bott (**1958** – **1959**);  
Gordon Griffin (**1959** – **1960**);  
Richard Corgrave (**1960**);  
Clifford Frank Fisher (**1960** – **1961**);  
Douglas Sydney Perkins (**1961** – **1962**);  
Geoffrey Cadd (**1962** – [ ]  
Alice Pratley [1966]  
Barry Gray [1969]

## NOTES

54, Halesowen Street [1871], [1881]  
54, Halesowen Road [1873]  
55, Halesowen Road [1884]  
49, Halesowen Street [1891], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1939]  
49, Halesowen Road [1916], [1921]

## Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/3/1837

“William Crawford was charged, before the Rev. J. Clare, with having stolen a watch, the property of John Hodgson, of Bilston. The prisoner, it seems, is a hawker of laces and pins, making the sale of those articles a means of obtaining admission to houses and carrying off whatever may be readily stolen. On Monday week last he was observed by a woman named Sarah Colley near to Mr. Hodgson’s door, and afterwards the watch was missed. Mr. Hodgson, on discovering his loss, inquired at the pawnbroker’s shops in this town, and found that his watch had been pledged with Mr. Moore for 10s in the name of William Thompson. On

Friday last the prisoner came with a person named Edward Penton, living at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Oldbury, to redeem the watch, and was taken into custody. The prisoner had offered the ticket to Penton for purchase, at the OLD INN, Dudley; and Penton, as he was coming to Wolverhampton, agreed to accompany the prisoner to Mr. Moore's to see the watch. Mr. Moore being positive that the prisoner was the person who pledged the watch, and Sarah Colley, who is a neighbour of Mr. Hodgson, being equally certain that he was the man she saw near Mr. Hodgson's house, the prisoner was committed."

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/3/1837

"Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

To be Imprisoned ..... Six Calendar Months.....

William Crawford, stealing from the dwelling house of William Hodgson, at Bilston, a silver watch, his property."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/1/1842 - Advert

"To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. R. Massey has received instructions to offer for peremptory Sale by Auction, on Wednesday next, Jan. 26, commencing at ten o'clock precisely, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above old-established Public House, also the genteel Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Fixtures, &c; comprising four-post and tent bedsteads, feather beds, mattresses, sheets, blankets, counterpanes, chests of drawers, chamber chairs, carpets, &c, drinking tables, benches, screens, eight-day clock, beer machine, Windsor chairs, iron pumps, copper and iron furnaces, cooler, mash-tub, hogsheads, half-hogsheads, liquor barrels, &c, &c, together with a second-hand four-wheel Carriage.

For catalogues and further particulars apply to the Auctioneer.

Offices, 6, Temple Street, Birmingham."

Worcestershire Chronicle 1/5/1844 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Properties, at Oldbury, Salop.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bunch, on Monday, the thirteenth day of May, 1844, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the TALBOT HOTEL, in Oldbury; the following desirable Estate, in the Lots hereinafter described, and subject to conditions to be then produced.....

Lot 3. All that excellent and well-accustomed House, known as the GEORGE AND DRAGON, containing a large club-room, kitchen, parlour, bar, two cellars, brewhouse, pantry, four bed-rooms, and convenient out-buildings, now in the occupation of Mr. *Solomon Woodall*....."

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/5/1844 - Advert

"Eligible Freehold Properties, at Oldbury, Salop.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bunch, on Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1844, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the TALBOT HOTEL, in Oldbury.

Sundry valuable Properties, situate near the TALBOT, in Oldbury, comprising various Messuages and Buildings, including the well accustomed House called the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, and desirable Building Land, the whole divided into twenty-seven lots, suitable and convenient for purchasers.

Lithographic Plans, with descriptive particulars, may be had on application at the TALBOT and the GEORGE AND DRAGON Inns, Oldbury; of the Auctioneer; or at the offices of Messrs. Robinson and Fletcher, solicitors, Dudley."

Birmingham, Journal 7/2/1846

"On Saturday last, an inquest was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Oldbury, on the body of Isaac Franks, a man somewhat advanced in years, who was killed by a fall of coal, while working in one of Messrs. Haines and Hartland's pits. The deceased, who was a 'joggy' [sic], or sub-manager, was engaged in his usual avocations in the coal pit, at Titford, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, when a sudden fall of coal took place, burying him underneath. He was immediately removed to his house, where he lingered till the 30<sup>th</sup>, when he died.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

#### 1851 Census

Halesowen Street

- [1] *Solomon Woodall* (46), victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] Hannah Woodall (50), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Joseph Woodall* (23), son, coal miner, born Dudley;
- [4] Solomon Woodall (17), son, brewer, born Oldbury;
- [5] Elizabeth Woodall (20), daughter, barmaid, born Oldbury;
- [6] Maria Woodall (15), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] John Smitheman (45), visitor, carpenter, born Wordsley;
- [8] Hannah Woodall (16), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 27/10/1852

“Fatal Explosion at Oldbury.

On Tuesday week an inquest was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Oldbury, before Ralph Docker, Esq, coroner, on view of the body of a boy named David Fellows, about twelve years old, employed at the Union Furnaces, in the parish of West Bromwich, and belonging to Messrs. Williams and Co, who met with his death under the following distressing circumstances.

On Sunday week a furnace used for melting iron, which was in charge of a man named Joseph Nock, was allowed by him to become over-filled with molten metal, and in consequence the end of what is technically known as the ‘twyer,’ situated at the top of the furnace, was burnt off, and the hot metal and a quantity of water ran from it into the furnace. A large quantity of steam thereby became generated in the latter, and the pressure caused it to explode, and scatter in all directions about a cart load of hot cinders, mixed with molten metal. The deceased, Nock himself, and three other boys, who were standing near the furnace at the time, were badly burnt, but the two former were the most severely injured. Fellows expired on the following morning. Nock, it was stated, ought to have seen that the metal was properly drawn off before it rose so high in the furnace as to burn the ‘twyer,’ and the jury accordingly returned a verdict of Manslaughter against him. The poor fellow, however, has himself since died from the effects of his carelessness.”

#### Birmingham Journal 14/7/1855

“On Saturday, R. Docker, Esq, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *John Woodall*, the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hales Owen Street, on the body of a girl eleven years old, named Hannah Meisom, who was employed at Mr. Johnson’s brick yard. It seemed that the deceased was sent on the same morning to carry a quantity of water from a colliery basin near to the brick yard, and place it in the dipping trough used by brickmakers. She carried two buckets full, and went for a third. She was not seen again for half an hour, when a man named Dingley, missing one of the ‘pages,’ suspected she was in the water, and there her lifeless body was found, as also was the bucket.

A girl was drowned under similar circumstances at the same place, twelve months ago.

A verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/3/1859 - Notice

“Notice is Hereby Given, That the Partnership between us, the undersigned *Joseph Woodall* and *Solomon Woodall*, in the trade or business of Licensed Victuallers, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, situate in the township of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, under the firm of ‘*Joseph Woodall and Solomon Woodall*,’ was this day Dissolved by mutual consent, and in future the business will be carried on by the said *Joseph Woodall* on his separate account, and who will pay and receive all Debts owing from and to the said Partnership in the regular course of trade.

Witness our hands this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1859.

The mark X of *Joseph Woodall*. *Solomon Woodall*.

Witness: Arthur Wright, Solicitor, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1861 - Advert

“Freehold Houses, situate near the Whimsey Bridge, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Hawkins, Tomorrow (Wednesday), the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Woodall*, GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then and there to be produced.....”

#### 1861 Census

Halesowen Street – GEORGE AND DRAGON INN

[1] *Joseph Woodall* (33), victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Levina Woodall* (24), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Hannah Skidmore (15), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[4] Joseph Jones (37), servant, labourer, dumb 18 years, born Dudley:

#### Birmingham Journal 20/12/1862

“Worcestershire Winter Assizes.....

William Ockold (69), tailor, was placed at the bar, charged with the wilful murder of his wife, Sophia, at Oldbury, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. Mr. Richards (with him Mr. G. Griffiths) conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Benson, at the request of the learned Judge, undertook the defence of the prisoner, who was too poor to employ a counsel.

Mr. Richards opened by briefly stating the facts of the case, after which he called witnesses for the prosecution. The circumstances as they came out in evidence are briefly as follows.

The prisoner and his wife were both addicted to drinking, and had, in consequence, for sometime led a very unhappy life. On the morning of Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of November last, a young female named Maria Grasebrook, who is a servant in the employ of Mrs. *Woodhall*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Oldbury, went to the house of the prisoner and deceased. The former sat upon the table sewing, and she asked him how grand-mother (meaning deceased) was that morning. He replied that he did not know, upon which witness seeing blood upon his hand had her suspicions aroused, and put further questions when the prisoner admitted that he had given her a ‘punch in the mouth for going off and getting drunk with Jack Hadley.’ Witness afterwards went up stairs, when she found deceased lying upon the floor dead, her face being covered with blood. Witness ran down stairs and said to the prisoner, ‘You old brute, you have killed the old woman,’ upon which he replied that she was not dead, but only asleep. Several other neighbours afterwards went in and washed the blood off the face of deceased.

On an examination being made of the house, blood was found upon the stairs, and upon the wall beside the stairs. Some gray hairs were also picked up at the bottom of the stairs. On the table occupied by the prisoner a piece of mop stick was found, which appeared to have been recently broken.

About ten minutes past three that morning a police officer, while on his beat, heard groans proceeding from the house occupied by the prisoner and deceased, and heard the prisoner at the same time mocking the groans and cursing and swearing. It was not, however, the first time he had heard noises in that house at night; and he passed on without taking any further notice. Similar noises had been heard at about four o’clock the same morning, by a man named Jeremiah Bradley.

The prisoner was taken into custody at about nine o’clock in the morning by Sergeant Simmons, and on being charged with murdering his wife, he said, ‘I only struck her once.’ There was some skin off the forefinger of the prisoner’s right hand, and he admitted that he did that against deceased’s teeth. The prisoner also stated to the officer that the prisoner had been drinking with Jack Hadley; that she came home drunk; that she would not get up to prepare his breakfast; and that he had been at work all night.

Mr. Cooper, surgeon, of Oldbury, on making an external examination of the body, found a number of bruises of recent date. He afterwards made a post mortem examination of the body, the result of which was the opinion that the cause of death was effusion on the brain, caused by the rupture of a blood vessel, the result of an external blow with a blunt instrument.

Mr. Benson, in his defence of the prisoner, made a powerful speech, in which he contended that there could not have been any motive on the part of the prisoner to murder his wife. That the wife fell by the hand of her husband he would at once concede, but arguing upon the absence of motive, of malice, or forethought, the learned counsel contended that the crime of the prisoner was not greater than the crime of manslaughter, and asked the Jury to spare the prisoner the few short years which Providence might still allot to him, and

not send his tottering feet to the gallows, and leave a gibbet over the prison gate as a legacy of their labours that day.

The learned Judge having carefully summed up the evidence, the Jury retired, and after an absence of about half an hour returned with a verdict of guilty. They at the same time recommended the prisoner to mercy on the ground that nothing had transpired during the trial which was adverse to his previous good character, and also on account of his extreme age.

Sentence of death was then passed in the usual form, the Judge stating that the recommendation of the Jury would be transmitted to the proper quarter.”

#### Cambridge Chronicle and Journal 27/12/1862

“The old man, William Ockold, sentenced to be hanged at the last Worcester Assizes, for the murder of his wife, at Oldbury, continues to exhibit a calm demeanour, and pays special attention to the ministrations of the Chaplain. As yet no intimation has been received from the Secretary of State, and, unless a reprieve be granted, the dread sentence of the law will be carried out on Friday next, the second day of the new year.”

#### Chelmsford Chronicle 2/1/1863

“This morning William Ockold, an old man of 70, was executed at Worcester county gaol, for the wilful murder of his wife, Sophia Ockold, aged 74, at Oldbury, on 8<sup>th</sup> November last. The murder was apparently purposeless, and the defence set up was the fact of some sudden quarrel having taken place.

The old criminal walked firmly to the scaffold, and after the rope had been fixed round his neck he ejaculated several times, ‘Lord have mercy on my poor soul.’ The bolt was withdrawn as the burial service was being read, and death immediately took place without a struggle. There were upwards of 5,000 persons present.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1864

“At the Magistrates’ meeting yesterday, Mrs. *Woodall*, landlady of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Hales Owen, was summoned by the police on two charges, namely, having had her house open for the sale of beer during prohibited hours, and having suffered gaming to be carried on on her premises.

Mr. Shakespeare, who appeared for the defence, took, in limine, an objection to the summons, which laid one of the offences as having been committed on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, a date which, with much gravity, he contended was not yet in existence. This charge was not then proceeded with, but the case of ‘having kept her house open,’ for the sale of beer, on Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, was gone into.

Police-constables Hutchings and Hale proved that they found eleven men in the house, in very suspicious proximity to a quart jug of ale and sundry glasses.

For the defence, Mr. Shakespeare quoted the case of *Tenant v Cumberland*, and stated that similar cases had been decided over and over again by Mr. Spooner, the Stipendiary Magistrate, who had laid it down that where all the doors, as was the case in the present instance, had been closed when the police visited the house, no information for ‘keeping open’ could stand.

The Bench took the same view of the case, and dismissed the summons. The charge of permitting gaming was, in consequence of the wrong date in the summons, withdrawn, but it was understood that Mr. Overend, the superintendent of police for the division, would renew both the charges at the next meeting of the Magistrates.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/3/1864

“Yesterday, Mrs. *Lavinia Woodall*, landlady of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, was summoned for having sold ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, and Mr. Shakespeare, her solicitor, having admitted the offence, the defendant was fined 1s and the costs. In consequence of there being but one Magistrate in attendance (Mr. W. H. Dawes), who did not take his seat until nearly two hours after the time specified for the commencement of the business of the Court, several cases were obliged to be adjourned for a fortnight.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/12/1865 - Advert

“Butcher’s Shop and House to Let in Halesowen Street, Oldbury.

Apply at the GEORGE & DRAGON, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/4/1866 - Advert

“Halesowen Street, Oldbury. Stock of Grocery, Household Furniture, &c.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. C. Wootton, on the Premises of Mr. *Solomon Woodall*, This Day (Monday), April 23, 1866, commencing in the morning at Eleven o’clock.

All the Capital Stock-In-Trade of Teas, Sugar, Vinegar, Starch Mustard, Raisins, &c, &c, together with the substantial Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Barrels, stock of Ales, Gas Fittings, and other Effects. Auctioneer’s Office, Paradise Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/5/1866 - Advert

“Oldbury. To be Let, with immediate possession, the Beerhouse and Provision Shop, in Hales Owen Street, lately and for some years past occupied by Mr. *Solomon Woodall*. The Premises are situated in the midst of a dense population, and are well adapted for carrying on a good business.

To view, apply to Mr. O. Johnson, next door.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/4/1867

“J. Edwards of Newberry and C. Phillpotts of Oldbury have signed articles to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, at the Britannia Grounds, Tipton, on Monday, April 22. Mr. *S. Underhill*, GEORGE AND DRAGON, Oldbury, stakeholder. Mr. H. Tranter, referee.”

1871 Census

54, Halesowen Street – GEORGE AND DRAGON INN

- [1] *Samuel Underhill* (34), innkeeper, born Walsall;
- [2] *Catharine Underhill* (36), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Caroline Underhill* (18), general servant, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Sarah Underhill* (6), visitor, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Sarah Smith* (12), visitor;
- [6] *Ann Nock* (6), visitor, born Halesowen:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/7/1874

“Oldbury from a Sanitary Point of View.

The extraordinary high rate of mortality reported by the medical officer at the last monthly meeting of the Oldbury Board of Health having again directed public attention to the sanitary state of the township over which that body has control, our special reporter has since paid two visits to the place, in order to see how far the causes of high mortality are apparent, and to what extent efforts are being made to abolish them.....

A working man drew our attention to an abomination which he thought would eclipse that which we had been inspecting. Conducting us to the other side of the waste ground, and opposite to the back of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Hales Owen Street, he pointed out a nuisance at once offensive and physically dangerous. It consisted of an open cesspool bounded on one side by the back of a privy; on another side by a projecting piece of wall, the other two sides being entirely unprotected. The receptacle was full to the top with semi-liquid excrementitious matter, unmixed with ashes or earth, and had evidently so been for some time, since the contents were in a seething state and were emitting mephitic gases from thousands of bursting bubbles.....”

[See also FRENCH HORN 18/7/1878.]

London Gazette 2/7/1880

“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 *Catherine Harris*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler.

The creditors of the above-named *Catherine Harris* who have not already proved their debts, are required, on or before the 12th day of July, 1880, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts



or claims to me, the undersigned, Alfred Lockyer Davey, at the Court-house, Oldbury, near Birmingham, the Trustee under the liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.

Dated this 29th day of June, 1880.

A. L. Davey, Trustee.”

#### Dudley Herald 3/7/1880

“A meeting of the creditors of *Catherine Harris*, GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, was held at the office of Mr. Shakespeare, on Tuesday. The statement of affairs showed liabilities £225 3s 5d, and assets £70, less £8 18s 6d the amount to be paid to creditors for rent, rates, and taxes. It was decided to wind up the estate in liquidation. The debtor was granted her discharge.”

#### 1881 Census

54, Halesowen Street – PH No Sign

[1] Lavinia Partridge (35), innkeeper’s wife, born Oldbury;

[2] Elizabeth Edwards (16), niece, born Oldbury;

[3] James Mountford (60), boarder, fitter, born Birmingham:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 3/9/1881

“Lavinia *Partridge*, wife of the landlord of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of her husband.

PC Nash said on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult he went to the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, and found the defendant drunk and making use of filthy expressions towards her husband. The husband told witness that he must have something done, as she had been drunk for the past week.

Fined 10s and costs or 14 days.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/5/1882

“*Edwin Partridge*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, was fined 20s and costs, for refusing to admit the police on the 16<sup>th</sup> ult.”

#### Birmingham Mail 27/8/1883

“The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held this afternoon at the Police Court.....

Police Superintendent Hardman presented his report.....

Since the last meeting 12 licensed persons had been summoned and convicted for offences against their licenses ..... *W. Harley* [sic].....

The Bench decided that all the applications for renewals made by those prisoners who had been convicted during the year should be postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, with the exception of two whose conviction took place on licensing day last year and who were then called up and cautioned. The persons whose renewals were refused would be required to attend and show reasons why their licenses should be renewed.”

#### Birmingham Mail 24/9/1883

“Today the adjourned Licensing Session for the Oldbury Division was held at the Court House.....

The persons whose names were included in the ‘black list’ presented by the superintendent of police at the annual meeting, and whose applications for renewals were consequently postponed, were called before the Bench to show cause why their licenses should be renewed.....

The license held by ..... *William Hadley*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Hales Owen Street ..... were all renewed, the applicants being cautioned by the presiding magistrate as to their future conduct.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 28/8/1886

“The annual Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday.....

The Superintendent of Police objected to the renewal of the license of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street.

Police-sergeant Stanton stated that this house had been closed for 12 months.

Mr. Shakespeare supported the application, and urged that the house had been closed in consequence of the construction of the Oldbury Railway, the contractors operations having rendered it impossible to get to the house, so that they had been compelled to close the place for business purposes.....

The magistrates then retired to consider the various applications ..... In the case of Mrs. *Partridge*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, they postponed a final decision until the adjourned licensing sessions, and in the meantime granted a temporary transfer.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/10/1888

“Yesterday, at Oldbury Police Court, *William Hudson Storey*, landlord of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, was charged with keeping his licensed premises open during illegal hours on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. W. Shakespeare appeared to defend.

The evidence of Police-constables Buggins and Holton was to the effect that about 11.40pm on the Sunday night in question they visited defendant’s house, and found three men there.

For the defence it was explained that on Sunday nights sacred concerts were given at the defendant’s house, and two of the persons found in the house by the officers were performers at those concerts, and the third person was a friend of the proprietor.

One witness stated that hymn books were distributed to the company, who joined in the singing.

It was also stated that when the officers visited the premises the company were discussing the question as to who was the best boxer in the world.

Defendant was fined 20s and costs, amounting in all to £2 2s.”

#### Birmingham Mail 17/5/1890

“This morning Mr. E. Docker, coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE INN, Brades Village, relative to the death of Mary Ann Blewitt (17), formerly of Dudley Road, Brades Village, whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal, near the Furnace Yard, on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

The mother of deceased said she last saw her daughter alive on Sunday. The deceased used to visit a public house, and stayed out very late. At about 2.15 on Sunday morning witness saw her daughter at the bottom of the entry, and she then told witness to go into the house and she would follow. Witness did not hear anything else of deceased until the body was found in the water.

Police-constable Smith said on Saturday, about midnight, he was on duty on the canal side, near Captain Bennett’s brickyard, when he saw two persons, a male and a female, standing against a wall. As he came up he turned his lamp on their faces, when he recognised one as Mary Ann Blewitt. He told deceased that her mother had complained to him about her staying out late at night. He advised them to go home, and then the pair proceeded in the direction of Whimsey Bridge. Deceased’s parents had always behaved kindly to her. Maria *Hanson*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, said the deceased used to visit her house, where she met her young man, Harry Harris. They were both at her house on Saturday night. Deceased had complained of her parents leading her a miserable life, but she gave no particulars. The mother of deceased visited her house, and upon the young man going to the door she blackguarded him. Deceased said it would end in her making away with herself. She (witness) dissuaded her from that, and asked her not to come to her house if it created a disturbance at home. Several nights during the last week the deceased said she would stay no longer with her parents. Deceased had always been on good terms with Harris. Deceased said that when she got home late her mother scolded her, and if her father was up he beat her.

Henry Harris, boatman, said he resided at Rood End, and had kept company with deceased for two months. Witness met her on Saturday night at the GEORGE AND DRAGON public house, and they stayed until 11 o’clock. At fifteen minutes past two on Sunday morning he saw her home and left her at the top of the entry. Deceased would not go home for about two hours after they saw Police-constable Smith on the canal side. He persuaded her at length to go home, and she promised him to go into the house for his sake. She told him that she would make away with herself, and that he would not see her the next night. She had never complained to him about her parents. After seeing the officer she said she should never face her parents. Edward Blewitt, uncle to the deceased, deposed to having dragged the canal, and recovered the body near to the Furnace Bridge, Dudley Road. He had no suspicion of foul play.

Dr. C. Lyddon said he examined the body. Death was due to drowning.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned, and recommended the coroner to caution Mrs. *Hanson*, landlady of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, for keeping the girl at her house until such a late hour. The Coroner called Mrs. *Hanson* before him, and reprimanded her accordingly.”

*Joseph Hanson* – see also FRENCH HORN.

#### 1891 Census

49, Halesowen Street

[1] *Mary A. Brant* (52), widow, publican, born Oldbury;

[2] William Brant (24), son, brewer, born Harts Hill;

[3] Arthur Brant (18), son, brewer’s assistant, born Walsall;

[4] Minnie Brant (16), daughter, barmaid, born Walsall;

[5] Lizzie Brant (13), daughter, scholar, born Walsall;

[6] Robert Mallack (28), son-in-law, widower, moulder in iron foundry, born Oldbury;

[7] Lizzie Wilson (7), niece, scholar, born Lichfield;

[8] Jane Fellin (24), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Post 16/11/1892

“Mr. S. H. Forrest made an application for an occasional license to be granted to Mrs. *Brant*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, for the Town Hall on the night of December 2, the occasion of the annual Conservative ball. He asked that the license should extend from 8pm until 4am. Superintendent Speke said he had not received any intimation that the application was to be made. Mr. Heaton said the license would be granted, but only from eight o’clock until one o’clock. Mr. Forrest urged that the carriages would not be ordered until 3.30. Mr. Heaton: The Bench cannot help that. Mr. Heaton said it was very desirable that proper notice of these applications should be given to the police.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1893

“At Oldbury Police Court, *Mary Ann Brant*, landlady of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street, was charged with permitting drunkenness upon her licensed premises on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted, and Mr. W. F. Vernon defended.

It appeared that Police-sergeants Cooper and Male and Police-constable Holton visited defendant’s house about 10.50pm, when they found a man named Thomas Granger there in a drunken condition.

Mr. Vernon explained that the man Granger came into the house in a drunken state, and that his client refused to supply him with anything to drink, and also requested him to leave the premises.

Defendant was fined £5 and costs, in all £6 16s.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1894

“The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held yesterday.....

Superintendent Chare, in his annual report, stated that at the present time there were 148 persons licensed for the sale of intoxicating drink, which gave one house for the sale of intoxicants to about every 153 of the inhabitants. During the year 237 males and 17 females were proceeded against for drunkenness.....

He had given notice to *Mary Ann Brant*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, that he should oppose her application for a renewal of the license on the ground that she had been fined £5 for permitting drunkenness, and that since the date of the conviction the house had not been properly conducted.

Mr. Shakespeare addressed the magistrates on behalf of *Mary Ann Brant*.

Superintendent Chare and Sergeant Cooper gave evidence that Mrs. *Brant* had since her conviction allowed a great deal of card-playing and gaming on the premises, and the former said that on several occasions he had found men there worse for drink and using bad language. There was a license next door to Mrs. *Brant*’s house [GREYHOUND], and there were nine public houses within 330 yards of the premises.

Mr. Shakespeare said the license had been in existence about seventy years.....

After a long consultation in private, Mr. Wilson said the justices regretted to see there had been a decided increase of drunkenness during the year. In the case of Mrs. *Brant* the application for renewal was deferred

until the adjourned licensing meeting, on the distinct understanding that the magistrates would not renew the license to the present holder.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday, at the Court-house. ....

Mr. Young applied for the renewal of the license of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street, to William Brant, son of the former holder of the license, who was objected to at the annual meeting. Mr. J. Clarke appeared for the owner of the property. Mr. Young explained that the house had been licensed for over fifty years, and also that if the magistrates would not renew it to Mr. Brant he would submit the name of another person. Superintendent Chare objected to the renewal being granted to Mrs. *Brant's* son, on the ground that whilst he had been living with his mother and assisting her in the business the house had not been conducted to his satisfaction, and further that the house was not required, as there were nine public houses within 350 yards. He considered there were too many public houses now. ....

The license of the GEORGE AND DRAGON was renewed, a new tenant to be found other than Mrs. *Brant's* son.”

AND

Smethwick Telephone 29/9/1894

“Mr. Young applied for the renewal of the license of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN to William Brant, son of the former holder of the license, who was objected to by the police at the annual sessions. He explained that it had been a full-licensed house for over 50 years, and if the magistrates refused to renew it to Mr. Brant, his clients would submit another name. The magistrates renewed the license to Mrs. *Brant* on the understanding that a new tenant should be found to take possession, as they declined to renew it to Mrs. *Brant's* son.”

*David Noake* was also a brewer. [1896]

Dudley Herald 10/9/1898

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Oldbury, were held on Tuesday. .... Mr. Garner (Redfern and Sons, Birmingham) represented Atkinson's Brewery Company in regard to their application for alterations to the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street. The Magistrates said their sanction would be given to the plans on the understanding that the license for the ROSE AND CROWN was surrendered.”

1901 Census

49, Halesowen Street – GEORGE AND DRAGON INN

[1] *Samuel Standley* (40), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Jane Standley* (36), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *William Standley* (14), son, slater, born New South Wales:

*Samuel Standley* – see also GLOBE, West Bromwich.

Wednesbury Leader 3/8/1906

“On Thursday morning, Mr. Lyon Clark (deputy coroner), held an inquest at the Law Courts, concerning the death of William Onions (31), fish hawk, of Halesowen Street, Oldbury. It appeared that deceased went to a smoking concert, held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, on Tuesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> ult. As he was leaving the house about twenty to eleven he stumbled and fell down the stairs. He was picked up but was found to be unconscious. He was taken to his mother's house and subsequently he was removed to the District Hospital, on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult.

Dr. Chamberlain said that deceased was suffering from concussion of the brain and paralysis of the right side. He died at a quarter past six on the 31<sup>st</sup>, death being due to a fracture of the base of the skull. Deceased never regained consciousness.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

A representative of the Atkinsons Brewery Company said that the widow was in very poor circumstances, and the company had undertaken to pay all the expenses of the funeral.”

Birmingham Mail 14/2/1911 - Advert

“General Wanted, at once; good reference required.  
GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.”

1911 Census

49, Halesowen Street

[1] *William Henry Shilton* (33), bricklayer, publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Ada Alice Shilton* (33), wife, married 9 years, born Staffordshire;

[3] *Frederick Shilton* (5), son, school, born Cradley;

[4] *Harold Henry Shilton* (1), son, born Langley;

[5] *Sarah Spiers* (16), domestic servant, born Whiteheath;

[6] *May Venables* (20), domestic servant, born Dudley;

[7] *Sarah Danks* (84), grand-mother, widow, born Birmingham:

*William Henry Shilton* – see also NAVIGATION.

*Daniel Jeavons* – see also JUNCTION.

1939 Register

49, Halesowen Street

[1] *James Freer*, date of birth 10/5/1880, publican, married;

[2] *Harriet Freer*, dob 28/6/1882, unpaid domestic duties, married:

*James Freer* – see also WINDSOR CASTLE.

Sports Argus 9/7/1949

“Oldbury Football League. There will be a meeting on 12 July at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Halesowen Street, Oldbury. Details may be had from Mr. H. Slater, 74, Hanover Road, Blackheath, Birmingham. There are vacancies for junior clubs and referees.”

Sports Argus 24/6/1950

“Oldbury Football League. The general meeting of the Oldbury Football League will be held next Tuesday at 8pm at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

*James Henry Bate* was in occupation at the time of the Licensing Session on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1946.

Sports Argus 25/8/1956

“Do you live in Oldbury and district – and would like to be a football referee? From September 13 coaching classes will be sponsored for you by the Oldbury Referees’ Association. But first you can find out more about it on September 6 at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Oldbury, where the association’s president, Coun. F. Giles, will be giving an address starting at 7.45. You’re under no obligation at all, and if you’re interested in football you should find the talk jolly interesting.”

Sports Argus 1/2/1958

“The lively Oldbury Referees’ Association will hold their next meeting at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Oldbury, next Thursday at 8pm, when they will be presenting a new trophy to the Oldbury Schools Football Association for competition between the intermediate teams. There will also be presentations to Coun. Frank Giles, Mr. Tommy Lee (Birmingham Works AFA) and the speaker, Mr. Green, of the English Schools FA. All are welcome to the meeting.”

Sports Argus 24/12/1960

“Birmingham referees have been drawn away to Oldbury in the first round (Warwickshire Section) of the County Referees’ Association quiz competition. The match will be at the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, on Friday, January 6.”

Sports Argus 14/10/1961

“Oldbury Referees awarded their meritorious certificate for long service and outstanding work to Les Evans, a founder member and chairman of the association. Next meeting will be held on November 3 at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1966

“Two Oldbury licensees, John Wallace, of the BUILDERS ARMS, Portway Road, Oldbury, and *Alice Prately*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, who admitted diluting beer, were both fined £10 at Oldbury magistrates court yesterday.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/7/1969

“A spokesman for Warley Health Executive Council last night advised people who experienced any difficulty in obtaining a doctor to contact the council immediately. The spokesman said that this advice came after the case of a 24-year-old Warley man who claimed he could not get a doctor to attend him. The sick man, Mr. *Barry Gray*, the licensee of the GEORGE AND DRAGON in Halesowen Street, Oldbury, said he had tried to get on a doctor’s list with his wife and three children, but was unable to do so until yesterday. He said that he had contacted the health executive council nearly two months ago and was given a list of doctors to contact, but was unable to get on any of their lists.

The spokesman for the health executive council said, ‘Yesterday we were contacted by Mr. *Gray* and were able to put him in touch with a doctor in West Bromwich. This is not a difficult thing for us to do. In fact it is our proper job. We certainly have not got people queuing up waiting to get on a list. Some of the doctors have a maximum of 3,500 patients on their lists, but other still have a few vacancies. I cannot see any difficulty in placing a person on a doctor’s list.’”

Closed

**GOLDEN BALL**

89, (5+6), (4), Parsonage Street, (Parsonage Place), Tat Bank, OLDBURY

**OWNERS**

Henry Jerrams  
George Jerrams  
City Brewery Ltd., Cato Street, Birmingham  
Holders Brewery Ltd.  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired c.1919)

**LICENSEES**

Samuel Bridge [1851]  
Mrs. Hannah Bridge [1854] – [1860]  
David Westwood [1861] – **1863**;  
Henry Jerrams **(1863 – 1886)**;

George Jerrams (1886 – 1896);  
William Gough (1896 – 1906);  
John Edward Busby (1906 – 1910);  
Reuben Rollason (1910 – 1914);  
John While (1914 – 1926);  
Harold Madeley (1926 – 1930);  
John William Deakin (1930 – 1933);  
Doris Deakin (1933 – 1934);  
William Darby (1934 – 1935);  
Samuel Reginald Newell (1935 – 1944);  
Ronald Alfred William Bowser (1944 – 1953);  
Harry Povey (1953 – 1958);  
John Henry Lacy (1958 – 1960);  
Harold Pardoe (1960 – 1961);  
Robert George Dainty (1961 – 1962):

## NOTES

Parsonage Place [1851]  
4, Parsonage Street [1873]  
5+6, Parsonage Street [1881]  
89, Parsonage Street [1891], [1892], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939]

### 1851 Census

Parsonage Place

[1] *Samuel Bridge* (26), carpenter and victualler, born Oldbury;  
[2] *Hannah Bridge* (23), wife, born Tipton:

### Staffordshire Advertiser 19/7/1851

“An inquest was held on Wednesday last, at the GOLDEN BALL, Oldbury, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of George Swann, aged sixteen years. The deceased got up on the previous morning about ten o’clock, and after being down stairs a short time his brother, who slept with him, heard the report of a gun in the front kitchen, and upon going down saw deceased lying on the floor with a gun close to him; there was a wound in his head, from which blood was flowing; his brother raised him up, but he was quite dead. His father proved he had loaded the gun the previous evening, and placed it in the kitchen, but had not put any cap upon it; he stated he never knew deceased or his brother touch the gun before, but they did not know he had loaded it. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

### 1861 Census

Parsonage Street – GOLDEN BALL

[1] *David Westwood* (32), farmer of 10 acres and innkeeper employing 1 boy, born Harbourne;  
[2] *Hannah Westwood* (33) wife, born Bilston;  
[3] *Mary Westwood* (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;  
[4] *Eliza Cook* (14), general servant, born Brighouse, Yorkshire:

*Henry Jerrams* = Henry Jerroms

*Henry Jerrams* was described as a pawnbroker. [1864], [1865], [1872], [1873]  
He was also a brewer. [1880], [1884]

### Worcestershire Chronicle 1/3/1871

“Worcestershire Adjourned Sessions.....

The trial of prisoners commenced at ten o'clock yesterday (Tuesday) morning, before Mr. R. P. Amphlett, MP, Chairman, and Sir Henry Lambert, Bart, when the following were sworn on the Grand Jury.....  
*Henry Jerroms*, Oldbury, victualler.”

#### 1871 Census

Parsonage Street

- [1] *Henry Jerrams* (37), victualler and pawnbroker, born Grimscote, Northamptonshire;
- [2] Mary Elizabeth Jerrams (36), wife, born Towcester;
- [3] *George Jerrams* (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] Fanny Bonsor (20), barmaid, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/6/1872 - Advert

“Servant Girl Wanted, used to a Public-house, age about 20.  
Apply, GOLDEN BALL, Parsonage Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1873 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable young Woman, about 20 years of age, to assist in Public-house and Pledge Shop.  
Apply, *Henry Jerrams*, GOLDEN BALL, Parsonage Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/3/1874 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady Man to Assist in Brewing, and Attend to a Horse.  
Apply, GOLDEN BALL, Parsonage Street, Oldbury.”

#### Dudley Herald 1/1/1876

“Epitome of Local Events for 1875 ..... June 14.

At the Oldbury Police Court, James Evetts, labourer, was fined 50s and costs, in default two months' imprisonment with hard labour, for assaulting Mrs. *Jerroms*, of the GOLDEN BALL INN, Tat Bank.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 20/1/1877 - Advert

“Pawnbroking. Wanted, an Assistant.  
Apply Mrs. *Jerrams*, GOLDEN BALL, Parsonage Street, Oldbury.”

#### Midland Advertiser 20/4/1878 - Advert

“*Henry Jerrams*, Ale and Porter Brewer, GOLDEN BALL Brewery, Oldbury, respectfully informs his Customers and the Inhabitants of Wednesbury and District that in order to ensure the more prompt delivery of Orders, he had appointed as Wholesale Agent, Mr. John Cuxson, ROSE HILL INN, Church Hill, Wednesbury, and any favours entrusted to him will meet with prompt attention.”

#### 1881 Census

5+6, Parsonage Street – Public House

- [1] *Henry Jerrams* (47), brewer and victualler, born Grimscote, Northamptonshire;
- [2] Mary Elizabeth Jerrams (46), wife, born Towcester;
- [3] *George Jerrams* (18), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] Emma Davies (9), visitor, scholar, born Towcester;
- [5] Winifred Smart (4), visitor, born Towcester;
- [6] Louisa Gilbert (18), barmaid, born Towcester;
- [7] Emily Fisher (19), general servant, born Oldbury:

#### 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, Church Hill, Wednesbury; Mr. Samuel Barnett, HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”



Smethwick Telephone 29/3/1884 - Advert

“*Henry Jerrams*’ Ales and Porters, GOLDEN BALL Brewery, Oldbury.

Price List and Terms on application at the Brewery; or from Mr. John Conniff, 6, High Park Road, Smethwick.”

Elizabeth Mary *Jerrams* died on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1886.

*Henry Jerrams* died on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1886.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/3/1886

“On Saturday evening Mr. *Henry Jerrams*, a well-known local brewer, died at his residence, Parsonage Street, Tat Bank, Oldbury, after a short illness. The deceased gentleman has for several years been a member of the Oldbury Local Board of Health, and was re-elected for a period of three years at the last election. He was also a member of the Burial Board. In politics Mr. *Jerrams* was a Liberal. He was highly respected in political and social circles.”

Smethwick Telephone 27/3/1886

“.....death of Mr. *Henry Jerrams*, who has taken a prominent part in public affairs at Oldbury. Mr. *Jerrams* was essentially a self-made man. We believe in early life he worked as a journeyman miller, but having taken the GOLDEN BALL he turned his attention to the establishment of the brewery which has succeeded so well as under his management. It is only a few weeks since the death of Mrs. *Jerrams*. One son is left, who has for some time taken an active part in the management of the business. Mr. *Jerram*’s decease creates a 6<sup>th</sup> vacancy in the Local Board, which will probably be filled up at the forthcoming contest.”

Hertford Mercury 29/5/1886

“Dog and Poultry Show at Ware.....

Addresses of successful exhibitors.....

*George Jerrams*, GOLDEN BALL Brewery, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1886 - Advert

“Poor Man’s Friend, Ryders Green Road, West Bromwich. Best out-door beerhouse in the district; grocery business attached. Taking for beer only £12 weekly. Proof given. Rent £22 15s. Price for seven years’ lease and fixtures, £50.

For particulars, apply to W. H. Pass, Auctioneer, 50, Church Street, Oldbury; or to *George Jerrams*, GOLDEN BALL Brewery, Oldbury.”

*George Jerrams*, GOLDEN BALL and wine and spirits vaults, Parsonage Street. [1888]

Birmingham Daily Post 14/11/1888

“Last night Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the GOLDEN BALL INN, Parsonage Street, Tat Bank, Oldbury, touching the death of William Hollingsworth (69), of Parsonage Street, who died on the 11<sup>th</sup> instant from the effects of injuries sustained by falling downstairs.

John Thomas Hollingsworth, a son of deceased, with whom he lived, said that on Sunday morning, about half-past eight o’clock, deceased went upstairs, and a few minutes afterwards he heard him fall, and upon going to the bottom of the stairs he found him lying head downwards. He lifted deceased up, and placed him on a sofa, but he expired immediately.

Dr. Torbitt said death was caused by dislocation of the neck.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Nottingham Evening Post 18/7/1889

“Notts. Agricultural Show.....

Prize List ..... Poultry (Open to all England).....

Duck and Drake (Rouen). 1. *George Jerrams*, GOLDEN BALL Brewery, Oldbury.”

### Smethwick Telephone 10/8/1889

“Messrs. Thompson and *Jerrams*, of the GOLDEN BALL Brewery, Oldbury gave their annual outing to the workpeople. The place selected was Bridgnorth, and the weather proving fine, a most enjoyable day was spent. Arrived in the ancient town, ample enjoyment was found in the facilities for boating, cricket, and every variety of outdoor sport. At two o’clock a move was made for the Bardon Arms Hotel, where the hostess (Mrs. Meads) provided a sumptuous dinner, to which thorough justice was done, everyone being loud in their praise. After dinner, Mr. Jones occupied the chair for a short time, and made a few appropriate remarks. Mr. J. Thompson replied, and a loud call was made for Mr. *Jerrams*, who is always very witty and humorous in anything he has to say. The usual toasts were given and responded to before the company dispersed to their various sports. Mr. Conniffe responded on behalf of the employees, Mr. Pass being unavoidably absent. Outdoor sports were resumed, until in the evening a delicious tea brought them all once more together. Having again demonstrated the fact that pure country air is conducive to good appetite and sound digestion, the company then strolled about enjoying the magnificent scenery until the scythe-bearer indicated that if home was to be reached that night, a move must be made for the station. Here the train was waiting, and by 11 o’clock home was reached, after what one and all described as the most enjoyable outing they had ever experienced.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 12/5/1890

“On Saturday an inquest was held before Mr. E. Docker, at the GOLDEN BALL INN, Parsonage Street, Tat Bank, Oldbury, respecting the death of Frank Horne (45), cooper, residing in that locality, who died suddenly on the night of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. It appeared that deceased, who had been unwell for two or three weeks, was walking along Stone Street on the night named on the way to a surgery, when he fell down and suddenly expired.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

### 1891 Census

89, Parsonage Street

- [1] *George Jerrams* (28), brewer, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Louisa Jerrams* (28), wife, born Towcester, Northamptonshire;
- [3] *Henry Jerrams* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Emily Davies* (19), cousin, barmaid, born Towcester, Northamptonshire;
- [5] *Harriett Harris* (22), nursemaid, born Rowley Regis:

*George Jerrams*, brewer, Parsonage Street. [1892]

### Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1895

“The adjourned licensing session for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held at Oldbury yesterday.....

The question of the renewal of the license of the GOLDEN BALL INN, Parsonage Street, Tat Bank, held by Mr. *W. Gough*, was brought forward. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared for Mr. *Gough*, and explained that the application of his client for a renewal was adjourned for alterations to be made at the back of the premises. Superintendent Chare said he was satisfied with the alterations that had been made. He objected at the annual meeting to the renewal of the license because the licensed premises communicated with a private house. Walls had now been erected which separated the private from the public premises. The license was renewed.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 16/6/1900

“Youth (smart) wanted to look after pony and make himself generally useful.  
Apply *Gough*, GOLDEN BALL, Oldbury.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 25/8/1900

“*William Gough*, licensee of the GOLDEN BALL, applied for permission to add to it a private house adjoin-

ing.  
Mr. C. H. Darby in support of the application said the private house was part of the licensed premises until 1895, but owing to a dispute when the house was sold the license for it was allowed to drop, and Mr. *Gough* now asked for it again. There was no convenience on the licensed premises for the licensee to live, and he resided in this private house. Refused.”

#### 1901 Census

89, Parsonage Street – GOLDEN BALL INN

[1] *William Gough* (33), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Annie Gough* (30), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Charles Arthur Gough* (7), son, born Oldbury;

[4] *Raymond Gough* (4), son, born Oldbury;

[5] *Hilda Gough* (3 months), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] *Charlotte Westwood* (66), mother-in-law, widow, living on own means, born Byfield, Hampshire;

[7] *Hannah Holloway* (22), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/9/1901

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The following licence holders presented plans for alterations to their premises.....

*William Gough*, GOLDEN BALL INN, Tat Bank.....

The magistrates examined the plans, and Mr. Wilson stated that several of them had personally examined the premises ..... Refused.”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 8/2/1902

“On Thursday morning the Deputy Coroner (Mr. A. H. Hebbert) held an inquest at the GOLDEN BALL, Parsonage Street, Oldbury, relative to the death of Samuel James Holmes (40), formerly residing at 22, Parsonage Street, who died on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult, as the result of an accident at Messrs. Doulton and Co’s works. Mr. H. Jeffries represented the relatives, and Mr. Higgs (from the office of W. Shakespeare and Co) Messrs. Doulton and Co.

Phoebe Holmes said she was the mother of the deceased. He was formerly a labourer at Messrs. Doulton and Co’s pipe works. He always enjoyed good health. The first she heard of the accident was on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult, when she saw him wiping his neck with a towel. He then said that he had received a blow with a pipe. The following Tuesday he went to Dr. Buttery, and came home and said that one of the doctors had washed his ear. He did not go to work until the Thursday. Next afternoon he said, ‘Mother, I’m done.’ Witness called in Dr. Pitt who was passing at the time, and he ordered her to put some plasters on his neck. She then heard that he had been struck with a pipe at work. After he had been in bed that night a few minutes, he called for witness and told her he was going, and died a few minutes later.

Solomon Gaden, of Oxford Road, Smethwick, said he was a labourer at the same works, and had known deceased for about 14 years. About three weeks ago he was carrying two nine-inch pipes on his shoulders, and he bumped into witness. The pipes would weigh about ½cwt, and were made of earthenware. Witness did not see him bump into him, nor did he know that he had injured himself. In reply to Mr. Jeffries, witness stated that it took place in a narrow passage, and accidents had happened before.

Edward Poole said he, too, was a labourer at Doulton’s works, and on the 15<sup>th</sup>, he saw the last witness lifting some pipes, when deceased turned a corner and bumped into him. Holmes then went and lay down for some time, and then went on with his work. Dr. H. B. Pitt said he was called into the house of deceased on Friday last. Deceased then complained of suffocation; he examined his neck, and found it to be swollen. He had since made a post-mortem examination of the body, and the main organs were perfectly healthy. The neck, however, and the glands were swollen, but he could see no injury to the ear. The swelling of the throat might have been caused by a blow, with improper rest afterwards. The immediate cause of death was suffocation.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/1/1908

“The quarterly licensing meeting of the Oldbury magistrates was held yesterday, and in considering the number of applications for the transfer of licenses, Mr. A. M. Chance, who presided, mentioned that no music licenses would be granted that day. They would be considered at the annual Licensing Sessions next Tuesday, when they intended to reduce the number of music licenses.....

Application for permission to alter the premises of the GOLDEN BELL [sic], Parsonage Street, Tat Bank, was made by Mr. J. S. Sharpe, on behalf of *John Edward Busby*. It was pointed out by the architect, Mr. Jones, that the proposal was to enlarge the domestic accommodation, but there would be no increase at all in the drinking area. The Bench suggested some minor improvements, and consideration of the plans was adjourned for a week.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/4/1909

“The annual dinner in connection with the Oldbury Cricket Club took place last night at the GOLDEN BALL INN, Oldbury, Mr. W. R. Champion presiding over a good attendance. The Chairman said the club was progressing very favourably. He thought the professional element and the purchasing of players had considerably damaged the great national game of football and detracted very much from the sportsmanlike character of the game. He hoped that would never be the same with cricket. (Hear, hear.) In responding, the Captain (Mr. T. H. Collins) remarked that they had during the past season converted an adverse balance of £18 into a credit balance of £4, and there was every prospect of the present season being even more successful.”

#### 1911 Census

89, Parsonage Street

[1] *Reuben Rollason* (50), widower, retired bricklayer, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Edwin Rollason (22), son, blacksmith's striker, born Oldbury;

[3] Dora Rollason (21), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Elizabeth Rollason (18), daughter, shop assistant, born Oldbury;

[5] Ann Maria Rollason (17), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Phoebe Ruth Rollason (12), daughter, school, born Oldbury;

[7] Nellie Rollason (10), daughter, school, born Oldbury:

*Reuben Rollason* – see also ASH TREE, Broadwell Road.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/1/1915

“Tommy Thought of Home Folk at Christmas.

We have been privileged to glance at several postcards from the front by soldiers who received Christmas Boxes from readers of the *Birmingham Gazette*.....

We have therefore decided to keep open a fund continuously to supply cigarettes and sweetmeats. It is kind of our readers to send cigarettes, but by our arrangement, free of duty, we can purchase as many cigarettes for 1s as readers can send in to the value of 3s, so to that extent money is more valuable than cigarettes, and we should be glad to receive and acknowledge any gifts, however large or small.....

Customers of GOLDEN BALL, Tat Bank, Oldbury (per Thomas Round), £0 5s 0d.”

#### Gloucester Journal 22/1/1927

“The funeral of the late Mr. *John While*, licensee of the Imperial Vaults, Northgate Street, Gloucester, and formerly of the GOLDEN BALL, Parsonage Street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, took place in Gloucester Cemetery on Monday. The Rev. A. H. Powell officiated.

The chief mourners were wife and children (Fred and Marie), Mr. Tom While (brother), Youngstown, USA, Miss Annie While (sister), Worcestershire, Marin and Arthur (sister and brother-in-law), Mr. Fred Phillips, senior, and Mr. Fred Phillips, junior (father-in-law and brother-in-law).....

Floral tributes were sent by the following ..... Old Friends and Customers (GOLDEN BALL, Oldbury) ..... Old Neighbours of Parsonage Street, Oldbury.....”

#### Lincolnshire Standard 26/8/1933 - Deaths

“On the 13<sup>th</sup> inst, at the GOLDEN BALL, Parsonage Street, Oldbury, John Walter, second son of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Deakin, of Burgh, aged 35 years.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1936

“Oldbury justices yesterday refused application for.....

A provisional order for the removal of the licence of the GOLDEN BALL, Parsonage Street, Oldbury, to premises proposed to be erected on land in Hagley Road West, at the corner of Monckton Road [KINGS HIGHWAY].”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/3/1937

“The Rowley Regis licensing justices refused an application made on behalf of Mitchells and Butlers for the removal of the licence of the GOLDEN BALL, Parsonage Street, to premises which it was proposed to erect at the junction of Hagley Road and Monckton Road, Warley [KINGS HIGHWAY].”

1939 Register

89, Parsonage Street – GOLDEN BALL Public House

[1] *Samuel R. Newell*, date of birth 17/11/1906, manager public house, married;

[2] *Amelia Newell*, dob 15/5/1903, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] *Ronald D. Newell*, dob 10/8/1931, at school, single;

[7] *Eva (Barford) Cox*, dob 25/3/1913, barmaid and domestic help, single:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/1/1961

“While he was cashing up during December of last year a former licensee of the GOLDEN BULL [sic], Parsonage Street, Oldbury, accidentally threw an envelope containing £83 into the fire and became ‘panic-stricken,’ the Oldbury magistrates were told yesterday.

*Harold Pardoe* (36), c/o 16, Parsonage Street, Oldbury, pleaded guilty to stealing £1 1s 7d, the property of Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. He was fined £5 and ordered to pay five guineas costs.

Mr. T. D. Prescott, prosecuting, said that it was *Pardoe*’s duty to put the week’s takings into the bank on a Monday. He did not do this on December 12 and Mitchells and Butlers Ltd were unable to contact him. The following Friday *Pardoe* walked into Oldbury police station and said, ‘I want to give myself up.’ He was arrested and £64 5s was found in his possession.”

*Robert George Dainty* was known as George.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1961.

£4,720 compensation was paid on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1962.

The license was extinguished on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1962.

**GOLDEN LION**

58, (33), Halesowen Street, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Thomas Saunders, Halesowen Street, Oldbury

LICENSEES

John Slater [1859] – [1872]

Joseph Sheldon [1881] – [1882]  
Samuel Shellard [1882] – **1887**;  
Mrs. Sarah Bardell (**1887 – 1888**);  
William Keats (**1888 – 1889**);  
Thomas Benjamin Johnson (**1889**);  
Joshua Wright (**1889 – 1890**);  
Henry Hall (**1890 – 1891**);  
Mary Banks (**1891**);  
Simeon Willetts (**1891 – 1897**);  
Harriet Willetts (**1897 – 1898**);  
Charles Beasley (**1898**);  
George Brindley (**1898 – 1899**);  
Thomas Davis (**1899 – 1900**);  
Charles Richard Lawrence (**1900**);  
Thomas Gibbs (**1900 – 1902**);  
Maria Treglawn (**1902**);  
Thomas Henry Evans (**1902 – 1903**);  
Joseph Goode (**1903 – 1906**):

## NOTES

33, Halesowen Street [1871], [1881]  
58, Halesowen Street [1901]

It was situated opposite to Elements Garage.

It had a beerhouse license.

### Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/1/1859 - Deaths

“On the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, Ellen, youngest daughter of Mr. *John Slater*, publican, of Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

### 1861 Census

Halesowen Street – GOLDEN LION INN

- [1] *John Slater* (53), innkeeper, born Kings Bromley, Staffordshire;
- [2] Elizabeth Slater (35), wife, born Leominster, Herefordshire;
- [3] Elizabeth Ann Slater (16), daughter, born Rockford, Herefordshire;
- [4] George John Slater (14), son, butcher, born Lutley, Worcestershire;
- [5] Maria Slater (11), daughter, born Lichfield;
- [6] Charlotte Slater (10), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [7] Isabella Slater (6), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [8] William James Slater (4), son, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [9] Rebecca Slater (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [10] Elizabeth M. Wilson (21), domestic servant, born Birmingham:

### Worcestershire Chronicle 5/6/1861 - Deaths

“May 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Charles and Joseph, infant twins of Mr. *John Slater*, GOLDEN LION, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

### Staffordshire Advertiser 24/8/1861 - Deaths

“On the 21<sup>st</sup> instant, Rebecca Slater, the infant daughter of Mr. *John Slater*, of the GOLDEN LION INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

*John Slater*, beer retailer, Halesowen Street. [1864], [1865], [1870], [1872]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/5/1864 - Deaths

“On the 8th instant, Thomas Francis, the youngest and beloved child of Mr. *John Slater*, GOLDEN LION, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/1/1865 - Deaths

“On the 31st ultimo, aged 39 years, the wife of Mr. *John Slater*, of the GOLDEN LION, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, deeply lamented.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 9/3/1870

“Worcester Lent Assizes. ....

Matilda Partridge, on bail, was indicted on the charge of having, with other persons unknown, stolen from the person of Francis Hadley, on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, at Oldbury, seventeen sovereigns, and a cheque of the value of £2 10s. Mr. Godson prosecuted, and Mr. Streeten defended.

Prosecutor, a horse dealer, stated that on the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> February, he was in the GOLDEN LION at Oldbury, when he had a quarrel and ‘a bit of a scuffle with a young chap.’ While engaged in the scuffle he felt the prisoner close to him. He was on the floor on his back, and two or three were on him – the prisoner resting with her knees on his chest. When he got up he said he had lost his ‘bit,’ which in Oldbury means purse, and he called to some one to shut the door. A policeman came in, and the woman went off like a shot. The woman came back, and prosecutor said to the policemen that she had robbed him. Prisoner said, ‘Search me,’ and the policeman took her into the parlour to be searched. Shortly after the policeman came back with a purse, and prosecutor stated the contents, proving that it was his.

Prosecutor’s wife, who was among the company in the GOLDEN LION on the occasion, and saw what took place, said when her husband was on the floor she was trying to get him up, and prisoner was on him with her knees on his chest. At first witness thought prisoner was wanting to assist to get him up, but she noticed her snatch her hand away from his pocket. Witness said, ‘She has robbed him,’ and the prisoner immediately left the room.

Police-sergeant Simmonds, having corroborated prosecutor as to preceding circumstances, stated that he took prisoner into the parlour and got the landlady’s daughter to search her. Prisoner resisted the search, and witness had to hold her. The purse (produced and identified by prosecutor) was found under her left arm between her stays and her person. The prisoner, after the purse was found, said she picked it up from the table. The defence was that prisoner picked up the purse to take care of it, and her counsel argued that her not having disposed of the purse when she had the opportunity of doing so was proof of her honesty. The resistance to the search he ascribed to her modesty, the police-sergeant being present.

Guilty. His lordship, in consideration of the prisoner being in an interesting condition, sentenced her to the short term of six weeks’ imprisonment.”

1871 Census

33, Halesowen Street – GOLDEN LION

- [1] *John Slater* (59), widower, victualler, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Isabella Slater (16), daughter, assistant, born Birmingham;
- [3] Miriam Slater (8), daughter, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1872 - Advert

“Found, a Liver-and-white Spaniel Dog. Unless claimed within 3 days will be sold. Apply, *John Slater*, GOLDEN LION Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1873 - Advert

“Lost, September 28, a brindled Sheep Dog, white mark down face, fangs filed off; answers of name ‘Ben.’ Any person bringing him to *Jno. Slater*’s, GOLDEN LION INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, will be rewarded.”

1881 Census

33, Hales Owen Street – BROWN [sic] LION

[1] Ann Maria *Sheldon* (44), innkeeper's wife, born Oldbury;

[2] Louisa Shakspere (18), step-daughter, born Oldbury;

[3] Eliza Shakspere (16), step-daughter, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1881

“The following persons have filed petitions for liquidation in the Oldbury County Court.....

*Joseph Sheldon*, formerly keeper of the GOLDEN LION INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, but now out of business, living in lodgings at New Meeting Street. Liabilities £250.”

Evening Express 8/10/1881

“At a meeting of the creditors of *Joseph Sheldon*, formerly of the GOLDEN LION INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, the statement of accounts showed unsecured creditors £119 8s, and assets £25. It was resolved to wind up the estate in liquidation.”

Birmingham Mail 15/4/1882 - Advert

“*Joseph Sheldon*, Landlord of the GOLDEN LION INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, hereby gives Notice that he will Not Be Responsible for any Debts his Wife, Ann Maria *Sheldon*, may contract on and after this date.

April 15, 1882.”

*Samuel Shellard*, boat builder, Brades and beer retailer, 33, Halesowen Street. [1884]

Worcester Journal 5/7/1884

“Worcestershire Midsummer Quarter Sessions.....

Appeal Against an Affiliation Order.

This was an appeal by *Samuel Shellard*, an innkeeper, of Oldbury, against an order made by the Oldbury magistrates adjudging him to be the father of the illegitimate child of Mary Ann Eliza Davis, a young unmarried girl of about 16 years old, residing at Rownes Green, near Birmingham.

Mr. R. H. Amphlett and Mr. Gresham Wells appeared for the respondent; Mr. Godson and Mr. J. Amphlett for the appellant.

In the end the order made upon the appellant was confirmed, and the appeal dismissed with costs.”

AND

Worcestershire Chronicle 5/7/1884

“Worcestershire Midsummer Quarter Sessions.....

Before Mr. G. W. Hastings, deputy chairman, and other Magistrates, an appeal against an affiliation order was heard. The appellant was *Samuel Shellard*, innkeeper, at Rouse Green, and the respondent was Mary Ann Eliza Davis, a domestic servant. Mr. Godson was for the appellant, Mr. R. H. Amphlett and Mr. Gresham Wells for the respondent.

Mr. Amphlett said the respondent was about 15 years of age, and the facts were of a lamentable character. The respondent appeared to have gone into the service of the appellant in 1882, and she had been there two or three months, sleeping at night with the appellant's little girl. The appellant was a married man. Her story was that some little time after she had gone into the appellant's service he was in the habit of fondling and kissing her, and on several occasions entered her bedroom after she had gone to bed at night, and she would describe what took place on those occasions. The corroborative evidence was of a varied character, but the strongest was that of the appellant himself. He had said in the presence of several persons when accused of being the father of the child, ‘It is quite true I have been in Polly's bedroom, and if anything comes of it I will take care of her.’

Mr. Amphlett, who had to leave, then left the case in the hands of Mr. Gresham Wells.

Evidence in support of the case for the respondent was then given.

Mary Ann Davies, single woman, living at Rous Green, said she knew *Shellard*, who came to keep a public house near where she lived. She went into his service in May. *Shellard* entered her bedroom about a fort-



night before Christmas, 1882. It was night-time, and she had been asleep. She slept with defendant's little girl. That little girl awoke her by saying there was someone in the bedroom. *Shellard* said, 'It's all right, I am only tucking in the clothes for the child.' Next day Mrs. *Shellard* asked her if it was true that her husband had been in her room last night. She said it was, and then Mrs. *Shellard* said she hoped she would not tell her parents. In March following *Shellard* again got into her room after the respondent had gone asleep, and then and on subsequent occasions he behaved in a manner that led to her giving birth to a child on last New Year's Day. He frequently begged her not to tell her parents. She was 14 years of age when she went into *Shellard's* house. She made no communication to her parents until her grandfather took her to task. Cross-examined by Mr. Godson: *Shellard* would have to pass through a bedroom in which his two little sons slept to reach hers. *Shellard's* little girl was 10 years of age. She did not keep company with a man named Cutler.

Samuel Shaw, grandfather of the respondent, said that on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June the appellant came to him and had a conversation about the respondent. He said his wife was jealous of him, and he was afraid she would poison him. He admitted that he had been improperly intimate with the respondent. Witness then put certain questions to the respondent, and made a communication to her parents.

Maria Davies, mother of respondent, said the latter was just over 16 when the child was born. She had been in the appellant's service about 15 months. The girl could not read or write. The appellant came to her house crying, and admitted that he had been unduly intimate with the girl, but he would take care of her. Witness was ill at the time.

William Davies, brickmaker, father of the respondent, gave corroborative evidence, and spoke to a communication made to him by his daughter. He wrote to *Shellard* in consequence of what the girl had told him. After the birth of the child witness saw *Shellard*, who said he would not have interfered with the girl for £50 if he had known, but if witness would forgive him he would see him in a week or two. As *Shellard* did not fulfil his promise, witness issued a summons.

Witnesses were called to speak to *Shellard's* familiar conduct with the respondent.

A young man named Cutler stated that the appellant had offered him money if he would swear that he had been intimate with the girl.

Joseph Sheldon said he had many times warned the appellant that something wrong would result from his conduct.

Mr. Godson submitted that the evidence was not such as to justify the Court in supporting the order of the Magistrates.

The case for the appellant was a total denial of the whole of the statements for the respondent.

The appellant, examined, denied that he had ever been familiar with the respondent. He had never kissed her or patted her face.

Mrs. *Shellard* spoke to having suspected the respondent of robbing her, and accused her of stealing a 2s piece and a half-sovereign. At that time she had made no accusation against her (witness's) husband. She alleged that the respondent had been guilty of misconduct with several men. She discharged the girl for dishonesty.

Witnesses named Round were called to speak to misconduct on the part of the respondent with men named Humphries and Cutler.

Counsel having addressed the Court, the Bench, without retiring, confirmed the order."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1884

"At the Oldbury Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. G. Heaton and E. B. Phillips – Alexander Nock (45), puddler, of Hales Owen Street, was charged, on remand, with unlawfully wounding Giles Hill, iron-worker, of Causeway Green, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

Complainant said that on the day named he and the defendant quarrelled and fought while together in the SPADEMAKERS ARMS, Hunt Street. Witness went to the GOLDEN LION INN, Hales Owen Street, but was followed by the defendant. When he left that public house the defendant followed him about a quarter of a mile, and struck him a violent blow on the back of the neck. He (prosecutor) could see that he had either to fight or be killed, so he fought. They had about four rounds, and during the fight defendant kicked him on the ankle and knocked him down. Whilst he was upon the ground defendant had a running kick at his right arm and broke it. He had been under the care of a surgeon since.

Alice Wood deposed that she saw the prosecutor and defendant fighting in the street, and during the last round defendant kicked prosecutor twice. Defendant also kicked the prosecutor whilst he was on the ground.

Mr. C. Torbitt, surgeon, said the prosecutor's left leg was badly bruised and swollen, and his right arm was broken. He considered that the injuries were caused by kicks.

Police-constable Clarke stated that when he arrested defendant the latter replied that complainant fetched him out of two or three public houses and would make him fight.

At the close of the case for the prosecution a consultation took place between the parties, and subsequently Mr. Shakespeare made an application for the case to be adjourned. He pointed out that in the meantime the defendant was willing to pay 5s per week to the prosecutor for two months.

The Bench decided to adjourn the case for a month to see whether this arrangement would be carried out."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 15/9/1888

"Gazette News. First Meetings and Dates of Public Examination.....

*Samuel Shellard*, Rounds Green, Oldbury, boat-builder. First meeting, September 17, at County Court, Oldbury; public examination, September 17, at Oldbury County Court."

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 5/3/1887 - Advert

"GOLDEN LION, Halesowen Street, Oldbury. This well-known Freehold Beerhouse, to be Let. Rent £20. Incoming £50.

Apply to Mr. W. H. Pass, 50, Church Street, Oldbury."

Mrs. *Sarah Bardell*, beer retailer, Halesowen Street. [1888]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 12/2/1890 - Advert

"GOLDEN LION, Halesowen Street, Oldbury. Small price to immediate purchaser. Long free lease. Bees."

AND

#### Birmingham Mail 12/2/1890 - Advert

"Beerhouse. GOLDEN LION, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury; 21 years' free lease, rent £19, doing excellent trade; owner obliged sell immediately, having purchased full-licensed; price asked only £100.

Apply on the premises."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 3/11/1890 - Advert

"Free Spirit Vaults and Taverns.

Charles H. Bees will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, November 11, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the Estate Sale Room, 1, Newhall Street, Birmingham – the Goodwill and Possession of the following Well-known Houses.....

Lot 6. GOLDEN LION, Halesowen Street, Oldbury. Free. Thirteen years' Lease. Rent £26 per annum. The Fixtures, Lease, and Possession will be Sold."

#### 1891 Census

Halesowen Street

[1] *Mary Banks* (31), single, publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Sarah Jane James* (29), sister, widow, inn assistant, born Oldbury;

[3] *Agnes James* (8), niece, school, born Oldbury;

[4] *Mary James* (4), niece, school, born Oldbury;

[5] *Sarah L. James* (1), niece, born Oldbury

[6] *Henry Powell* (44), lodger, labourer, born Hereford:

#### Smethwick Telephone 1/8/1896

"A Tell Tale Cork. At the Police Court on Tuesday, *Simeon Willetts*, landlord of the GOLDEN LION INN, Halesowen Street, was fined £3 6s with costs for keeping open and selling intoxicating drink during prohib-

ited hours on July 29<sup>th</sup>. A light and voices attracted the attention of a police sergeant at 12.30am. Another officer was deputed to watch, and he saw a man named Cutler leave the premises and proceed towards Messrs. Radcliffe's Works which are at the rear of the defendant's premises. As Cutler passed the officer a cork flew out of a bottle which the man had in his pocket, narrowly missing the officer's face, while some of the liquid fell upon the policeman's cape. The landlord's excuse was that it was a family party."

*Thomas Davis* was fined £5 and 5s 6d costs, on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1899, for permitting drunkenness.

#### 1901 Census

58, Halesowen Street – LION INN

[1] *Thomas Gibbs* (41), carpenter and publican, born Dudley;

[2] *Theodosia Gibbs* (36), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *George T. Gibbs* (15), son, born Oldbury;

[4] *Abraham Gibbs* (12), son, born Oldbury;

[5] *Alf Gibbs* (10), son, born Oldbury;

[6] *Mark Gibbs* (8), son, born Spon Lane, West Bromwich:

*Joseph Goode* was fined 20s and 6s costs, on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1903, for permitting drunkenness.

#### Birmingham Mail 2/2/1904

"The annual Licensing Session for the Oldbury Division was held today.....

Superintendent Sheriff submitted his report for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, which showed that the population of the division was 25,191, and there were 150 persons licensed for the sale of intoxicants, viz, 83 licensed victuallers, 35 beerhouse keepers, 19 off beerhouse keepers, 12 for the sale of wines, spirits, and beer to be consumed off the premises, and one for the sale of wines to be consumed on the premises. These figures gave one house for the sale of intoxicants to about every 167 of the inhabitants.....

He had served notices of objection to the renewal of their licenses upon *Charles F. Woodbridge*, of the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, and *Joseph Goode*, of the GOLDEN LION INN, Hales Owen Street. In the former case the grounds of objection were previous convictions, and that there was no necessity for the license, the requirements of the district being otherwise amply provided for; whilst in the latter case the objection was on the ground that the house was of a disorderly character.

*Mr. Millward* appeared for *Charles Woodbridge*, and *Mr. Barradale*, of Dudley, represented *Joseph Goode*. Superintendent Sheriff, having stated the grounds of his objection, and also informed the Court that the houses had since been conducted satisfactorily, both licenses were renewed, *Mr. Heaton* cautioning each applicant as to the future conduct of his house.....

The justices held the opinion that there were more licensed houses in Oldbury than were sufficient for the reasonable requirements of the inhabitants, and this was borne out by the enquiries made by a committee of county magistrates; and also that some of them were not structurally adapted for carrying on a licensed trade, and were, in fact, unfit for the purposes for which they were being used. No one who knew the policy of the Oldbury Bench could accuse them of being at all remiss in endeavouring to diminish the number of licenses. It was a matter of regret for them to find that with all the aids to temperance, by which the people were surrounded, the number of cases of drunkenness did not diminish. It was also regrettable that there should be still license holders who would permit persons to have drink in such a quantity as to make them not only enemies to themselves, but a nuisance to the community."

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.

It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

#### Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

"The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, *Mr. J. Willis Bund* presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in

order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

4. GOLDEN LION, Halesowen Street.”

Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years’ purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years’ purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

GOLDEN LION, £375.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division..... The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

GOLDEN LION, Halesowen Street, £500.

The committee made awards as follows.....

GOLDEN LION, Halesowen Street, £275 to the licensee, *Joseph Goode*, and £225 to the registered owner, Thomas Sanders.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

**GREYHOUND**

53, (49), Halesowen Street, OLDBURY

OWNERS

J. G. Nicklin, Rowley Regis (later at Hunnington)  
Holders Brewery Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

Robert Jones [1872] – [1876]  
Thomas Williams [1881] – 1890);  
Thomas Henry Jones (1890);  
Thomas ‘Tommy’ Withers (1890 – 1893);  
William Smith (1893);  
Alexander Garratt (1893 – 1894);  
William Jones (1894 – 1907):

## NOTES

49, Halesowen Street [1873], [1881]  
53, Halesowen Street [1891], [1901]

It had a beerhouse license.

*Robert Jones*, beer retailer, Halesowen Street. [1872]

*Robert Jones*, beer retailer, 49, Halesowen Street. [1873]

### Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

“*Robert Jones*, of the GREYHOUND INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, and John Williams, HOPE AND ANCHOR, of the same street, were summoned, at the instance of Police-constable Turner, for permitting drunkenness on Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. Both cases were adjourned till the 16<sup>th</sup> October.”

### 1881 Census

49, Hales Owen Street – GREYHOUND

- [1] *Thomas Williams* (38), innkeeper, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Williams (24), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] Mary Louisa Williams (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Charlotte Jones (30), sister, married, born Oldbury:

### Smethwick Telephone 21/2/1885

“Oldbury Police Court. *Thomas Williams*, landlord of the GREYHOUND INN, Halesowen Street, was charged with assaulting PCs Peart and Nash on the 19<sup>th</sup> February.

PC Peart stated that from information received, he went in company with PC Nash to the defendant’s house and enquired if there had been any row there. The defendant at once commenced to use bad language and without further provocation violently pushed Nash out of the house.

Case dismissed – insufficient evidence.”

### Dudley Mercury 16/2/1889

“A discreditable account comes from Cardiff of a determined prize fight there last Saturday between *Thomas Withers*, of Dudley, and Morgan Crowther, of Newport, in which the Dudley representative was declared victor in the eighth round, after both combatants had suffered considerable ‘damages.’ It was not generally known until this event came off that we had such a distinguished votary of the P. R. We are informed that *Withers*, who has previously figured in the ring in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and was not unknown in London, some time ago issued a challenge to fight any man his own weight for £25 a side, and the challenge was accepted by Crowther. The latter had never before entered the prize ring, and will no doubt remember his first encounter, for it is said that after the battle his face was in such a state that his own mother would hardly be able to recognise him. After the eighth round the combat was terminated by the referee on the ground of a foul, giving a verdict in favour of *Withers*.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1890

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, the license of the GREYHOUND INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, was transferred from William [sic] *Henry Jones* to *Thomas Withers*, of Dudley, the light-weight champion.”

#### 1891 Census

53, Halesowen Street

- [1] *Thomas Withers* (35), publican, born Halesowen;
- [2] *Eliza Withers* (36), wife, born Blackheath;
- [3] *Charles Withers* (11), son, scholar, born Blackheath;
- [4] *John A. Withers* (1 month), son, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1893

“Yesterday, at Oldbury Police Court – before Messrs. J. E. Wilson and W. E. Chance – Septimus Siviter, of Rowley, applied for the transfer of the license of the GREYHOUND INN, Halesowen Street Oldbury, to himself.

Superintendent Speke said he wished to call the attention of the Bench to the loose way in which characters were given on behalf of persons who made applications for licenses. This applicant had presented a certificate of character signed by a number of influential gentlemen of Rowley, but the Superintendent of Police for the Rowley division had written stating that Siviter was a notorious cockfighter and had been convicted for that offence.

Mr. Wilson said persons should not sign those certificates unless they knew something about the persons concerned.

Superintendent Speke said in the face of that intimation from Superintendent Woollaston he could not say that the applicant was a proper person to be entrusted with a license.

The application was refused.”

*William Jones*, beer retailer, 53, Halesowen Street. [1896]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1899

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Division were held at the Court House, Oldbury yesterday.....

Superintendent Chare submitted his annual report ..... He had given notice to the following persons of his intention to oppose the renewal of their licenses on various grounds.....

*John Pugh*, MALT SHOVEL INN, Low Town, Oldbury, because the house and premises are so constructed as to facilitate the commission of offences against the licensing laws, and also prevent proper police supervision being exercised over the house. *William Jones*, GREYHOUND INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, on similar grounds to the last case.....

Several other applications for alteration of premises were made .... the whole of the applications for approval of alterations were postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, to enable the magistrates to inspect the houses.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1899

“Yesterday, the adjourned licensing sessions for the Oldbury Division were held at the Court House, the magistrates present being Messrs. G. Heaton, A. M. Chance, T. Lavender, and H. Heaton. A long time was occupied in the consideration of applications for sanction to make alterations in licensed premises.....

After deliberating in private, Mr. Heaton said the license of the WHITE HORSE would be granted ..... and the Bench wished it to be understood that in future alterations of licensed premises should not be made without plans being submitted and proper sanction of the justices being obtained. The other licenses were renewed, and the applications for alterations were approved, with the exception of the case of the WHY NOT INN, which was refused.”

#### 1901 Census

53, Halesowen Street – GREYHOUND INN

- [1] *William Jones* (61), publican, born Cradley;

- [2] Eliza Jones (60), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] William Jones (29), son, boiler works labourer, born Oldbury;
- [4] Philip Jones (26), son, butcher's manager, shopman, born Oldbury;
- [5] Robert T. Jones (18), son, boiler works labourer, born Oldbury;
- [6] Mary A. Jones (24), daughter:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/9/1901

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The following licence holders presented plans for alterations to their premises.....

*William Jones*, GREYHOUND INN, Halesowen Street.....

The magistrates examined the plans, and Mr. Wilson stated that several of them had personally examined the premises ..... Refused.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.

It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

#### Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

3. GREYHOUND, Halesowen Street.”

#### Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years' purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years' purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

GREYHOUND, £175.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division..... It was agreed that the GREYHOUND, Halesowen Street, in which the amount was £420, should stand over to the adjourned meeting.”

## Evesham Standard 5/1/1907

“County Quarter Sessions ..... Licensing Committee’s Work.....

The Chairman called attention to the report of the Licensing Committee, which, he said, set out what had been done in the county in 1905. Sixteen cases were sent up to the committee from Oldbury. The compensation in these cases amounted to £7,146. All the cases had been dealt with, except the SPADEMAKERS ARMS.

The SPADEMAKERS ARMS and the GREYHOUND, Oldbury, appealed to the Inland Revenue, who awarded the sums of £425 and £420 respectively, but on appeal to the High Court the Inland Revenue consented to have the figures altered to £1,250 and £850. The Inland Revenue asked the committee to go into the matter for them, but the committee required evidence as to the accuracy of the figures. The committee were right in requiring that evidence, having regard to the fact that the claims made in respect of houses amounted to £40,278. In one case the claim was over £5,000, and the claimants agreed to accept £1,385. He mentioned that to show that the figures were much in excess of what the Inland Revenue thought ought to have been given, and should be closely examined. But in this case the Inland Revenue thought fit to adopt the figures without any examination beyond the statutory declaration and gave the full amount. The money had been paid in all cases except that of the SPADEMAKERS ARMS, and in that case no agreement was submitted to the Committee, and they resolved to let it stand over until the agreement arrived.”

The license was extinguished on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1907.

## **HALF PENNY FARM**

Joseph Street, (Wolverhampton New Road), OLDBURY

### OWNERS

The Spirit Group  
Fayre and Square [2011], [2013]  
Farmhouse Inns (Greene King) [2016]

### LICENSEES

Andy Matthews [2011] manager  
Mark Tennant [2017] – [2018] manager

### NOTES

It opened as ONE AND TWO HALVES.

[2001]

It closed on 25th September 2011 for a £366,000 refurbishment.  
It reopened in October 2011.

It was renamed HALF PENNY FARM in 2016.

### [Express & Star 29/4/2023](#)

“A pub chain is offering customers free cake to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III – if they come



in wearing a crown or tiara and say special Royal codewords. Farmhouse Inns, which includes BERRY BROOK FARM at Cannock Road, Wednesfield and HALF PENNY FARM at Joseph Street, Oldbury, is running the giveaway from May 6 to 8. To get the complimentary slice of limited edition raspberry and lemonade cake, crown and tiara wearers need to say ‘a royal slice’ at the till. The offer is on at all Farmhouse Inns’ 70 sites nationwide. To mark the historic coronation weekend, Farmhouse Inns is also launching an online competition to crown a customer the ‘King or Queen of carvery or cake’ – with a £2,000 prize going to the lucky winner. To enter, carvery and cake lovers simply need to visit the Farmhouse Inns website, enter their details and reveal whether they’re team carvery or cake. In addition to the cash prize, the victorious King or Queen will also receive a year’s supply of free carvery or cake courtesy of Farmhouse Inns. The royal-themed competition ends at 12 midnight on May 18.....”

[2023]

## HARMONIC

92, (72), (35), (34), Church Street / West Bromwich Street, (Bromford Road), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

John Woodbridge, Birmingham

Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. (leased)

Charles Frederick Woodbridge (later at Serpentine Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired c.1911) [1961]

## LICENSEES

William Bailey [1851] – [1856]

John Williams [1857]

James Vaughan [1858]

William Fowler [1859] – [1862]

Samuel Shakespeare [1863] – **1864**);

Benjamin Garner (**1864 – 1865**);

Samuel Shakespeare (**1865 – 1868**);

William Key (**1868** – [ ]

John Jones [1870] – [1872]

Sophia Jones [1872]

John Wardbridge\* [1873]

J Woodbridge\* [1878]

Benjamin Robinson [1880] – [1881]

John Wassall [1883] – **1886**);

Philip Payne (**1886 – 1887**);

William Miller (**1887**);

Thomas Inkerman Chambers (**1887 – 1890**);

Charles Healey (**1890**);

William Green (**1890 – 1892**);

William Latham (**1892 – 1893**);

Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. (**1893**);

Charles Frederick Woodbridge (**1893 – 1910**);

Maybury [1900] manager?

Thomas J Saundercock [1901] manager  
Thomas Tew (1910 – 1912); manager  
Fred Darby (1912 – 1914);  
Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Darby (1914 – 1927);  
Samuel Whitmore (1927 – 1932);  
John ‘Jack’ Brown (1932 – 1943);  
Horace Joseph Storer (1943 – 1945);  
Charles Joseph Bird (1945 – 1947);  
George Bernard Garner (1947 – 1948);  
Edward Darby (1948 – 1952);  
William Raymond Littleton (1952 – 1954);  
William Albert Peach (1954 – 1956);  
Alfred Stanley Vaughan (1956 – 1957);  
Malcolm John Wingfield (1957 – 1958);  
Patrick Thomas ‘Paddy’ Neary (1958 – 1961);  
Brian Devaney (1961 – [1962])

## NOTES

34, Church Street [1871], [1873]  
35, Bromford Road [1881]  
35, Church Street [1884]  
72, Church Street [1891], [1896], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921]  
72, Bromford Road [1901]  
92, Church Street [1939]

HARMONIA [1865]

### Birmingham Journal 11/10/1856 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury. 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1856.

Whereas a Petition of *William Bailey*, at present and for four years last past residing at the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, in the township of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, Licensed Brewer, Retailer of Wines, Spirituous Liquors, and Tobacco, 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 *William Bailey*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *William Bailey* is hereby required to appear in the said Court, on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1856, 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 the Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All Persons indebted to the said *William Bailey*, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Joseph Heapy Watson, the Clerk of the said Court, who is the Official Assignee of the Estate and Effects of the said Insolvent, at his Office at the Court House, in Oldbury aforesaid.

R. H. Bartlett, Attorney, Wolverhampton.”

### County Advertiser 18/7/1857

“Charles Jinks, a tall young fellow, described as a stock-taker, was brought up, charged with stealing seven shillings, belonging to *John Williams*, landlord of the HARMONIC INN, Oldbury.

The first witness examined was Sarah *Williams*, the wife of the prosecutor. She deposed that between eleven and twelve o’clock on the night previous two men commenced fighting in the house. She went with her husband to the room they were in, leaving the prisoner and her daughter, a girl about fourteen years of age, alone in the bar. In endeavouring to eject the men from the house, she received a blow which rendered her insensible. She was carried back to the bar, and on recovering from the effects of the blow, her daughter

told her that she had seen the prisoner take some money from a wooden bowl which was in the till. Seven shillings were then found by her to be missing, the prisoner was charged with taking it, and on his denying having done so, he was searched, but only a shilling and sixpence, and three pence in coppers were found on him. The prisoner's mother coming in presently after, he gave the money to her, saying it was all he had. About two hours afterwards she was told by a person named Barnett that prisoner was tossing for a shilling in the kitchen. She went there and recognised a shilling among other money the prisoner had that moment put upon the table. She placed her hand upon the shilling and told prisoner it belonged to her, and she could swear to it, having noticed a peculiar mark on it when she had taken it that evening.

The latter part of the evidence was corroborated by the witness Barnett, who said that prisoner took several coins of money out of one of his boots. He was present when prisoner was searched, but no money was found in either of his boots then.

The girl who saw the prisoner take the money out of the till, said she asked him what he was doing, and he replied, 'I am putting three halfpence which I found on the counter into the till.'

The prisoner, who denied the charge, was committed to take his trial at the assizes."

[At Worcestershire Summer Assizes Charles Jinks was found guilty and sentenced to one month's imprisonment.]

*John Williams* issued tokens from here.

*James Vaughan* issued tokens from here.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/4/1858

"S. Smith of Oldbury will run J. Marshall of the same place 100 yards, for £10 a side, and choose a referee at the time of drawing up articles. To run on a turnpike-road. A match can be made any time, at Mr. *J. Vaughan's*, HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury."

AND

"William Smith of Oldbury is surprised at Stranger, of the same place, challenging to run him and wanting five yards start in five score, and wishes to inform him that he has given up running for money altogether, but will fight him, catch weight, for £10 a side, or as much more as he likes, on Whit-Monday, and will be at *James Vaughan's* on Saturday next, between eight and ten, to make a deposit and sign articles."

London Gazette 19/10/1860

"In the Matter of the Petition of *James Vaughan*, formerly of Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Journeyman Blacksmith, Licensed Victualler, Beerseller, and Dealer in Tobacco, then of Freeth-street, Oldbury aforesaid, Journeyman Blacksmith, Licensed Victualler, Beer Seller, and Dealer in Tobacco, afterwards of Eel-street, Oldbury aforesaid, Journeyman Blacksmith, Licensed Victualler, Beerseller, and Dealer in Tobacco, and now of Eel-street, Oldbury aforesaid, out of business.

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, at Oldbury, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 5th day of November next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/11/1860

"Insolvents. In the County Court on Monday.....

*James Vaughan*, licensed victualler, of Oldbury, came up for his final order; but being opposed on the ground that within three months of filing his petition he parted with certain goods to a preference creditor, his petition was dismissed."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/1/1859

"To be shot for, at *W. Fowler's* HARMONIC INN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury, on Tuesday, January 18, a £20 sweepstakes, by 20 members, at £1 each. The best shot to take £12, second £5, third £3. The best shot will give to the landlord £1 to assist to defray expenses. Conditions: To shoot at 5 birds each; guns  $\frac{3}{4}$  bore,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz of shot, 21 yards rise; double guns  $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz of shot, 19 yards rise. Field the boundary. Shooting to commence at 12 o'clock precisely. The birds provided by the landlord."

AND

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/1/1859

“At *W. Fowler’s*, the HARMONIC INN, Oldbury, on Tuesday, the list not filling, a Sweepstakes of £10 was shot for at 3 birds each, when Mr. Baker of Westbromwich took the first prize, killing all; and Messrs. Hadley and Parkes divided the second prize. A second Sweepstakes by the same parties, same conditions, was shot, when Messrs. Baker and Hadley, killing all, divided. Mr. Crosbee of Aston supplied the birds.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/12/1859

“At Mr. *Wm. Fowler’s*, HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, tomorrow (Monday), Dec 5, a £10 sweepstakes will be contended for by 20 members, at 10s each. Conditions: To shoot at 3 or 5 birds each, guns  $\frac{3}{4}$  bore,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz of shot, 21 yards rise; double guns,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz of shot, 19 yards rise, 60 yards boundary. Shooting to commence at twelve o’clock. Dinner afterwards. Best birds will be provided. Parties coming by rail will book to Bromford Lane, on the Stour Valley line, five minutes’ walk to the house of shooting.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/9/1860

“Pigeon Flying. S. Smith of Oldbury will fly T. Windmill or any other pigeon fancier in Oldbury, from Marston Green, for £5 a side; or S. Fantom of same place will fly Windmill, P. Williams, or any other pigeon fancier in Oldbury, from the Nelson at Birmingham, for the above sum, to catch and show the birds half-way between home and home. Money ready any time at Mr. *W. Fowler’s*, HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/12/1860

“H. Parkinson of Westbromwich will fight Bedworth of Dudley Port, or J. White of Halesowen, for £25 or £50 a side. Match to be made at Mr. *W. Fowler’s*, HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury.”

1861 Census

Church Street – HARMONIC INN

- [1] *William Fowler* (45), publican, born Worcestershire;
- [2] *Harriet Fowler* (43), wife, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Louisa Fowler* (22), daughter, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Sarah Fowler* (21), daughter, born Lanarkshire;
- [5] *John Fowler* (11), son, born Lanarkshire;
- [6] *Harriet Fowler* (7), daughter, born Lanarkshire;
- [7] *Thomas Fowler* (6), son, born Lanarkshire;
- [8] *Selina Fowler* (3), daughter, born Lanarkshire;
- [9] *Clara Fowler* (1), daughter, born Oldbury;

*William Fowler* issued tokens from here.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/3/1861

“Parkinson and White. These midland district men were to have contended at 7st 12lb, for £15 a side, on Monday last, and were to have gone to scale between two and six o’clock on the day previous. On Saturday the authorities made their appearance at Mr. *Fowler’s*, the HARMONIC INN, Oldbury, the quarters of Parkinson, with a warrant for his apprehension, but he by a clever manoeuvre slipped through their fingers, and at the proper time went to scale, and was  $1\frac{1}{4}$ lb under weight. White did not put in an appearance to weigh according to articles, and therefore Parkinson claims the stakes. He also claims the stakes on the ground that Wareham, the trainer of White, came over to Oldbury on the Saturday and gave the necessary information for Parkinson to be arrested. White states that he was unable to attend to go to scale at the proper time, as he was locked up by the police. He states that he was at the railway at two o’clock, had taken his ticket, in company with Wareham, to go to scale, and whilst waiting on the platform he was taken into custody by Palmer, a Birmingham detective, confined till the next day, then taken before the magistrate and bound over for six months. White states that he believes that it was at the instigation of Parkinson’s backers that he was

apprehended, as he can prove one of them was in Birmingham the day he was nailed.

Our correspondent states that he has seen both men, and each looked in first-rate condition. Unless complicity can be proved on either side the men must fight when White's recognisances expire or draw their money."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/7/1863

"Pigeon Flying. Phantom of Oldbury will fly any fancier of the same place level, or will give any fancier in Rounds Green half a minute from the Nelson, Birmingham, or will fly any fancier in Oldbury or Rounds Green from Stafford or Norton Bridge stations; either match for £5 a side. Money ready at any time at *Shakespeare's*, HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/11/1863

"Sam Jones of Oldbury will run Kirkham of Westbromwich six score yards, or Lambert of the same place eight score yards, or Wareing of Wednesbury 120 yards, or J. Jackson of Dudley Port 200 yards. Either match for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *Shakespeare's* HARMONIC TAVERN, Church Street, Oldbury."

*Samuel Shakespeare* and *Benjamin Garner* appear here in the same 1864 directory.

*B. Garner* issued tokens from here.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/6/1864

"W. Foster of Oldbury is surprised at Longmore of Tividale asking for a start of six yards. If he really means business Foster will take two yards start in 120 yards, or run J. Thomas of Tividale on the same terms. Either match can be made, for £5 or £10 at Mr. *Garner's*, HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1864

"The annual meeting for the granting and renewal of licenses for the Oldbury and Hales Owen district was held yesterday.....

All the applications for renewals of licenses were granted, the following being cautioned in consequence of complaints having been made by the police ..... *Benjamin Garner*, HARMONIC INN, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1864 - Letter

"To the Editor of the Birmingham Daily Post.

Sir, it is made to appear, in your impression of Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, that at the annual meeting for granting and renewing of licenses for Oldbury and Hales Owen districts, the following persons were cautioned, in consequence of complaints having been made by the police. Thomas Welch, BLACK HORSE INN; *Benjamin Garner*, HARMONIC INN; George Minchin, BELL INN, Rounds Green; also John Ballard, RED COW INN, all of Oldbury. Now, in fairness and justice to the police, we wish it to be understood that not in regard to any of the above persons charged was a single complaint made by the police, neither was any intimation given in any way, until actually confronted by the Magistrates themselves, which quite astounded all the accused. The matter of fact is, that the Magistrates had been furnished with a private note by some person, who, knowing the truth was absent, had not the manliness to make the charge in person; excepting in the case of Thomas Welch, who was informed against by a neighbour. Thus the accused were not afforded an opportunity to be legally represented, to have those accusations rebuffed. By inserting the above, you will oblige, your obedient servants.

Thomas Welch, *Benjamin Garner*, George Minchin, John Ballard.  
Oldbury, September 21, 1864."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/2/1865

"Aston Cross Grounds ..... J. Onions of Rounds Green and C. Phillpot of Oldbury have made their money (£10 a side) good, for their 120 yards match, to Mr. *Garner*, of the HARMONIC TAVERN, Oldbury, who is final stakeholder and referee. They will toe the mark at half-past two o'clock, and a clipping race is anticipated."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/3/1865

“The match between Mr. R. Burrell’s bitch Fly of Oldbury, 18lb weight, and Mr. Bennett’s dog Tyler of Tipton, 21lb, to run 200 yards, Fly receiving five yards start, for £5 a side, came off on Tuesday last on the Quinton Road, near Halesowen, in the presence of nearly 600 persons. The betting, to a good sum, was invested at even moneys (Fly for choice). Mr. *Garner*, of the HARMONIC INN, Oldbury, who was final stakeholder, acted as referee. At the signal the dogs bounded away at a rattling pace, kept close together the whole distance, till within a few yards of home, when Fly took the lead, and won by half a yard.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1865 - Advert

“Oldbury Races will be held on a New and much larger Course, near to the Railway Station, on Monday and Tuesday, September 4 and 5.

Stewards, Messrs. *Shakespeare*, Done and Jones; Judge, Mr. Taylor; Starter and Handicapper, Mr. Keeten.

A Hack Race, one sov each, with 6 sovs added.

A splendid Silver Cup, for Oldbury horses only.

The Innkeepers’ Plate, of 10s each, with 5 sovs added.

Galloway Race, of 5 sovs. 10s entrance.

A Sweepstakes of 5s each, with 2 sovs added.

A Handicap, 5s entrance, with a purse added, for beaten horses.

For weights and particulars, apply to Mr. Keeten, Bell Inn, Floodgate Street, Birmingham, or to Mr. *Shakespeare*, HARMONIC INN, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/8/1865

“J. Milliship and J. Cutler (both of Oldbury) have signed articles to run 120 yards, for £5 a side, at Aston Cross Grounds, on September 4. £2 a side is down in the hands of Mr. *Shakespeare*, of the HARMONIC INN, Oldbury, who is final stakeholder, and to whom a further deposit must be made on Monday.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/9/1866 - Advert

“To Let, a Shop, with three Hearths and Bellows and Tools suitable for all kinds of Smithing, all complete; or the Tools and a large Oliver for Sale by Private Contract.

Apply, *S. Shakespeare*, HARMONIC INN, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/11/1866

“W. Going of Oldbury will run J. Kirkham of Westbromwich 300 yards level, or take two yards in 120, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Shakespeare*’s, HARMONIC INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1868 - Advert

“HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, a genuine Old-licensed Public House, situate in principal entrance into town from the Railway Station, and midst of the Black Country, having every convenience for the requirements of the trade; also, a Concert Room attached, capable of seating 300 persons. A good out and in-door business is now being done. Sole cause of disposal the mechanical calling of Proprietor requiring him in another district. Purchase, £200.

Apply as above, or to A. Aintree, Church Square, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/12/1868 - Advert

“HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

Unreserved Clearing-Out Sale, tomorrow (Tuesday), Dec. 15 and following day, if necessary, of the Household Furniture, Bed and Table Linen, Cutlery, Fowling-piece, Grand Pianoforte, Sykes’s Hydrometer and Guide, Contents of Three Chambers, Oil Paintings, Engravings, Hops, Spirits, Cordials, Wines, Ales, &c. Particulars in Catalogues.

Commencing at Eleven.

A. Aintree, Auctioneer.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/1/1869 - Advert

“HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

Final Clearance, This Day (Tuesday), January 5th, consisting of the Licenses, Goodwill and Possession, Five Tumps of Hops, Malt Crusher, Cellar of Sweet Barrels, Brewing Plant, Two and Four-pull Machines, Two Cases of elegant Foreign Preserved Birds, Furniture, Bed and Table Linen, Stock, &c. Sale at Eleven.

A. Aintree, Auctioneer.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/5/1869 - Advert

“Important Freehold and Leasehold Estates and Mines, Comprising the Withymoor and Bournehills Collieries, in the parishes of Dudley and Rowley Regis, with the Dwelling Houses, Colliery Erections, Lands, and Minerals thereto belonging, containing a freehold area of 28a 8r 5p; the Hyatts Colliery, adjoining Bournehills, and situated in Rowley Regis, containing upwards of 20 acres of Minerals, leasehold for a term of 20 years, from 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1862, with the Steam Engines and other Colliery Plant erected thereon; Four Freehold Dwelling Houses, with Nail Shops and about three-quarters of an acre of Land at Treacle Street, Cock Green, in Rowley Regis; and the following valuable Freehold Property in the town of Oldbury, namely – a superior Dwelling House, and an excellent 40-quarter Malthouse, with Stables, Sheds, Workman's Dwelling, and commodious Yard, abutting on the Birmingham Canal; the HARMONIC INN, and other House Property; and about Three Acres of highly desirable Building Land, having extensive frontages to the Turnpike Road from Dudley to Church Street and to the Birmingham Canal.

To be Sold by Auction, By Messrs. Joseph Cooksey and Son (by the direction of the Mortgagees), at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, in Dudley, on Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1869, at Five for Six o'clock in the afternoon precisely, in suitable lots, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

Particulars and Plans, with other information, may be obtained on application to Messrs. Ingleby, Wragge, and Evans, Solicitors, Birmingham; Messrs. Bourne and Owen, Solicitors, Dudley; Messrs. E. and A. Cad-dick, Solicitors, West Bromwich; Messrs. Best and Horton, Solicitors, Birmingham; the Auctioneers, Paradise Street, West Bromwich; the *Midland Counties Herald* Office, Birmingham; and the place of Sale.”

*John Jones*, beer retailer, Church Street. [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1870

“Elizabeth Homeshaw (38), Brades Village, was charged before Mr. W. H. Dawes, at a special sessions, yesterday, with stealing a coat, the property of *John Jones*, HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury. The prisoner, the wife of a man of unimpeachable character, a few years ago occupied a good position in society. Recently, however, she has given way to drinking, and to that fact her present condition is attributed. She stole the coat from the prosecutor's house on Wednesday night, and as there were previous convictions recorded against her, she was committed for trial at the Sessions.”

[At Worcestershire Epiphany Quarter Sessions Elizabeth Homeshaw pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four months.]

The Era 1/1/1871 - Advert

“HARMONIC Concert Hall, Oldbury.

(Proprietor, Mr. *J. Jones*; Manager, Mr. Jon Elton.)

Wanted, First-class Artistes in all Branches of Concert Hall Business, for present and future dates.

A Single Nigger, or any other Novelty, may telegraph at once. Enclose Cartes, if convenient, for Picture Gallery; those with Blocks or Posters, forward specimen.”

1871 Census

34, Church Street – HARMONIC INN

[1] *John Jones* (39), anvil maker, born Birmingham;

[2] *Sophia Jones* (44), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] William Jones (10), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] Ann Elizabeth Jones (9), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Albert Jones (2), son, born Oldbury;

[6] Mary Ann Taylor (23), general servant, born Lye:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1871

“At Oldbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, before Mr. Henry Chance, Elizabeth Homeshaw, forty-eight years of age, and of Brades Village, was charged with stealing a jug and a quarter of a pound of tea, the property of Mr. *Thompson*, the landlord of the CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street. The prisoner, a woman of most intemperate habits, went into the prosecutor’s house to procure some gin, and, before she left, stole the tea and the jug, which she subsequently offered at the HARMONIC INN for more gin. She pleaded guilty, and, having been several times previously convicted, was committed to take her trial at the Sessions.”

AND

Worcester Herald 21/10/1871

“Worcestershire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions ..... Pleading Guilty.....

Elizabeth Homeshaw, aged 49 (on bail), labourer, was charged with stealing a glass cream jug and a quarter of a pound of tea, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, the property of John Thompson, at the township of Oldbury. Two previous convictions were recorded against the prisoner, who was sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months.”

Dudley Herald 9/12/1871

*John Jones* was fined 10s and costs for serving during unlawful hours.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1872

“Yesterday, the annual licensing session for Oldbury was held at the Police Court.....

There were eighty-three applications for the renewal of old licenses, and 50 for certificates under the Wine and Beerhouse Act.

Mr. Avery said that all the applications for the renewal of licensed victuallers’ licenses and beer and wine shop licenses would be granted, with two exceptions, viz, those of John Hyland, beerhouse keeper, Church Bridge, and *Sophia Jones*, the landlady of the HARMONIC INN, Church Street. In the other cases there was no objection on the part of the police and no conviction. Hyland and *Jones* had been summoned for offences, and their cases were to be heard that morning, after which their applications for renewal would be considered.....

The charge against John Hyland of permitting drunkenness in his house, on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst, was subsequently heard by the Magistrates, and the offence having been proved, a fine of £2 and costs, was inflicted.

*Sophia Jones*, of the HARMONIC INN, pleaded guilty to a charge of keeping her house open during prohibited hours, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, and was fined £1 and costs.

Their licenses were renewed, but the defendants were cautioned as to their future conduct.

Yesterday, for the first time, the Licensing Session was held at Oldbury. It had previously been held at Hales Owen, much to the inconvenience of publicans and others interested in the trade of Oldbury.”

\*possibly the same person

Birmingham Daily Post 2/2/1876 - Advert

“Important Sale, at the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, removed for convenience of Sale.

J. H. Wright will Sell by Auction, This Day (Wednesday), February 2.

A Quantity of Household Furniture, four Pockets Worcester and Sussex Hops; also a very large Quantity of Hosiery and Smallwares as under.

Berlin Wools, Worsteds all colours, Ladies’ Stockings, Gents’ Socks, Neckties, Braces, Belts, Toys, and every description of Smallwares, new Spring Trap, &c, &c.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock prompt.

Auctioneer’s Office, Paradise Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/10/1873 - Advert

“For Sale, a Butcher’s light Trap, two Parlour Grates, two iron Columns, one 12 feet, one 6 feet; also, two Variegated Windows, for grotto, with Vane.



Apply, HARMONIC INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/11/1878 - Advert

“Bricks, &c. For Sale, 30,000 old Bricks and Building Materials, cheap.

Apply, *J. Woodbridge*, HARMONIC INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/11/1878 - Advert

“Maltsters, Brewers, and others.

To be Disposed of, the CRICKETERS ARMS, Trinity, West Bromwich. A lease can be had.

Apply, personally, to *J. Woodbridge*, HARMONIC INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/11/1878 - Advert

“HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

A well-known corner Spirit House, with respectable and old-established business. In-coming about £200.

Apply, Roderick and Son, Auctioneers, 2, Temple Row West, Birmingham.”

1881 Census

35, Bromford Road – HARMONIC INN

[1] *Benjamin Robinson* (28), licensed victualler, born Smethwick;

[2] *Betsy Robinson* (35), wife, born Kingswinford:

*John Wassall* = John Wassell

Birmingham Mail 5/11/1883

“At Oldbury Police Court today, before Messrs. E. B. Phillips and G. C. Adkins, magistrates, John Francis Spencer (35), described as a grocer’s assistant, of Pemberton Place, Balsall Heath, was charged with obtaining 6d from *Betsy Wassall*, of the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, by false pretences, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April last. Mr. A. J. O’Connor, of Birmingham, defended.

Prosecutrix said about 4 o’clock in the day in question prisoner called at her father’s house, and represented that he was selling tickets for a ballot that had been got up for the benefit of a family who were in great distress in consequence of the father being out of employment. He stated that the father of the family had been ill for a long time, and there were five children. Believing his story she purchased a ticket from the prisoner, for which she paid him 6d. Prisoner told witness that if he sold all the tickets the ballot would take place on April 18, and the winning numbers would be published in the *Daily Mail* on the same day. Cross-examined: She did not look in the *Mail* as she did not think it worth while from what she heard subsequently. After purchasing the ticket she did not see prisoner again until she saw him at Oldbury Police Station on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, when she identified him as the man who sold her the ticket.

Police-constable Williams stated that from information he received that a number of ballot tickets had been sold in the neighbourhood of Oldbury, he looked in the *Mail* every night until the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, but as no notice of the ballot appeared, he came to the conclusion that it was a swindle, and enquiries were made respecting prisoner. On the 27<sup>th</sup> ult he apprehended prisoner as he was leaving Winson Green Gaol. When witness charged him with the offence, prisoner replied, ‘It is the same old thing, those ballot papers.

Prisoner was further charged with obtaining 6d by means of false pretences from Edward Waterhouse, tobacconist, of Birmingham Street, Oldbury, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. In this case prisoner represented that his own family were in distress, and that for the purpose of raising money to relieve them he was selling tickets for a ballot of a sewing machine. Believing his story, Waterhouse bought a ticket and kept it for some time, but as no announcement of the winning numbers appeared, he handed the ticket (produced) over to the police.

Mr. O’Connor submitted that the offence had not been proved.

The Bench did not consider the evidence sufficient to warrant them in sending the case for trial at the Sessions, and accordingly discharged the prisoner.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1888

“Last evening an inquest was held at the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, before Mr. E. Docker,

respecting the death of Elijah Davis (24), of Oldbury Road, West Smethwick, whose body was found on the Great Western Railway at Langley, on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> inst.

Richard Davis, brother of the deceased, of Station Road, Black Heath, surveyor, said the deceased was an upholsterer's salesman, but was out of employment. He came over to witness's house on Monday night to take witness back to his father's to spend Christmas. About ten minutes past eleven o'clock they started from Black Heath to walk to Smethwick. They walked along the railway from the Rowley Colliery Wharf to the Langley signal-box. When they arrived at the latter place they heard a train coming from the direction of Rowley, and they both started to run up the line, in the hope of catching the Birmingham train when it stopped at Langley Station. Deceased went forward to get the tickets, and witness followed him. Witness, on nearing the station, saw that another train was just leaving on the down line, and he jumped on to the old station platform while both trains passed him, and then he ran on to the station. Upon reaching the platform he asked the guard to delay the train a little, stating that his brother had gone to obtain tickets, but as he did not arrive the train proceeded on its journey. He thought deceased had ample time to reach the platform before the up train arrived. He did not make any enquiry at Smethwick Junction Station, as he supposed that deceased had missed the train, or that he had met some friends. On Christmas morning a younger brother visited Langley, and ascertained that the deceased had been killed on the previous night.

In reply to Inspector Ledbrooke, witness admitted that he and his brother were trespassing on the line. Charles Beck, of Sparkbrook, goods guard, stated that he found the body of deceased on the up line at 2.55am on Tuesday.

Joseph Field, signalman at the Langley level-crossing, said about 11.38 on Monday night he saw two men running over the crossing towards the station, and he cautioned them as they passed the box, because two trains were in together.

George Brinkworth, engine-driver of the train, said he did not notice the engine pass over anything at Langley Station, and did not find any unusual marks upon the engine.

Dr. Lyddon said he saw the body about three o'clock on Christmas morning. The skull was fractured, and other severe injuries had been sustained. He was of opinion that deceased was knocked down by the engine, and that afterwards the train passed over him.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/7/1889

"Last night Mr. E. Docker (Coroner) held an inquest at the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, relative to the death of William Butler (7), whose parents reside on the canal side, West Bromwich Street. The evidence showed that the lad was sent with a wheelbarrow along the canal side on Saturday night, and he was seen to be wheeling it very near to the side, and was cautioned about it. His mother thought he was a long time away and went in search of him, and she saw the barrow floating in the canal. A search was made, and the body recovered.

The jury returned an Open Verdict."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/8/1889 - Advert

"Piano Player Wanted.

HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/9/1889

"Yesterday, at the Police Court, John [sic] *Chambers*, of the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, applied for an occasional license to sell intoxicating drinks in the refreshment bar on the Oldbury Town Football Ground.

Mr. Wilson, the presiding magistrate, said the justices in granting those licenses desired to be assured that there was a bona fide requirement on the part of the public, or whether it was simply done by the football committee to obtain money for their right of selling.

Mr. Isaac Bassford said the committee wished the license granted to Mr. *Chambers*, and in answer to questions put by the Bench and the magistrates' clerk, he explained that Mr. *Chambers* paid a rent of £7 10s per year, and that if any other person applied for a license he would have no right on the football ground without the consent of the committee.

The application was granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/10/1889

“At West Bromwich County Court, yesterday – before his Honour Judge Griffith – an interesting interpleader case was heard. *Thomas Inkerman Chambers*, of the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, claimed certain goods seized by the High Bailiff of the Court under a warrant of execution issued by the Worcestershire Furnishing Company, in an action against George Glazebrook, of Oldbury, and £5 was claimed as damages sustained by the claimant in consequence of the seizure and sale of goods which were levied upon in September last, and realised £9 18s 6d. Mr. J. Sharpe appeared for the claimant, and Mr. J. Clark represented the execution creditors.

Mr. Sharpe said the claimant was an innkeeper at Oldbury, and the debtor in the action out of which the proceedings arose was George Glazebrook, also of Oldbury. In March of this year Glazebrook was in difficulties, and his landlord distrained for rent. Glazebrook then saw the claimant and requested him to help him. Mr. *Chambers* told Glazebrook that he could not lend him money without security. Claimant then agreed to purchase the goods belonging to Glazebrook, and *Chambers* paid him £24 19s for them. He at once took possession of them, and going to the landlord claimant intimated that he would take the house himself, at the same time telling the landlord that the goods belonged to him, and that he was going to hire them to Glazebrook at so much per week. That arrangement continued for about three weeks. Subsequently the goods were removed by claimant from Rounds Green to another house in West Street, Oldbury, and Mr. *Chambers* would produce the rentbook, showing that he was the tenant of the house where the execution had recently been levied, that the house was let furnished to Glazebrook for 6s per week.

The Judge said it appeared to him to be an ingenious attempt to evade the Act of Parliament, and he thought it had been successfully carried out.

The claimant said the distress levied upon Glazebrook’s goods was for nearly £8, and he wanted the money to put into his business, being in difficulties there also.

Mr. Clark submitted that the inventory put in by the claimant constituted a bill of sale, and that without the registration of the bill of sale the claimant could not make out a good claim to those goods. He further argued that at the time when the goods were sold by Glazebrook to *Chambers* they were under hire from the execution creditors, and therefore, inasmuch as the whole of the instalments under that hiring agreement were not paid, Glazebrook had no right to sell.

The Judge said he was satisfied there had been an evasion of the law, but he was afraid the law had left crevices through which those people had crept. He gave a verdict for the claimant for £9 18s 6d, but granted Mr. Clark leave to appeal.”

Birmingham Mail 28/1/1891

“At West Bromwich County Court today, before Judge Griffiths and a jury, William Jones, commercial traveller, of Oaken Gates, near Wellington, brought an action to recover £30 from Thomas James Wall, landlord of the OLIVER CROMWELL INN, Swan Village, damages, alleged to have been sustained by the plaintiff, in consequence of being assaulted by the defendant in September last. Mr. J. Clark appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended.

Mr. Clark explained that the plaintiff was a cornet player in St. George’s Band at Wellington, and on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, he attended a brass band contest at Oldbury, in which his band took part. After the contest he and his friends visited the HARMONIC INN, at Oldbury, and whilst there the defendant was introduced to them, and a discussion ensued as to the merits of the rival bands, and defendant appeared to be anxious that there should be another band contest between the Willenhall Band and St. George’s Band. At night they left Oldbury for the purpose of proceeding to West Bromwich Railway Station. The defendant accompanied the members of St. George’s Band. When they reached a part of the road near Fountain Lane, the defendant suggested that the nearest way to the station would be to take the road towards Swan Village Station. He persuaded the members of the party to go in that direction, and the plaintiff, anxious to keep with the company, went with them. Defendant on the way urged the plaintiff and his friends to go to his house, and offered to provide refreshments. As plaintiff and his friends refused to go with him, defendant began to quarrel with the plaintiff, and ultimately struck the latter a violent blow on the nose and knocked him down, and before the plaintiff could get up again the defendant struck him another blow on the mouth,

knocking him over a fence, and also knocking two natural and two artificial teeth out. The assault was a very serious matter to plaintiff. He was a cornet player in the band named, and also band sergeant in the Wellington Rifle Corps, and a cornet could only be played well by a person whose jaws were firm. As the result of the assault, plaintiff was unable to take any solid food for three weeks, and he was also unable to follow his occupation as a traveller, and he had also lost a number of engagements through being unable to play his instrument, and it would be twelve months at least before he would be able to play a cornet successfully, and there was a probability that he would not be able to do so again.

Several witnesses were called in support of these statements.

The defendant was put in the box, and stated that on the way to the railway station plaintiff accused him of causing the party to miss the train, and after using abusive language towards him struck him, when a fight ensued. They fought until Jones said he had had enough, he (defendant) also being injured during the fight, and having to consult Dr. Sansome.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for £15 and costs.”

### 1891 Census

72, Church Street – HARMONIC INN

[1] *William Green* (41), public house manager, born Warwick;

[2] Elizabeth Green (41), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] Arthur R. Green (19), son, barman, born Birmingham;

[4] Wilfred Green (1), son, born Oldbury:

*William Green* – check FOUR WAYS, Portway Road, Rowley Regis.

### Birmingham Daily Post 11/1/1892

“Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest, on Saturday, at the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, upon the body of a newly-born male child of Eliza James (33), single woman, of Stone Street, who was found dead in a bedroom at her mother’s residence on Wednesday last.

Mrs. James stated that the body of the child was found under a bed.

Police-constable Bayliss said the mother told him that she did not know whether it was born alive or not, but immediately after it was born she covered it up with linen and pushed it under the bed. She gave him the name of the father of the child.

In reply to a question put to her by Sergeant Hill, the mother said she did not want the baby in bed with her. It had got no father, as he was dead. She did not want the baby.

Police-sergeant Hill corroborated.

Dr. Buttery said the child was fully developed. He had made a post mortem examination of the body. He applied the usual test to ascertain whether respiration had taken place, and this showed that the child had breathed during the birth, but the breathing had suddenly been stopped. The various organs were in a healthy state. In reply to the Coroner, witness said he could not positively swear that the child had had a separate existence. He was of opinion that if the child had received proper attention during the birth it would have lived.

The Coroner commented upon the conduct of the mother of the child, who did absolutely nothing to get assistance or prepare for the birth of the child.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the child came by its death through want of proper attention at its birth, and added that the mother was deserving of strong censure for her heartless conduct.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1892

“Last evening Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest, at the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, touching the death of Ellen Markham (60), wife of George Markham, residing on the canal side, Oldbury, who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near Halesowen Street, on Monday last.

George Markham, husband of the deceased, stated that she was seized with a fit a few months ago, and fell downstairs. Lately she had complained of feeling strange. He left deceased on Sunday at dinner time, and she was then at home. Upon returning at nine o’clock the same night he found she had left the house, but supposing that she was in a neighbour’s house he went to bed. He admitted that he locked the door, but

said that about an hour afterwards he came downstairs, and unlocked it. She had never stayed out all night before, and he went to bed because he wanted a good night's rest.

A Juror asked witness whether it was true that his wife came to the door and asked to be admitted, to which he replied in the negative. He admitted that whilst in bed he heard the door knocked, and said he went down immediately to open it. He denied telling his wife she should not come into the house that night. He did not slam the door in her face. He was not aware that deceased returned in about half an hour afterwards and knocked at the door. He did not refuse to admit her, neither did he threaten her.

A Juror: Did deceased when she went away say, 'You will be sorry for this.'?

Witness: I did not see her, and had no conversation with her. He admitted that he was drinking from six o'clock until nine o'clock on Sunday night in a public house.

A Juror: You appear to have locked the door to keep your wife out.

Witness: No, I locked it to keep other people out.

In reply to further questions, witness stated that he had never locked his wife out before, and he and deceased were not in the habit of quarrelling. Deceased's slippers were found outside the door.

A Juror said witness could not be on very good terms with his wife if he locked her out.

Witness then admitted that he and deceased had a few words.

Mrs. Wilcox said that she and her sister took deceased to the door of her residence on Sunday night and left her there. The door was locked, but deceased's husband came downstairs and opened it. Deceased, however, said that George (her husband) did not want her.

Eleanor Bell, daughter of the deceased, said her mother and father had lived happily together, but her mother had accused her (witness) of taking more notice of her father than she did of deceased.

Mrs. Horton, a neighbour, said deceased and her husband lived happily together.

Police-constable Pegg deposed to finding the body in the canal on Monday morning, and Dr. Buttery stated that death was caused by drowning.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased was Found Drowned, and added that they considered the husband deserved to be censured for his heartless conduct.

The husband was recalled and reprimanded by the Coroner.

In reply, he said he was very sorry he locked deceased out."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1892

"Last evening Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, concerning the death of Mary Ann Harvey, aged ten weeks, daughter of Thomas Harvey, West Bromwich Street, who was found dead in bed on Sunday morning last.

The father of deceased informed Sergeant Hill of the death of the child about half-past four o'clock on Sunday morning, and when the officer expressed the opinion that the child had been suffocated through being overlain, the father said to his wife, 'We shall get into a fine bother over this; it is all through the drink.' The wife then admitted having had some beer, which made her sleep soundly.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Suffocation, and, at their request, the Coroner censured the father and mother or their conduct."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/10/1893

"Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held at the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury – before Mr. E. Docker (coroner) – concerning the death of James Morgan Gill (45), traveller in the employ of a Birmingham firm, formerly residing in Brades Road, Oldbury, who was found dead on the Great Western Railway near Rood End, on Saturday morning last.

Mrs. Gill, widow of the deceased, stated that he left home on Thursday morning last, saying he was going to West Bromwich on business. He did not return home at night, as she expected he would, and on Saturday she heard about his death. In her opinion, he was not likely to commit suicide, and there was no reason why he should do so.

Alice Stickley, of Spring Street, Langley, said deceased came to their house at 1.5 on Friday morning, and called them up. He stated that he had missed a train, and, having walked from Old Hill, was very tired and wanted a rest. He left their house again at 3.25pm the same day, promising to return at night, though he did not do so. Witness did not know that there was any reason why deceased did not return home. On the

Wednesday night previous deceased and his wife were at their house together, and he then appeared to be comfortable. For that reason she thought it very strange that he did not go home.

Harry Tomlinson deposed to finding the body a few yards from a crossing leading from Oldbury to Rood End; and Police-constable Sherwood said there was nothing in deceased's pockets to throw any light on the affair.

Inspector Ledbrook, who represented the company, said the engines that passed that way during Friday night had been searched, without success, for trace of the accident.

The Foreman of the jury suggested that the company should erect a bridge over the crossing.

The Inspector said he did not think it was necessary, as the evidence went to show that deceased was not killed at the level crossing. That was the first fatal accident at that place since the line was opened twenty years ago, and only one person had been injured there.

Dr. Sharpe stated that probably death had taken place four or five hours before the body was found.

The jury returned an open verdict, recommending that the company should be requested to erect a bridge over the crossing, as the traffic in that locality was growing rapidly."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 25/10/1893

"At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday afternoon, Mr. A. Caddick made an application, on behalf of *Charles Woodbridge*, for the transfer of the license of the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, from Messrs. Mitchell and Co. to himself. He pointed out that Mr. *Woodbridge* was in possession of the premises, and had taken them on a quarterly tenancy.

The Magistrates' Clerk raised an objection against a quarterly tenancy.

Mr. Caddick said he was surprised that such an objection had been raised, because he had always considered that the magistrates preferred short leases, as it gave the landlords more power to get rid of publicans in cases of conviction.

The applicant was called, and stated that the rent of the house was £6 per month, and he received all the profits.

Mr. Albright said the last time the application was made the applicant stated that the agreement was for twelve months, but when it was produced it was found only to be three months. That aroused a doubt in the minds of the Bench, but on this occasion the license would be transferred."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1893

"Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the HARMONIC INN, Oldbury, respecting the death of Edward Bastable (37), slater, of Rood End Road, whose body was found in a feeder of the Birmingham Canal on Sunday morning.

Margaret Bastable, the widow, identified the body.

Police-constable Lane said a man named Wilkinson informed him that a man's body had been discovered in the feeder at Tat Bank. Deceased was lying on his side in about three-and-a-half inches of water, and was hemmed in by ice. A portion of the face was in the water, but the mouth was not covered. Deceased was bleeding from his right ear, but this wound witness supposed was caused by falling upon a stone which lay under his head. Witness found 5s 5½d in deceased's possession, but deceased's master informed him that he paid deceased 7s 9d for his work. There were no marks of violence upon the body or any circumstances to lead to the supposition that deceased had met with foul play. Along the feeder was the nearest way to deceased's home.

Dr. Buttery, who had examined the body, said he thought the deceased fell down the embankment of the feeder and caught his head against a stone, thereby rendering him unconscious, and that he lay there, death resulting from exposure to the cold.

There being no evidence to show how deceased met his death, the jury returned a verdict of Found Dead."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/12/1894

"Sandwell Park Colliery Explosion Fund.

At a meeting of West Bromwich Town Council, yesterday, the Mayor (Alderman R. Farley) said he wished to make a statement with regard to the fund which had been raised for the widows and orphans of the miners who lost their lives through the explosion which occurred at Sandwell Park Colliery, on October 27, and to

intimate how he proposed to deal with the money which had been placed in his hands for that purpose. The Town Clerk then read the following list of subscriptions.....  
Concert at HARMONIC INN, Oldbury, £1 5s.”

*Charles Frederick Woodbridge* was fined £2 and £2 18s 6d costs, on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1899, for permitting drunkenness.

He was fined 20s and 49s 6d costs, on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1903, for the same offence.

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 14/4/1900

“Honourable Order of Modern Masons. On Saturday evening the members and friends of the Pride of Oldbury lodge, 155, sat down to a very substantial dinner at the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury, very ably set forth by their worthy host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Maybury*. The special feature of the evening was to present a life sized crayon portrait, beautifully framed, to Bro. S. Sherwood on his resigning his position of secretary after nearly ten years service for the above lodge.....”

#### 1901 Census

72, Bromford Road

[1] *Thomas J. Saundercock* (39), public house manager, born Stretton, Cornwall;

[2] *Alice M. Saundercock* (44), wife, born Stretton, Cornwall;

[3] *Alice M. Saundercock* (16), daughter, born London;

[4] *Constance J. Saundercock* (15), daughter, born Long Parish, Dorset;

[5] *Thomas J. Saundercock* (12), son, born Bournemouth;

[6] *Florence K. Saundercock* (9), daughter, born Bournemouth;

[7] *Arthur G. Saundercock* (4), son, born Bournemouth:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 7/9/1901

“On Tuesday evening, an excellent array of talent was put forward by the proprietor of the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, when a large company assembled to listen to the entertainment. Several gentlemen from Birmingham contributed excellent songs &c. The evening was pleasantly spent, all thoroughly enjoying themselves.”

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

#### Birmingham Mail 2/2/1904

“The annual Licensing Session for the Oldbury Division was held today.....

Superintendent Sheriff submitted his report for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, which showed that the population of the division was 25,191, and there were 150 persons licensed for the sale of intoxicants, viz, 83 licensed victuallers, 35 beerhouse keepers, 19 off beerhouse keepers, 12 for the sale of wines, spirits, and beer to be consumed off the premises, and one for the sale of wines to be consumed on the premises. These figures gave one house for the sale of intoxicants to about every 167 of the inhabitants.....

He had served notices of objection to the renewal of their licenses upon *Charles F. Woodbridge*, of the HARMONIC INN, Church Street, and *Joseph Goode*, of the GOLDEN LION INN, Hales Owen Street. In the former case the grounds of objection were previous convictions, and that there was no necessity for the license, the requirements of the district being otherwise amply provided for; whilst in the latter case the objection was on the ground that the house was of a disorderly character.

Mr. Millward appeared for *Charles Woodbridge*, and Mr. Barradale, of Dudley, represented *Joseph Goode*. Superintendent Sheriff, having stated the grounds of his objection, and also informed the Court that the houses had since been conducted satisfactorily, both licenses were renewed, Mr. Heaton cautioning each applicant as to the future conduct of his house.....

The justices held the opinion that there were more licensed houses in Oldbury than were sufficient for the reasonable requirements of the inhabitants, and this was borne out by the enquiries made by a committee of county magistrates; and also that some of them were not structurally adapted for carrying on a licensed trade, and were, in fact, unfit for the purposes for which they were being used. No one who knew the policy

of the Oldbury Bench could accuse them of being at all remiss in endeavouring to diminish the number of licenses. It was a matter of regret for them to find that with all the aids to temperance, by which the people were surrounded, the number of cases of drunkenness did not diminish. It was also regrettable that there should be still license holders who would permit persons to have drink in such a quantity as to make them not only enemies to themselves, but a nuisance to the community.”

#### 1911 Census

72, Church Street

- [1] *Thomas Tew* (34), publican's manager, born Moxeter, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Mary Jane Tew* (29), wife, married 9 years, assisting in business, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Nellie Tew* (8), daughter, school, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *William Henry Tew* (5), son, school, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Harriet Turley* (23), sister-in-law, single, barmaid, born West Bromwich:

*Thomas Tew* – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR, Smethwick.

*Fred Darby* was an athlete with Oldbury Harriers. He was crippled in 1916 whilst serving with the Worcestershire Regiment.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/4/1930

“*Gazette* Insurance. Payment of Benefits for Minor Accidents.

Accidents of various kinds figure in the following list of payments made under the *Gazette* plan of free insurance.....

Mrs. G. *Whitmore*, HARMONIC INN, Church Street, Oldbury. Accident to reader's husband.  
Newsagent: Mr. Kershaw, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

#### 1939 Register

92, Church Street (5 of 8)

- [1] *John Brown*, date of birth 16/7/1883, licensee, manager, married;
- [2] *Maria M. (May M.) Brown*, dob 20/8/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Marie Goodall*, dob 1/1/1861, unpaid domestic duties, widowed;
- [5] *Elizabeth Goodall*, dob 17/7/1899, bar general, single;
- [7] *Pamela J. Brown*, dob 25/9/1923, book keeper, single;

*William Albert Peach* – see also OLD TALBOT, Smethwick.

*Patrick Thomas Neary* was married to Kath.

See also WAGGON AND HORSES, and CROWN, Smethwick.

Closed

### **HARRIS'S WINE AND BAGATELLE ROOMS**

Halesowen Street, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

#### LICENSEES



## NOTES

Tokens were issued from here.

## HEARTS OF OAK

35, (33), Bromford Road, (Bromford Lane), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Thomas Done

Matilda Kate Horton

Thomas Ernest Henry Horton

J. W. J. Kingstone Ltd. [c.1920]

Frank Albert Warren [c.1929] (later at 162, Bromford Lane, West Bromwich) (later at South View, Nailsworth Hill, Monhampton, Gloucestershire)

Darby's Brewery Ltd. [c.1944]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

## LICENSEES

Thomas Done [1863] – [1872]

Thomas Rawlins [1881] – **1884**);

Thomas Horton (**1884 – 1896**);

Matilda Kate Horton (**1896 – 1909**);

Thomas Ernest Henry Horton (**1909 – 1912**);

Frederick Albert 'Fred' Warren (**1912 – 1930**);

David Henry Brooks (**1930 – 1932**);

Samuel Charles Kendrick (**1932 – 1936**);

Frederick Samuel Owen (**1936 – 1939**);

Joseph Brinton (**1939 – 1959**);

Florence May Brinton (**1959 – [1962]**)

## NOTES

It was situated opposite to Cuxson Gerrard.

It had a beer and wine license.

### Birmingham Daily Post 10/4/1863

“At the Oldbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before Mr. J. T. Chance and Mr. W. H. Dawes, *Thomas Done*, who keeps a beershop near to the railway station, was charged with having kept his house open during prohibited hours. Police-constable Hutchings deposed that a few nights ago he visited defendant's house at half-past eleven o'clock, and that he then found a number of men in drinking. Fined 2s 6d and costs.”

*Thomas Done*, beer retailer, Bromford Road. [1864], [1865], [1870], [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1871 - Advert

“To Contactors, Hauliers, and Others.

Important Sale, at the HEARTS OF OAK INN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury, near Birmingham.

Mr. R. J. Cooper is instructed by Mr. *Thomas Done*, who has no further use for the same, to Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March.

The whole of the valuable Stock of Carts, with Steel Hoops on Wheels; Wagons, Spring Traps, Dog Trap, Vertical Steam Engine, 3½ horse power; Cooking Range, with Oven and Boilers, complete; Ale Coolers, large Mash Tub, and other important Effects.

Sale at Eleven o'clock punctually.

Auctioneer's Offices, Perrott Street, Oldbury.”

1871 Census

33, Bromford Road – HEART OF OAK

- [1] *Thomas Done* (45), publican and wheelwright, born Belbroughton;
- [2] *Charlotte Done* (45), wife, born Elmley, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Matilda K. Done* (18), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Thomas H. Done* (12), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Joseph Upton* (16), wheelwright's apprentice, birthplace not known;
- [6] *Harvey Badland* (26), servant, labourer, birthplace not known;
- [7] *Thomas James* (40), boarder, labourer, birthplace not known:

Birmingham Daily Post 15/4/1871 - Advert

“To be Disposed Of, immediately, a number of Strong Carts, Traps, &c, nearly new.

Apply, *Thomas Done*, Oldbury.”

AND

“To be Sold, cheap, a 5-horse High-pressure Vertical Steam Engine, nearly new.

Apply, *Thomas Done*, Oldbury.”

*Matilda Kate Done* married *Thomas Horton* in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1878.

1881 Census

33, Bromford Road – HEARTS OF OAK

- [1] *Thomas Rawlins* (41), licensed victualler, born Meriden, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Phillis Rawlins* (35), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] *Thomas T. Jones* (30), boarder, coach body maker, born Swansea;
- [4] *Laban Barlow* (32), boarder, brass finisher, born Birmingham:

*Thomas Rawlins*, wine and beer retailer, 33, Bromford Road. [1884]

See also WHITE HORSE, Newbury Lane.

Smethwick Telephone 5/9/1885

“George Delahay, Bromford Road, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of the HEARTS OF OAK INN, Oldbury.

PS Stanton deposed to having visited the house on the day named and found the defendant there drunk, leaning against the counter. He enquired how he came in that condition, but he made no reply.

The landlord of the house stated that the defendant had not been supplied with anything to drink.

After hearing Mr. Shakespeare for the defence, the bench considered that the evidence would not support a conviction, and dismissed the case with a caution to the defendant.”

1891 Census

33, Bromford Road – HEARTS OF OAK

- [1] *Thomas Horton* (41), publican, born New Town, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Matilda K. Horton* (38), wife, born Oldbury;

- [3] *Thomas E. H. Horton* (11), son, born Oldbury;  
[4] *Amos E. E. Horton* (7), son, born Oldbury;  
[5] *Mary Jones* (17), general servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 4/12/1895

“*Thomas Hobbs* (42), Broadwell Road, moulder, was fined 10s 6d, including costs, for being drunk and refusing to quit the HEARTS OF OAK INN, Bromford Lane.”

1901 Census

33, Bromford Road – HEARTS OF OAK INN

- [1] *Matilda K. Horton* (48), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;  
[2] *Thomas Done* (74), father, widower, born Belbroughton;  
[3] *Thomas Horton* (20), son, barman, born Oldbury;  
[4] *Amos Horton* (17), son, coffin maker, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/4/1907

“In asking the Oldbury magistrates yesterday to sanction an extension to the HEARTS OF OAK INN, Bromford Road, Mr. J. S. Sharpe said the house was erected by the father of the present licensee, Mrs. *Kate Matilda Horton*, nearly sixty years ago. It was a free house with an unbroken record, and had never changed hands. He pointed out that the proposal was to take in a small house adjoining the premises for domestic convenience, and the drinking area would not be increased.

Mr. A. M. Chance, chairman of the Bench, did not accept this statement, but it was finally decided to grant the application, the magistrates endorsing the licence to show that the new premises should not form part of the drinking area.”

*Matilda Kate Horton* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1908.

*Thomas Ernest Henry Horton* was in possession at the time of the Licensing Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1909.

1911 Census

33, Bromford Road – HEARTS OF OAK INN

- [1] *Thomas Horton* (30), publican and brewer, born Oldbury;  
[2] *Amos Horton* (27), brother, publican and brewer, born Oldbury;  
[3] *Mary Oaks* (51), servant, born Oldbury:

*Thomas Horton*, beer retailer, 33, Bromford Road. [1912]

Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1918

“At West Bromwich County Court, yesterday, *John Edward Adie*, gun dealer, of Snarestone, was awarded £10 against *Fred A. Warren*, HEARTS OF OAK INN, Bromford Road, Oldbury, for damages to a gun caused by neglect and insufficient packing.

For the defence it was stated that the defendant took the gun to an experienced packer at a works, who fastened the parts together with string and put packing between them. The packer, however, admitted that that was the first time he had packed a gun, and that he did not understand much about them.

Judge Smith held that there was negligence in having the gun packed by a person who knew nothing about it.”

Smethwick Telephone 21/1/1928 - Advert

“Re *J. W. J. Kingstone, Ltd*, Smethwick.

Important Sale by Auction of 20 Licensed Houses in the County Boroughs of Smethwick and West Bromwich, and at Warley and Oldbury, all within a radius of six miles of the centre of the City of Birmingham, and comprising in separate lots.

8 Valuable Fully Licensed Houses.

7 'On' Beerhouses, and 5 'Off' Licenses.

Together with the Seven Quarter Brewery, Offices and Premises, known as the Summit Brewery, and various Freehold Shop and Dwelling House Properties adjoining the several Licensed Houses.

By Messrs. Jones Son & Vernon, FAI, at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1928, at 4pm precisely (unless sold previously by private contract).....

Lot 1. The HEARTS OF OAK INN. Freehold, Beer and Wine On, Bromford Road, Oldbury.

Lot 2. The Three Freehold Houses and Premises, Nos.29, 31 and 1 back, adjoining Lot 1, and forming the corner of Bromford Road and Century Road, Oldbury. Weekly Rents producing £48 2s per annum.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 1/3/1928

“Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon, of West Bromwich, held a successful property sale at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham. The lots included many licensed properties in West Bromwich, Oldbury, and Smethwick, and so keen was the competition that all the lots were sold, the sale realising altogether well over £60,000.....

HEARTS OF OAK freehold inn, beer and wine on, Bromford Road, Oldbury, and three adjoining freehold houses forming the corner of Bromford Road and Century Road, Oldbury (weekly rents producing £48 2s per annum) sold for £3,500.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 28/12/1933

“Monthly Report. West Bromwich District Hospital.

The report for the month ending December 16<sup>th</sup> in connection with West Bromwich and District General Hospital gives the following statistics. In-patients admitted, 134; discharged, 130; remaining in house, 117; number of operations, 62; out-patients admitted to the several special departments, 211; to the casualty department, 781; number prescribed for in all departments, 3,454.

Donations.....

HEARTS OF OAK INN, Bromford Lane, 10s.”

*Frederick Samuel Owen* – see also LEOPARD, West Bromwich.

#### 1939 Register

35, Bromford Road

[1] *Joseph Brinton*, date of birth 11/11/1900, beerhouse keeper, manager, married;

[2] *Florence M. Brinton*, dob 13/9/1902, unpaid domestic duties, married:

*Joseph Brinton* died in 1959.

Closed

Demolished

### **HEN AND CHICKENS**

43, (50), Birmingham Street / Low Town, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Mrs. Clifton, Low Town, Oldbury

John Thorp

Mary Elizabeth Jones

#### LICENSEES

Joseph Pendrill [1869] – [1870]  
Walter W Bright [1870] – [1871]  
Richard Hutt [1871]  
William Powell [1875] – **1888**);  
John Thorp (**1888 – 1895**);  
Mary Elizabeth Thorp (**1895 – 1897**);  
Enoch Gibbs (**1897 – 1898**);  
Mary Elizabeth (Thorp) (Gibbs) Jones (**1898 – 1902**);  
William Shaw (**1902 – 1903**);  
William Saunders (**1903 – 1906**):

## NOTES

50, Birmingham Street [1881]  
43, Birmingham Street [1891], [1901]

It was known locally as “The Round House”.

It had a beer and wine license.

### Birmingham Journal 15/8/1863 - Advert

“By Private Contract. HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.  
By A. G. Atree. To be Disposed Of that capital Retail Public House ..... owing to the Proprietor removing to an old-licensed Inn. In-coming trifling.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1865 - Advert

“The OLD HEN AND CHICKENS INN, situate in the best thoroughfare and most commanding situation in the much improving town of Oldbury. In-coming about £130.  
Apply to A. Atree, Church Square.”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 10/6/1865 - Advert

“To Let, good old-established Public House, called HEN AND CHICKENS, Oldbury. Income £120.  
Apply on the Premises.”

*Joseph Pendrill* = Joseph Pendrell

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/9/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Hales Owen division was held yesterday at the Public Office.....  
There were 84 applications for certificates under the New Beer Act, which were all granted with the exception of *Joseph Pendrill*’s, HEN AND CHICKENS, Oldbury, which was refused altogether; and that of Charles Essex, the ROYAL OAK, Langley, which was adjourned for a fortnight.”

### County Advertiser 25/9/1869

“At the adjourned licensing meeting, Mr. Motteram, made an application, on behalf of *Joseph Pendrill*, beer-house keeper, of Birmingham Street, Oldbury, for the renewal of his license, of which he had been deprived on account of informalities in the usual notice. Mr. Motteram argued, at some length, that the Magistrates had power to grant the license, while, on the other hand, the Clerk held that they could not do so. Power of appeal to the Quarter Sessions was granted – the question to be raised being whether the Bench had, under the circumstances, power to amend the notice.”

### County Express 10/9/1870

“Applications for beerhouse certificates were made by.....  
*Joseph Pendrell*, HEN AND CHICKENS, Oldbury ..... Granted.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/3/1871

“David Lesson, Portway Road, was summoned for being drunk and refusing to quit the beerhouse of Mr. *Bright*, HEN AND CHICKENS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Last Thursday night the defendant was in Mr. *Bright's* beerhouse in a drunken condition, and was behaving disorderly. He refused to quit the house when ordered to do so. The same night, two or three hours after, he was found by the police creating a disturbance.

Defendant, who had been before the Magistrates about a dozen times before for similarly offending, was fined 5s and costs in each case, or in default 14 days' imprisonment.”

#### 1871 Census

Birmingham Street

- [1] *Richard Hutt* (37), victualler, born Oxfordshire;
- [2] *Eliza Hutt* (30), wife, born Worcestershire;
- [3] *William Hutt* (7), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *John Hutt* (6), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Ellen Hutt* (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Louisa Hutt* (1 month), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/6/1871 - Advert

“To Parties in Want of a good Public House.

To be Let, the OLD HEN AND CHICKENS, situate in Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Coming-in low. Apply on the Premises, or to Mr. *Hawkins*, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/7/1871 - Advert

“Oldbury. HEN AND CHICKENS INN, occupying an important corner position, with two large plate-glass Windows. Rent £24. With Wine Licenses attached. First-class trade is now being done, both in-door and out-door. In-coming low.

Apply upon Premises; or to *Walter W. Bright*, Wholesale and Retail Wine and Spirit Merchant, Brierley Hill.”

#### County Advertiser 20/11/1875 - Deaths

“On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, after a long illness, Sarah, the beloved wife of *William Powell*, of the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Oldbury; deeply regretted.”

#### County Advertiser 15/3/1879 - Advert

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Investors and Others.

Important and Valuable Properties and Land, situate in Birmingham Street, and Birmingham Road, Oldbury. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. J. Cooper, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1879, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

All that Valuable Piece of Freehold Building Land, situate in Birmingham Street, Oldbury, adjoining the OLD HEN AND CHICKENS INN, containing 823 square yards, or thereabouts.....”

#### 1881 Census

50, Birmingham Street

- [1] *William Powell* (51), widower, beerhouse keeper, born Shropshire;
- [2] *Hannah E. Powell* (29), daughter, born Shropshire:

#### Dudley and District News 17/9/1881

“George Harper, a native of Manchester, was brought up on remand at the Oldbury Petty Sessions, before Messrs. Adkins and Heaton (magistrates), charged with passing a counterfeit coin at Oldbury on September

2<sup>nd</sup>.

Prisoner was also charged with passing bad coins at the house of a beerhouse keeper named Lloyd, in Halesowen Street [ROLLERS ARMS], and at the HEN AND CHICKENS beerhouse kept by *William Powell*. A remand was granted for eight days in order that the Mint authorities might be communicated with."

Worcestershire Chronicle 22/10/1881

"Worcestershire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.....

George Harper (43), fitter, pleaded guilty to uttering a counterfeit shilling at Oldbury, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and was sentenced to six months' hard labour."

*William Powell*, beer retailer, 50, Birmingham Street. [1884], [1888]

Birmingham Daily Post 18/9/1890

"Oldbury. Licensed Victuallers' Association. Last evening the annual meeting of this association was held at the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Birmingham Street; Mr. W. Smith presiding....."

1891 Census

43, Birmingham Street

[1] *John Thorp* (46), publican, born Birmingham;

[2] *Mary Ann Thorp* (46), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Mary Elizabeth Thorp* (26), daughter, born Birmingham:

*Mary Elizabeth Thorp* married *Enoch Gibbs* in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1897.

*Enoch Gibbs* died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1898.

*Mary Elizabeth Gibbs* married John Daniel Jones in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1900.

Smethwick Weekly News 23/3/1901

"Sale of Important Freehold Public House Property, the HEN AND CHICKENS, Birmingham Street, at the Corner of Low Town, Oldbury.

Mr. J. W. Florance will Sell by Auction, by direction of Mrs. *Jones* (the owner) at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1901.....

The above important Freehold Property, most prominently situated in Birmingham Street, at the corner of Low Town, and in one of the most busy thoroughfares and populous neighbourhoods.

The premises comprise Bar, Tap Room, Smoke Room, Sitting Room, Store Room, Club Room, and other ample business and domestic conveniences, with good Cellarings, and having yard with entrance from Low Town, Stabling and Outbuildings.

The house has been in the occupation of the present owner and occupier, Mrs. *Jones* and her predecessors in the family for upwards of 30 years, and commands one of the most important corner positions in the district. Immediate possession may be had. The Trade Fixtures and Fittings, Stock and Effects, will have to be taken to at valuation in the usual way....."

1901 Census

43, Birmingham Street – HEN AND CHICKENS

[1] John D. Jones (26), general blacksmith, born Rotherham, Yorkshire;

[2] *Mary E. Jones* (36), wife, tavern keeper, born Birmingham;

[3] Harry J. Cox (36), brother-in-law, jeweller, born Birmingham;

[4] Emily Cox (33), sister-in-law, born Birmingham;

[5] Alfred J. Cox (7), nephew, born Birmingham;

[6] Elizabeth Cox (12), niece, born Birmingham:

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.

It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

Birmingham Mail 24/6/1905

“The adjourned meeting of the Worcester County Licensing Committee was held today at the Shirehall, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, for the consideration of licenses of houses in Oldbury which had been reported by the local justices as not being necessary for the requirements of the district.....

The HEN AND CHICKENS, Birmingham Street, was then taken, Mr. Matthews appearing for the licensee, Mr. Day, who said that the manager only made a profit on food supplied.....

After deliberating half an hour, the justices decided that all the houses brought before them were unnecessary, but not being certain how far compensation money would suffice to meet the claims to be paid, drew up an order of precedence in which houses are to be dealt with, houses not paid for keeping open provisionally till they are dealt with.”

Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

15. HEN AND CHICKENS, Birmingham Street.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/8/1905

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee having decided to refuse fifteen Oldbury licenses, as the amount of the compensation fund available allows, sat yesterday at the Shire Hall, Worcester, to decide who are the persons entitled to compensation.....

HEN AND CHICKENS, *William Saunders* (licensee), *Mary Elizabeth Jones* (owner), *John H. Day*, *Handsworth* (lessee), *Edith Hunt*, *West Smethwick* (first mortgagee), *Elijah Hollins*, *Oldbury* (second mortgagee).”

Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years' purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years' purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

HEN AND CHICKENS, £300.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to con-



sider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division.....

The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

HEN AND CHICKENS, Birmingham Street, £540.

The committee made awards as follows.....

HEN AND CHICKENS, Birmingham Street, £15 to *William Sanders*, licensee, and £175 to John Hamilton Day, lessee; £300 to Edith Hust, first mortgagee, £50 to Eliza Hollins, second mortgagee.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

#### Birmingham Mail 12/4/1906 - Advert

“Oldbury. To Let, those roomy premises, formerly used as the HEN AND CHICKENS, in Birmingham Street; to be altered to suit tenant.

Apply, Wright and Hollins, Solicitors, Oldbury.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 23/3/1918

“Important Sale by Auction of Freehold Residential and Dwelling House Properties, situate in Langley Green and Oldbury ..... on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1918.....

Lot 2. The Freehold De-Licensed Premises, formerly known as the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, situate at the corner of Birmingham Street and Low Town, Oldbury, in the occupation of Mr. J. Cottrell, at an annual rental of £20. Tenant paying rates and taxes, and doing inside repairs.

The premises comprise large double-fronted Retail Shop, small Parlour, or Office, large roomy Kitchen, Scullery, three Cellars, with rolling way to yard, and three good Bedrooms (one of which is exceptionally large, being the old club room, and capable of being converted into two good rooms. Outside, in paved yard, with side entrance to Low Town, is w.c., etc.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 13/4/1918

“There was a good attendance at a property sale conducted by Mr. Frank H. Jones, FAI (Jones, Son and Vernon), at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, last Tuesday.....

The freehold premises, formerly known as the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, fetched £415.”

### **HEN AND CHICKENS**

188, Causeway Green Road / Wolverhampton Road, Causeway Green, Langley, (Warley Wigorn), OLD-BURY

#### OWNERS

Mrs. Emma Cheshire (later of Vicarage Road, Oldbury)

Edwin Harrold

Henry Mitchell and Co. [1898]

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (acquired c.1914)

Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired in 1938)

Ansells Ltd. [1970]

Apollo Leisure

#### LICENSEES

Silas Whitehouse [1851] – [1862]  
Mrs. Jane Whitehouse [1871] – [1875]  
John Whitehouse [1880] – [1883]  
Mrs. Emma Cheshire [1884] – **1887**);  
Edwin Harrold (**1887 – 1894**);  
Emma Hamphlett Harrold (**1894**);  
Captain Rose (**1894 – 1896**);  
David Jones (**1896 – 1898**);  
Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. (**1898 – 1902**);  
Albert Slim [1901] (**1902 – 1913**);  
Thomas Willetts (**1913 – 1921**);  
Leonard Ward (**1921 – 1926**);  
Albert James Redding (**1926 – 1938**);  
William Alfred Marson (**1938 – 1948**);  
Arthur Aucott (**1948 – 1951**);  
Christopher Horton (**1951 – 1953**);  
Alan Claude George Squance (**1953 – 1954**);  
William Alfred Marson (**1954 – 1955**);  
Leslie Edward Reynolds (**1955 – 1957**);  
Frank Joseph Beecham (**1957 – 1958**);  
Charles Arthur Guise (**1958**);  
Gilbert Raymond Arthur Hawthorne (**1958 – 1960**);  
David Ronald Adams (**1960 – 1962**);  
Thomas Alfred Palmer (**1962 – [ ]**)  
Frank Brown [1970] manager  
Eddie McGrath [1977] manager  
M Fennings [1988]

## NOTES

### 1851 Census

Causeway Green

- [1] *Silas Whitehouse* (36), publican, sinker, born Bilston;
- [2] *Jane Whitehouse* (34), wife, born Warley Wigorn;
- [3] Eliza Whitehouse (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *John Whitehouse* (9), son, scholar, born Cakemore;
- [5] Emma Whitehouse (8), daughter, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [6] Susannah Whitehouse (7), daughter, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [7] Amplis Whitehouse (5), daughter, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [8] Silas Whitehouse (3), son, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [9] Mary Harris (16), house servant, born Warley Wigorn:

### Worcester Journal 13/12/1856

“*Silas Whitehouse*, beerhouse keeper, Langley Green, was fined 10s and costs, for keeping his house open for the sale of beer, &c, before half-past twelve o’clock in the afternoon of Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> ult.”

### 1861 Census

Causeway Green Road

- [1] *Silas Whitehouse* (49), coal miner and retail brewer, born Bilston;
- [2] *Jane Whitehouse* (47), wife, born Warley Wigorn;
- [3] *John Whitehouse* (20), son, labourer, born Oldbury;
- [4] Susan Whitehouse (18), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;

- [5] Amplias Whitehouse (15), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;
- [6] Silas Whitehouse (13), son, born Warley Wigorn;
- [7] Thomas Reynolds (18), nephew, coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [8] Henry Reynolds (13), nephew, coal miner, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1861

“Yesterday was the annual licensing day for the town and district of Dudley.....

The number of applications for new licenses was nine.....

*Silas Whitehouse*, Causeway Green, on the Birmingham Road, applied for a license, and being unopposed on any grounds the Bench decided upon granting the application.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1862

“At Oldbury Petty Sessions.....

*Silas Whitehouse*, landlord of the HEN AND CHICKENS, Langley, who had been previously convicted more than once, was fined 40s and costs for having his house open for the sale of beer on the morning of Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup> inst.

1871 Census

Causeway Green

- [1] *Jane Whitehouse* (50), widow, innkeeper, born Warley Wigorn;
- [2] Silas Whitehouse (23), son, brewer, born Warley Wigorn;
- [3] *John Whitehouse* (31), son, labourer in timber yard, born Halesowen;
- [4] Sarah Whitehouse (14), domestic servant, born Warley Wigorn:

London Gazette 5/10/1875

“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 *Jane Whitehouse*, of the HEN AND CHICKENS, Causeway Green, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, 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. Arthur Wright, in Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 18th day of October, 1875, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 2nd day of October, 1875.

Arthur Wright, Attorney for the said *Jane Whitehouse*.”

London Gazette 24/12/1875

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

In the Matter of a Special Resolution for Liquidation by Arrangement of the affairs of *Jane Whitehouse*, of the HEN AND CHICKENS, Causeway-green, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler.

The creditors of the above-named *Jane Whitehouse* who have not already proved their debts, are required, on or before the 29th day of December, 1875, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts or claims to me, the undersigned, William Lomas Harrison, of 37, Cannon-street, Birmingham, the Trustee under the liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.

Dated this 20th day of December, 1875.”

1881 Census

Causeway Green Road

- [1] *John Whitehouse* (40), licensed victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] Mary Whitehouse (24), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] Jane Whitehouse (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Maud Whitehouse (6 months), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Martha Hartshorne (17), barmaid, born Rowley:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1882

“Return of Bankruptcies, Bills of Sale, &c.....

A petition on behalf of *John Whitehouse*, of the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Causeway Green Road, Oldbury, licensed victualler, was filed at the Oldbury County Court yesterday. The liabilities are estimated at £600; and Mr. S. H. Forrest, of 21, Church Street, Oldbury, is the solicitor in the matter.”

London Gazette 13/1/1882

“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 *John Whitehouse*, of the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Causeway Green-road, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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. Samuel Henry Forrest, Solicitor, 21, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 28th day of January, 1882, at two o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 11th day of January, 1882.

Samuel Henry Forrest, 21, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Solicitor for the Debtor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/1/1882

“On Saturday a meeting of the creditors of *John Whitehouse*, of the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Causeway Green, near Oldbury, was held at the office of Mr. S. H. Forrest, Church Street, Oldbury. The statement of affairs showed liabilities £550, of which £290 was fully secured, and £40 partly secured. A composition of 1s in the pound, payable within one month, was accepted.”

Wednesbury Herald 2/9/1882

“*John Whitehouse*, of the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Causeway Green, was summoned for keeping his house open during illegal hours on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

The offence was admitted. Fined 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Mail 27/8/1883

“The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held this afternoon at the Police Court.....

Police Superintendent Hardman presented his report.....

Since the last meeting 12 licensed persons had been summoned and convicted for offences against their licenses ..... *John Whitehouse*.....

The Bench decided that all the applications for renewals made by those prisoners who had been convicted during the year should be postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, with the exception of two whose conviction took place on licensing day last year and who were then called up and cautioned. The persons whose renewals were refused would be required to attend and show reasons why their licenses should be renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/10/1883 - Advert

“Pianist Wanted, immediately; to live in.

Apply, *J. Whitehouse*, HEN AND CHICKENS, Causeway Green, near Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/4/1884 - Advert

“Lady Pianiste Wanted, for HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Causeway Green, near Langley.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 7/1/1888

“Worcestershire Quarter Sessions.....

Robbery of a Watch at Warley. Samuel Skeldon (16), labourer, pleaded guilty to stealing a silver watch, the property of *Edwin Harrold*, on the 27<sup>th</sup> December. He admitted having been convicted of felony on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April last, and of having been three other times convicted, and he was sentenced to 12 months' hard labour.”

## 1891 Census

Causeway Green Road

- [1] *Edwin Harrold* (28), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Emma Harrold* (24), wife, born West Smethwick;
- [3] Edwin Harrold (3), son, born Causeway Green;
- [4] Horace C. Harrold (3 months), son, born Causeway Green;
- [5] Emma Willetts (24), domestic servant, born Blackheath;
- [6] Susannah Walker (14), nurse, born West Bromwich:

## Birmingham Mail 22/7/1891 - Advert

“Dog Cart, suit cob 14 hands.

HEN AND CHICKENS, Causeway Green, Langley Station, near Oldbury.”

## Birmingham Daily Post 11/11/1893 - Died

“On the 8<sup>th</sup> inst, aged 30, at the HEN AND CHICKENS, Causeway Green, Oldbury, *Edwin Harrold*; loved by all who knew him well.”

## Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1895

“Yesterday, at Oldbury Police Court, George Hadley (42), and William Evans (33), both of Causeway Green, were charged with having stolen an eighteen-gallon barrel of beer, value £1 4s, belonging to *Captain Rose*, landlord of the HEN AND CHICKENS, Causeway Green, on the 14<sup>th</sup> instant.

The defendant Hadley was seen rolling the barrel of beer along the streets to his home. Evans was in company with him, and they both stated that they found it in the road.

Defendants were each fined 5s, including costs, or in default seven days' hard labour.”

*Captain Rose* was also a brewer. [1896]

## Smethwick Telephone 25/4/1896

“Mr. Samuel Jones (in place of Mr. W. H. Pass, who died on Monday) conducted a successful sale of properties at the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Causeway Green, on Tuesday night.....”

Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. were fined 40s and £3 6s 6d costs, on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1898, for supplying drink to a drunken person.

## Smethwick Telephone 27/8/1898

“The annual Oldbury Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday.

Superintendent Chare, in his report, stated that during the year eight licensed persons had been proceeded against and fined for offences under the licensing laws. 215 males and 20 females were proceeded against for drunkenness, of which 163 males and 10 females were either fined or imprisoned – a decrease of 17 males and four females as compared with the previous year.

He objected to the renewal of the license to the HEN AND CHICKENS, Causeway Green, on the ground that the manager had been fined for supplying drink to a drunken person, and that the original license had been destroyed by pulling down the premises, while the requirements of the district were amply provided for.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared on behalf of the Chief Constable to oppose the renewal of the license to Henry Mitchell and Co. of the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, and mentioned that at the previous Licensing Sessions, application was made by Messrs. Mitchell and Co. to make certain alterations to the premises. In May the work was commenced, and Superintendent Chare found that not only the alterations sanctioned were being carried out, but that practically the whole of the premises were being pulled down, and a new house erected. This was going beyond the plans, and the Superintendent, therefore, brought it before the Bench. Mr. Walker, who appeared on behalf of Messrs. Mitchell, pointed out that when the alterations were being made, they found that two of the walls were so badly built that they were in danger of falling down, and the

architect, Mr. Kendrick, asked for permission to rebuild them, but was told it could only be given on licensing day, and he, therefore, rebuilt on his own responsibility.

Mr. W. H. Kendrick and Mr. Dallow gave evidence showing that the walls were dangerous, and the magistrates renewed the license.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 4/12/1958

##### ‘Smethwick and Round About’ by W. Ellery Jephcott

“.....No one who knew the old HEN AND CHICKENS, with its ancient timbered frontage and its spacious barn where local dinners used to be held, would possibly recognise it in the modern hostelry.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1900

“A sad accident occurred in the neighbourhood of Great Barr late on Wednesday night. A party numbering about twenty-four persons from Oldbury and West Bromwich were conveyed in a break to Sutton Coldfield on Wednesday afternoon. Whilst returning a call was made at a public house by the roadside. During the temporary absence of the driver the horses suddenly bolted, some of the party being seated in the break to which they were attached. Three women jumped out of the vehicle, and one of them, Mrs. P. Plant, of the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Causeway Green, Oldbury, was subsequently found lying upon the road dead, her neck it is supposed having been broken by the fall. The other two women were seriously injured, and having been attended by medical men in the locality, were removed to the District Hospital. Their names are Agnes Brown (37), of Neale Street, Spon Lane, and Kate Waterhouse, also of Spon Lane. Brown was detained at the hospital, but the other woman was removed to her home. Mrs. Plant was between forty and fifty years of age.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/8/1900

“Last night Mr. H. A Pearson (district corner) held an inquest at the Old Horns Inn, Great Barr, respecting the death of Phoebe Plant (48), of the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, Causeway Green, Oldbury. On Wednesday deceased accompanied her son-in-law, Thomas William Potts, of the HIGHLAND LADDIE INN, Spon Lane, and others, in a brake drawn by three horses from West Bromwich to Sutton Park. On the return journey they called at a public house, where the driver, Harry Westwood, left his seat while his brother, Thomas Westwood, who acted as guard, gave the horses water. Thomas Westwood left them to take back the bucket, and during his absence the horses started off, apparently as the result of some passing cyclists shouting ‘Come on.’ There were about six other people then in the brake besides deceased. The Westwoods shouted to them to keep their seats, but several of the number jumped out. Deceased jumped from the back of the brake, and apparently dropped with her feet on the bottom step. She afterwards fell backwards, and her head struck the ground. Dr. Garman, of Great Barr, was called to her, but found that death had taken place. Isabella Evitt, of Neal Street, Spon Lane, said a boy ‘clicked’ at the horses, and they began to gallop. Thomas Westwood said if the people had kept their seats nothing would have happened. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and at their request the Coroner called the attention of the Westwoods to the danger of leaving horses with no one in charge of them.”

#### 1901 Census

188, Causeway Green Road – HEN AND CHICKENS INN

[1] *Albert Slim* (27), publican, born Causeway Green;

[2] *Emma Slim* (24), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Maria Bird* (19), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### 1911 Census

188, Causeway Green Road

[1] *Albert Slim* (37), licensed victualler, born Langley;

[2] *Emma Slim* (34), wife, married 10 years, assisting in business, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Gladys May Slim* (6), daughter, born Langley;

[4] *Thomas William Slim* (5), son, born Langley;

[5] *Sarah Ann Hadley* (21), domestic servant, born Langley:

*Albert Slim* – see also GOLDEN CROSS, West Bromwich.

A team from here played in the Langley and District Bowling League. [1915], [1916]

It had a bowling club. [1920s]

Liverpool Echo 13/2/1939 - Advert

“Bar General; live in; experience not essential; good home; comfortable job for smart girl willing to learn; part fare paid.

HEN AND CHICKENS, Causeway Green, Oldbury, Birmingham.”

1939 Register

Wolverhampton Road – HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL (2 of 5)

[1] *William A. Marson*, date of birth 4/4/1903, licensed hotel manager, married;

[2] *Alice V. Marson*, dob 18/12/1901, licensed hotel manageress, married;

Birmingham Mail 26/2/1940 - Advert

“Bar-Potman; comfortable job for trustworthy man.

HEN AND CHICKENS, Causeway Green.”

Evening Despatch 19/4/1943 - Notice

“War Charities Act, 1940.

Notice Is Hereby Given that it is proposed to apply to the Oldbury Borough Council for the registration under the above-mentioned Act of the HEN AND CHICKENS Services Fund, the objects of which are shortly as follows. To provide Comforts and Gifts for Customers and their Relations serving with H.M. Forces, and the administrative centre of which is situate at the HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL, Causeway Green, Langley, Oldbury.

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.

E. Woodhall, Hon. Sec. Dated 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1943.”

Birmingham Mail 24/8/1944 - Advert

“Barmaid live in or out comfortable job for reliable person.

HEN AND CHICKENS, Causeway Green, Langley.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/5/1950

“The first task of the new Mayoress of Oldbury, Mrs. G. Rose, was to open an exhibition of inn signs last night at the HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL, Langley. The history of England is shown by the signs, many of which date back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.”

*Arthur Aucott* – see also BRIDGE.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/11/1954

“A Tour of the Midlands by ‘The artist and the pub’ exhibition of oil paintings sponsored by Ind Coope and Allsopp was begun last night at the HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL, Langley.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/1/1956

“Mr. Joe Facellino, founder-president of the Birmingham and District Licensed Trade Golfing Society, presented the President’s Trophy to Mr. *L. Reynolds*, licensee of the HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL, Langley Green, at the annual dinner.”

Plans, for alterations to the outdoor department and servery to the gardens, were approved on 7<sup>th</sup> March

1956.

Birmingham Daily Post 2/1/1960

“In an effort to escape from custody, a man smashed a chair over the head of a policeman, Mr. Michael Higgs, prosecuting, said at Oldbury yesterday. Stanley Harris (40), of Whiteheath Road, Blackheath, was charged with assaulting two policemen, damaging a beer glass and the chair, and with being drunk and disorderly. For assaulting the policeman he was imprisoned for two months. For the other offences he was fined a total of £5, with £7 5s costs and damages. Mr. Higgs said Harris caused a disturbance at the HEN AND CHICKEN public house, Oldbury, and assaulted a police officer who was trying to arrest him.”

Plans for the construction of a ballroom were approved on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1961.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/5/1963

“The 22 youths from Oldbury College of Further Education who last month walked 50 miles to Stafford and back in less than 20 hours were last night presented with a certificate and plaque each in recognition of their achievement. The presentation was made by the principal of the college, Mr. W. Potter, at a dance at the HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL in Langley.”

It had a football team which played in the Sunday AM Coronation League. They were champions in 1964/5 and 1968/9.

Sports Argus 5/3/1966

“Lye wing-half Albert Robinson, in his sixth year with the club, will have a benefit dance at the HEN AND CHICKENS, Oldbury, on March 23.”

[Football.]

The Stage 12/5/1966

“Organ Notes by Mike Slater.....

Bernard Tansley is resident at the HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL and the Embassy Sportsdrome. It would appear that quite a little circuit has been built up around this area and organists involved are Ray Cutler, Phil Farrell, Glyn Woodhouse, Leslie Taff, John Bee, Clifford Baggott, Vernon Jones, Ernie Smart, Jeff Appleby, Len Tromans, Neville Hazlewood and John Jackson all of whom are on call for performances at the following locations ..... HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL, Langley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1968

“Oldbury Round Table meeting, speaker Mr. John England.  
HEN AND CHICKENS, Langley, 7.30pm.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/5/1968 - Advert

“HEN & CHICKENS, Langley. Tonight.  
Jimmy Cliff and Shakedown Sounds assisted by Winder K. Frogg your DJ.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/4/1969

“Warley’s carnival queen will be chosen at the HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL, Warley, on Friday, May 2. Mrs. Rosaland Steele, honorary secretary of the Mayor of Warley’s appeal fund and carnival procession committee, said that the age limit for competitors was 17 to 70. Until the later stages the judges will remain unknown to the contestants.”

Warley News Telephone 8/10/1970

“Discotheque sessions at the HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL, Langley are to be cancelled following an incident in which three men suffered knife wounds.

Warley detectives are investigating the incident in which more than 20 young men were reported to have been fighting as 300 dancers looked on.



Mr. *Frank Brown*, the hotel manager, said, 'I can stand a little bit of trouble but when it comes to a knifing I think it is about time the dances were finished. I think we will be organizing something like ballroom dances now, instead.'

#### Black Country Bugle 24/1/2008

".....Formed in 1974 the Garry Allcock's All Stars, originally for a monthly Sunday night concert at the fabled HEN AND CHICKENS on the Wolverhampton Road at Oldbury. The band's slot was a great success, and continued for 22 years ..... The band made their name performing tributes to the big band sounds of the inter-war years....."

#### Halesowen News 28/3/2008

"A well-known Oldbury-based band are devastated after musical equipment worth more than £17,000 was stolen from their trailer. Speakers, mixing desks, microphones and four white dinner jackets belonging to the Gary Allcock Allstars Big Band were among the items taken from a trailer parked outside the Albrighton home of musical director Paul Drakeley. Thieves removed a tow hitch lock and manouevered the trailer between two blocking vehicles overnight between 11pm on Tuesday March 18 and 7.30am the following day. A drum kit, lighting, sound equipment and various leads and connectors were also taken.

Formed in 1974, the 17-piece band first performed at the HEN AND CHICKENS public house and has gone on to play shows in Dubai and Monte Carlo.

Paul said, 'It is a bit of a nightmare at the moment. We are carrying on but it's very difficult. People in the industry have been good enough to loan us PAs and sound equipment. Everyone has rallied round to help.'

#### The Stage 11/11/1976

"So convinced is Ansells Limited, the Birmingham-based Midlands and Wales marketing company of Allied Breweries, that the live entertainment scene in British pub is very much on the up and up, they have invested more than £250,000 on four of their larger pubs to provide full-scale entertainment facilities.....

It is a measure of Ansells' keen regard for growing demand for pub entertainment that they have seconded an area manager to have special responsibility for the eight entertainment pubs already in operation ..... HEN AND CHICKENS, Warley."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/11/1977

"Some Midland public houses could be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day because managers feel it will not be worthwhile to open.

Mr. *Eddie McGrath*, Ansells secretary of the Association of Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Staffs, the clerical branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said last night that he was hoping to arrange a meeting with the brewery to discuss the position. Mr. *McGrath*, who manages the HEN AND CHICKENS, Oldbury, said that managers worked long hours at Christmas and New Year with extensions and parties, and that for certain public houses it was not worthwhile to open on Christmas Day, especially in the morning, or on New Years' Day. 'We are not asking that all the pubs should shut. We are just asking that individual managers should have the right to decide whether to open.'

If Ansells agreed to the request, Mr. *McGrath* expected about half of the 600 ACTSS-managed public houses in the Midlands to be closed on Christmas Day, with more shut on New Years' Day.

A spokesman for Ansells said last night, 'Efforts are being made to arrange a meeting to discuss Christmas and New Year openings.'

#### News Telephone 25/6/1981

"The annual, general meeting of the Inner Wheel Club of Oldbury, held at the HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL, Langley, started on a pleasant note welcoming a new member, Mrs. Margaret Giles, transferred from Surbiton, Surrey.

Reports were given by the club officers on their year's work before the president, Mrs. Joan Pearce, gave her valedictory address.

She said she had particularly enjoyed the national conference at Blackpool, also the three Charter Nights and 12 Fellowship meetings she had attended.

The social coffee mornings had promoted friendship, and she felt that in the last year there had been greater co-operation between Rotary and Inner Wheel.

Mrs. Pearce handed the chain of office to the new president, Mrs. Dorothy Cox.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/7/1986

“Rhythm and News ..... Rock Week Ahead ..... Friday.....

Red Lemon Electric Blues Band, HEN AND CHICKENS, Oldbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/10/1986

“.....All these boxers were promising schoolboys and tonight at the HEN AND CHICKENS, Wolverhampton Road, Warley, ABC will be staging a schoolboy show with many of the region’s top youngsters taking part.

The first bout is at 8pm and tickets (£2.50) are available at the door.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/9/1987 - Advert

“Trevor Burton Band plus Support, HEN AND CHICKENS, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, tonight. Late Bar.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/2/1988

“Mr. John Bond, export sales director for Dudley-based British Federal, has been elected chairman of the West Midlands Export Club, in succession to Mike Bryant, who is retiring for health reasons. The guest speaker at the next club meeting at the HEN AND CHICKENS, Oldbury, on March 9, will be Mr. Richard Saunders, export sales manager for Dart Springs, of Redditch.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/9/1988

“Gig Guide ..... Tonight.....

The Ozone Farm / Rang-A-Tang, HEN AND CHICKENS, Warley.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/10/1988

“A carnival atmosphere will be taking over in Smethwick at the weekend as the Sandwell Arts Festival continues full swing.....

Other main features of the closing fortnight include one of Africa’s top dance bands, Taxi Pata Pata, who will be spending three days in the borough from October 25-27. During that time, the group, which is making its only Midlands appearance as part of its UK tour, will be running music workshops as well as performing in concert at the HEN AND CHICKENS, Oldbury, on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/10/1988 - Advert

“HEN AND CHICKENS, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, require a Full Time Chef.

Must have City and Guilds qualifications. Competitive rates of pay. Duties involve general running of the kitchen, preparing and cooking home cooked dishes, experience in function catering essential.

Apply in writing with full C.V. or telephone for an interview.

*M. Fennings*, HEN AND CHICKENS, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, Warley.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/9/1989 - Advert

“HEN AND CHICKENS, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, require Part Time Evening Bar Staff. 2 nights minimum. No experience necessary. Please call for interview.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/2/1990 -Advert

“A Giant Bric-a-Brac/Collectors fair. HEN AND CHICKENS, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury. Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30am-4pm. Over 30 Bargain stalls.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/12/1990

“Birmingham Mini Owners’ Club presented £1,000 to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association at the HEN

AND CHICKENS pub, Oldbury. Club publicity officer Matthew Tolley said the cash had been raised by car shows at Dudley.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/11/1992

“Charity beano for Millie, 81. Charity worker Millie Tupman has passed the fund-raising target she set herself, £50,000, by £5,000. Millie, a widow from Quinton, was given a Webb Ivory Fund-Raising Award 18 months ago for the cash she had raised for the Warren Pearl Home for cancer victims at Solihull. She plans to celebrate with a charity dance at the HEN AND CHICKENS, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, on November 21. Tickets cost £3.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/3/1993

“HEN AND CHICKEN, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, Presents Party Night, Wed 17<sup>th</sup> March 8-12 o'clock.

Chance to win free cinema tickets courtesy of the Cannon Cinema, Quinton. Admission £1.50.

Try our new cocktail scent of a woman.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/7/1993

“The greatest ‘double act’ in the local hospice movement has come to an end with the retirement from the Marie Curie Cancer care home in Solihull of its administrator. Mollie Tick is leaving Warren Pearl House after 27 years. Widowed Mrs. Tick, of Drury Lane, joined the staff of Warren Pearl as a part-time secretary in 1966. It was there she met Millie Tupman, of Quinton, who began raising funds for the hospice after the death of her brother from cancer. The pair became known as Millie and Mollie as they joined forces to raise funds for the hospice which has just undergone major refurbishment. Millie, now 82, will go on with her charity work from her shop but has organised her last fund-raising event – a dance at the HEN AND CHICKENS, Warley, on October 16.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/4/1994

“Jazz by Joe Seager ..... Sunday.....

Gary Allcock and his All Stars, HEN AND CHICKENS, Oldbury.”

A Deaf Awareness week was held here in October 2000.

It closed in December 2000.

It reopened as a Chinese restaurant.

**HERON**

Bromford Road / Broadwell Road, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Sukhdev Singh [1985]

NOTES

A team from here took part in the Spon Lane Domino League. [1968]

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/8/1989 - Advert

“Bar Staff daytime.  
The HERON, Oldbury.”

[2005]

Closed [2006]

It was demolished in late 2006.

Housing was built on the site.

## **HOPE AND ANCHOR**

60, (34), Halesowen Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

William Williams, Rowley

T. Williams, Bulls Head, Rowley Regis

Thomas William Williams, Rowley Regis

### LICENSEES

Samuel Griffiths [1855]

Richard James [1861] – [1862]

Thomas Pigott [1864] – [1865]

Joseph Wilson [1871]

Joseph Rowley [1870] – **1871**);

James Jones (**1871** – [1873]

E Green [1875]

John Williams [1876] – [1881]

Samuel Barnett [1881] – **1885**);

Henry Silcox (**1885** – **1886**);

Charles Harper (**1886**);

Frederic Braine (**1886** – **1887**);

Thomas Powell (**1887**);

William Holden (**1887** – **1912**): manager

### NOTES

34, Halesowen Street [1871], [1881], [1884]

60, Halesowen Street [1901], [1911], [1912]

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Halesowen Street – HOPE AND ANCHOR INN

- [1] *Richard James* (37), mill furnaceman and retail brewer, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth James* (36), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *William James* (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Ann James* (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Hannah James* (7), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Joseph James* (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Richard James* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Mary Martin* (14), domestic servant, born Pains Lane, Shropshire:

*Richard James*, retailer of beer, Halesowen Street. [1862]

At Worcestershire Winter Assizes, in December 1862, *Elizabeth James*, wife of *Richard James*, of the HOPE AND ANCHOR, appeared as a prosecution witness in the case of *William Ockold* who was charged with murdering his wife. He was found guilty and hanged.

[See GEORGE AND DRAGON.]

*Thomas Piggott*, beer retailer, Halesowen Street. [1865]

Birmingham Daily Post 28/6/1866

“*Thomas Fox* was charged with stealing a pair of black cloth trousers, the property of *Thomas Lawson*, journeyman draper, Wolverhampton. On Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> June, prosecutor went to the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, in Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, about six o’clock in the evening, leaving his pack and a brown paper parcel, containing the trousers, in the tap room. He then went into the bar and had some refreshment, and on returning the articles in question were missed. There being no direct evidence against the prisoner, he was discharged.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/4/1867 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

*Thomas Piggott*, formerly of the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Worcester, Beerhouse Keeper, at the same time carrying on the business of a Butty Collier, but now in lodgings in Steelhouse Row, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury aforesaid, Miner, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1867, is hereby required to surrender himself to *George Steward Watson, Esq.*, a Registrar of the County Court of Staffordshire holden at Oldbury, at the First Meeting of Creditors to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1867, at Eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely, at his Chambers, High Street, West Bromwich. *William Shakespeare*, of Oldbury, is the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy. At the Meeting the Registrar will receive the Proofs of the Debts of the Creditors, and the Creditors may choose an Assignee or Assignees of the Bankrupt’s Estate and Effects. All persons having in their possession any of the Effects of the said Bankrupt must deliver them to the Registrar, and all Debts due to the Bankrupt must be paid to the Registrar.

W. H. Steward, High Bailiff.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/5/1867

“Bankrupts.....

*Thomas Piggott*, beerhouse keeper, formerly of the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, and also carrying on the business of a butty collier, and now residing in lodgings in Steelhouse Row, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, obtained an order of discharge. His debts amounted to £212 8s 1d, the assets to £70, leaving a deficiency of £142 8s 1d.”

1871 Census

34, Halesowen Street – HOPE AND ANCHOR

- [1] *Joseph Wilson* (42), moulder and innkeeper, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Martha Wilson* (40), wife, born West Bromwich;

- [3] James Wilson (16), son, filer, born West Bromwich;
- [4] John Wilson (14), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Louisa Wilson (8 months), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Sarah Gee (13), general servant, born Walsall:

Birmingham Daily Post 4/4/1871 - Advert

“Oldbury. HOPE AND ANCHOR, Hales Owen Street.

A compact, low-rented, well-situated Tavern, close to a number of extensive Works. In-coming about £50. Rent £17.

Apply, R. J. Cooper, Auctioneer, &c, Oldbury; or R. Batchford, Temple Street, West Bromwich.”

*Joseph Rowley* issued tokens from here.

*Joseph Rowley*, beer retailer, Halesowen Street. [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/4/1870

“Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. Docker at the WHITE HORSE, Newbury Lane, on the body of William Snow, who worked at Rowley’s brickyard as a getter of clay. The inquest was an adjourned one, and the evidence given at the two inquiries showed that on Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst, the deceased and three men, named Gallier, Pearsall, and Parkes (labourers) had been drinking considerably at the HOPE AND ANCHOR, a public house kept by *Joseph Rowley*. Just before leaving they asked him to pay for a quart of ale, but they had to leave the house without him doing so. They went home along the canal side, and when near the Jim Crow bridge, over the canal at Titford, Cooper, alias Gallier, stated that he heard a splash in the water, and Pearsall said, ‘He is in the cut. For God’s sake let us get him out.’ Parkes took no notice, but walked on. The other men tried to get Snow out, but could not, and went to an old man, who lives near, for a rope, but they could not reach him with this, though they ultimately succeeded in getting the body out with a boat shaft.

William Wood, miner, Whiteheath, said he saw the four men going along the canal side on the Sunday, and heard Parkes say, ‘Go on, old —; we will pretty well have you into it when we get you there.’ The men appeared under the influence of drink, and were going down towards the place where the man was drowned. About 20 minutes afterwards he went to the spot, hearing that a man had been got out of the canal. He saw two men there – Gallier and Pearsall – the man Parkes having left. He asked them where the other man was, and they said, ‘Oh! He is gone.’ He then said to the men, ‘Chaps, I am sadly afraid you will get in for this job,’ and he also alluded to the remarks which he had heard Parkes make. When he got to the place he found the body of deceased on the canal bank.

Mr. W. H. Hayward, surgeon, stated that he had examined the body, but there were no marks of violence upon it.

The Coroner said the case was a grave one against Parkes, but he thought that as the evidence was so conflicting, it would not be wise to return a verdict of manslaughter.

The public retired, and, after a few minutes’ consideration, the jury returned a verdict that deceased was Found Drowned, but there was not sufficient evidence to show how he came by his death. Several of the jurymen said they considered the case one of grave suspicion, and one of them remarked that the three men with whom deceased had last been seen were ‘three beautiful ones.’”

*James Jones*, beer retailer, Halesowen Street. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 3/6/1875 - Advert

“Found, on the 26<sup>th</sup>, a dark-brown Horse, 16 hands high. If not owned in three days will be sold to pay expenses.

Apply, *E. Green*, HOPE AND ANCHOR, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/10/1876

“Bankrupts.....

*E. Green*, 79, New Road, Great Bridge, late the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

#### Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

“Robert Jones, of the GREYHOUND INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, and *John Williams*, HOPE AND ANCHOR, of the same street, were summoned, at the instance of Police-constable Turner, for permitting drunkenness on Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. Both cases were adjourned till the 16<sup>th</sup> October.”

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 24/2/1877

“Worcestershire Adjourned Epiphany Sessions.....

James Broadhurst (19), labourer, was indicted for having, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January, at Oldbury, stolen three pigeons, the property of *John Williams*. Mr. Godson prosecuted; prisoner was not defended.

Prosecutor is the proprietor of the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, and keeps pigeons. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> ult the prisoner came to his house, and while there stole three pigeons, which he hid in his bosom. He was caught in the act, and kept in a locked room till the police came, when he made a violent resistance, but was ultimately taken to the station.

Prisoner made no defence to the charge, and was at once found guilty, and sentenced to six months' hard labour.”

#### 1881 Census

34, Hales Owen Street – HOPE AND ANCHOR

[1] *John Williams* (55), blacksmith and publican, born Wales;

[2] Elizabeth Williams (54), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] John Thomas Williams (23), son, blacksmith, born Long Lane;

[4] Bertha Williams (19), daughter, born Long Lane;

[5] Alice Williams (17), daughter, born Long Lane;

[6] Elizabeth Bastable (4), grand-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

#### Dudley and District News 10/9/1881 - Advert

“Sale at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, on Monday Next, September 12.

Mr. James Whitehouse will Sell by Auction, on the above Premises, of Mr. *John Williams*, under an execution for rent, the whole of the Public-house Fixtures, Brewing Plant, and Household Furniture.

Sale at 11.30am prompt.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 17/9/1881

“Edward Harley, 10, Charlotte Street, Birmingham, was charged with stealing a watch and chain belonging to William Tonks, brickyard labourer, Great Bridge, on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult. Prosecutor said he visited Oldbury Wakes Ground at about 7 o'clock on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult.

About a quarter of an hour afterwards he missed his watch and chain from his waistcoat pocket. The watch and chain produced were his and were worth £1.

PC Sanders said from information he received he visited the HOPE AND ANCHOR, Halesowen Street, saw the prisoner in the tap room, asked him whether he had a watch in his possession, but he said he had not.

Witness then searched him and found the watch produced in his waistcoat pocket. He then took him into custody on suspicion of stealing it. He had charged him that morning, and in answer to which, prisoner said he found it on the race course.

Prisoner was sentenced to three months' hard labour.”

#### 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, Church Hill, Wednesbury; Mr. *Samuel Barnett*, HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Mail 27/8/1883

“The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held this afternoon at the Police Court..... Police Superintendent Hardman presented his report.....

Since the last meeting 12 licensed persons had been summoned and convicted for offences against their licenses ..... *Samuel Barnett*.....

The Bench decided that all the applications for renewals made by those prisoners who had been convicted during the year should be postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, with the exception of two whose conviction took place on licensing day last year and who were then called up and cautioned. The persons whose renewals were refused would be required to attend and show reasons why their licenses should be renewed. Three of them ..... *Samuel Barnett* ..... would have special notice, as the magistrates proposed to hear their applications in open court, as they would specially consider whether it was their duty to renew the licenses held by those persons.”

#### Birmingham Mail 24/9/1883

“Today the adjourned Licensing Session for the Oldbury Division was held at the Court House.....

The persons whose names were included in the ‘black list’ presented by the superintendent of police at the annual meeting, and whose applications for renewals were consequently postponed, were called before the Bench to show cause why their licenses should be renewed.....

The license held by ..... *Samuel Barnett*, of the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Hales Owen Street ..... were all renewed, the applicants being cautioned by the presiding magistrate as to their future conduct.”

*Samuel Barnett*, beer retailer, 34, Halesowen Street. [1884]

#### Smethwick Telephone 31/7/1886

“Oldbury County Court. Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

On the same day Mr. J. Sutton Sharpe filed a petition for a receiving order on behalf of *Charles Harper*, described as a beer retailer, of the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Halesowen Street.”

*William Holden*, beer retailer, Halesowen Street. [1888]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/9/1889

“Capture of an Escaped Prisoner. Desperate Struggle with the Police.

On Saturday night Police-constables S. Davis and Avern, stationed at Oldbury, had an exciting adventure in capturing an escaped prisoner. About twelve months ago a young man named Samuel Porter (23), described as an ironworker, whose parents reside in Talbot Street, Oldbury, escaped, from the custody of Police-constable Wright whilst he was being conveyed from West Bromwich Police Court to Winson Green Gaol, to which he had been remanded on a charge of burglary. On the way to Winson Green, when in the neighbourhood of Handsworth, Porter managed to break away from Police-constable Wright, taking with him one of the handcuffs, which was afterwards found in the canal at Oldbury.

On Saturday evening information was received by the police at Oldbury that Porter was in the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Halesowen Street. Police-constables S. Davis and Avern were at once sent there to arrest him. When the officers reached the inn they found Porter there with several companions, strangers to the district, and appeared to be from Birmingham. At first Porter denied that he was the man of whom the officers were in search, and when he was clearly identified he appeared to make up his mind to offer a most determined resistance. He refused to move, and clung to the table in the room. Upon the constables proceeding to remove him by force, they were attacked by Porter and his companions in a most savage manner. The men seized the fireirons and fender, and with these they beat the constables about the head and arms. Whilst his colleague held Porter, Police-constable Davis drew his staff, and for a time there was a fierce fight, and but for the assistance of the landlord of the house, Mr. *C. William Holden*, and other men who happened to be there, the officers would undoubtedly have been overpowered. His companions repeatedly tried to rescue Porter, who was ultimately handcuffed and conveyed to the police station. In the meantime the other men ran away, but one of them was shortly afterwards arrested. He gave the name of James Ashley, and said he came from London. Both men will be brought up today and remanded, there being other charges against Porter, both at Oldbury and West Bromwich.”



[At the Worcestershire Quarter Sessions Samuel Porter was found guilty of stealing a handkerchief in 1888 and was sentenced to three months' hard labour. See JUNCTION, Birmingham Street.]

#### 1891 Census

Halesowen Street

- [1] *William Holden* (44), coal miner and publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Mercey Holden (38), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Hannah Holden (17), daughter, factory hand, born Oldbury;
- [4] Selina Holden (16), daughter, factory hand, born Oldbury;
- [5] Rose Holden (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] William Holden (7), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Thomas Holden (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Florence Holden (3), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [9] Levi Holden (1), son, born Oldbury:

*William Holden* was found guilty of keeping open during prohibited hours on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1894.

*William Holden*, beer retailer, 60, Halesowen Street. [1896]

#### County Express 2/1/1897

“At Oldbury Police Court, on Tuesday, Thomas Simmonds, of Halesowen, was charged with stealing, on Christmas night, a watch, valued at 12s 6d, the property of William Parkes. The parties, who are friends, visited the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Oldbury, about ten o'clock. Whilst in the house prosecutor pulled out his watch so that he might pay for some drink, and placed it on the table. Prosecutor forgot to pick up the watch, and defendant put it into his own pocket, saying that he would take care of it for him. Defendant pleaded guilty, but said he did not know how he became possessed of the watch. The Bench fined defendant 30s, including costs, or a month's imprisonment.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 8/9/1900

“The proposed alterations at the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Halesowen Street, kept by *William Holden*, were not approved.”

AND

“Mr. J. S. Sharpe mentioned the case of this house, and said if they waited another year to bring fresh plans before the Bench the chances were that they would have no premises left at all, because they were in such a dilapidated state that they would fall to the ground. They were being urged by the District Council to do something with regard to sanitary accommodation, and he asked the Bench if they could not say what alterations they would be prepared to approve.

Mr. Wilson said they could not do such a thing. The justices had inspected the house, and could not alter their decision.”

[Building plans were passed in December 1900.]

#### 1901 Census

60, Halesowen Street – HOPE AND ANCHOR INN

- [1] *William Holden* (54), widower, public house manager, born Oldbury;
- [2] Rose Holden (20), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [3] William Holden (17), son, bricklayer's labourer, born Oldbury;
- [4] Thomas Holden (16), son, iron works piler, born Oldbury;
- [5] Florence Holden (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Nellie Holden (7), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

HOPE AND ANCHOR.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1909.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation.....

HOPE AND ANCHOR, beerhouse, Halesowen Street, owner Mr. Williams, Rowley.....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee’s investigations.....”

The license was renewed on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1909.

#### Evesham Standard 10/7/1909

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee sat on Saturday to continue consideration of the 25 licenses which had been referred to them as the compensation authority by the local justices.....

In the case of the HOPE AND ANCHOR, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the local justices and Mr. Graham Milward appeared for the owner and licensee. Supt. Hill said there were 126 licensed houses for a population of 33,000 in the town. This house was situated in a poor district and there were two better houses near. Mr. Milward submitted that in the twenty-two police areas in the county only two had fewer houses per head of the population than Oldbury. Mr. F. H. Jones, valuer, said there were 18 licensed houses within 500 yards of this house.....

The Committee renewed the licenses of the ..... HOPE AND ANCHOR.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1910

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury division were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding over the magistrates. The principal business was the consideration of six licences which the magistrates proposed to refer to the Quarter Sessions for compensation on the ground of redundancy. The houses in question were the CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street; BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street; ROYAL OAK, Park Lane; NAGS HEAD, Flash Road; HOPE AND ANCHOR, Halesowen Street; and BOAT INN, Tat Bank.....

Mr. Albright then announced that the magistrates had decided to refer only four licenses to the Quarter Sessions at Worcester this year instead of six as originally proposed. They would therefore renew the licenses of the BIRD IN HAND and ROYAL OAK.....

The last house was the HOPE AND ANCHOR, of which *William Holden* was the tenant, and Messrs. Williams the owners. The parties interested were represented by Mr. Bate (Blackheath).

Superintendent Hill, in reply to Mr. Bate, said the house was referred to Quarter Sessions last year, but the

licence was eventually renewed.

Mr. Jones pointed out that within 500 yards' radius there were sixteen full-licensed houses and two beer-houses on. It was one of the oldest and most dilapidated houses in the district.

The licensee said he had been in the house for twenty-nine years, and he presented a petition signed by eighty customers opposing the reference of the house for compensation.....

All four houses were referred to the Quarter Sessions.”

The license renewal was refused on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1910.

#### Evesham Standard 10/12/1910

“Worcestershire Licensing Committee. Determining Compensation Claims.

A supplemental meeting of this Committee was held on Saturday at the Shirehall.....

The special purpose of the meeting was for the purpose of determining the amount of compensation to be paid for the extinction of licenses. Fourteen such licenses had been reported by the justices to the Committee, and the Committee had already decided to renew one. The amounts claimed in respect of the other thirteen were.....

HOPE AND ANCHOR, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, £1,970.

The Committee took evidence in support of the claims calculated on the capitalised loss of trade, the capitalised loss in the value of the premises by the extinction of the license, and the loss on the sale of fittings.....

In the case of the HOPE AND ANCHOR, Oldbury, Mr. Graham, Milward submitted evidence that the house was doing an average of 283 barrels a year, and had been yielding a profit of between £200 and £300 a year.

The owner said he would rather retain the house than have the £1,900 claimed for compensation.....

The Committee then announced the following awards.....

HOPE AND ANCHOR, Oldbury, £998.”

#### Alcester Chronicle 14/1/1911

“An adjourned meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday.....

At the meeting of the committee in December six claims for compensation were heard, and awards were made.

In the case of the HOPE AND ANCHOR, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, the award (£998) was declined, the parties deciding to appeal to the Inland Revenue authorities.”

#### 1911 Census

60, Halesowen Street – HOPE AND ANCHOR INN

[1] *William Holden* (64), widower, beerhouse manager, born Oldbury;

[2] *Florrie Holden* (23), daughter, born Oldbury;

[3] *Nellie Holden* (17), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### County Express 13/5/1911

“Monday's meeting of Worcestershire Licensing Committee dealt with the awards made by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, included among them being the following.....

HOPE AND ANCHOR, Oldbury. In the case of this house, situate in Halesowen Street, an agreement was approved, the licensee (*William Holden*) to receive £45, and the trustees of the property £1,827 – total £1,872. The trustees are Mr. T. B. Williams and Lizzie Bate, Rowley Regis.”

*William Holden*, beer retailer, 60, Halesowen Street. [1912]

*William Holden* – see also MALT SHOVEL, Low Town.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1912

“At Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday Superintendent Davis presented his report.....

The licenses of the following four houses were entered for compensation in 1910, and were refused renewal,

but the compensation money not having been paid yet the houses were not closed ..... HOPE AND ANCHOR.....

Mr. Albright said that there seemed little doubt that all the arrears of compensation would be cleared off in the present year, and the houses closed, although the amount of money available now would be considerably decreased by the absorption of a large portion of the county in Greater Birmingham.”

#### Bromsgrove Messenger 9/3/1912

“A meeting of the Worcestershire County Licensing Committee was held at the Shirehall, Worcester, on Saturday afternoon.....

The following amounts, which had previously been awarded, were now ordered to be paid on March 29<sup>th</sup>..... HOPE AND ANCHOR, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, £1,872 (including £45 for licensee).”

Compensation was paid on 29th March 1912.

The license was extinguished on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1912.

### JOLLY COLLIER

11, (50), Albert Street, (Back Lane), OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

James Simkins, Ash Tree Cottage, Dingle Street, Rounds Green, Oldbury

William Hadley, Rounds Green, Oldbury

Eliza Hadley (later at Dingle Street, Rounds Green, Oldbury)

#### LICENSEES

William Clift [1849] – [1867]

Mrs. Mary Ann Clift [1870] – [1872]

James Henry Joseph Beesley [1873] – [1880]

Edward Hadly [1881]

Benjamin Hadley [1883] – [1883]

Benjamin Harley [ ]

George Thompson [1884] – **1885**;

Mrs. Mary Carpenter (**1885 – 1888**);

John Pritchard (**1888 – 1889**);

Alfred Collins (**1889 – 1896**);

Abraham Hill [1891] – [1896] manager?

Thomas Baker (**1896 – 1900**);

Alice Baker (**1900 – 1901**);

Abel Birch (**1901 – 1902**);

Eliza Hadley (**1902 – 1906**);

Thomas Dennis (**1906 – 1908**);

David Hackett (**1908**);

#### NOTES

50, Albert Street [1871], [1873], [1881]

11, Albert Street [1891], [1896]

## COLLIERS ARMS

*William Clift* = William Cliff = William Cliffe

*William Clift* issued tokens from here.

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/9/1849

“Henry Guest of Westbromwich accepts the challenge of James Hale, of Tividale, and will run him for from £10 to £20 a side. The match can be made at *William Clift*'s, the JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury; or John Mason's, GOLDEN CUP, Westbromwich, at any time.”

### The Era 23/11/1851

“William Mountfield, and Jones, alias ‘Frying Pan,’ ran six-score yards, for £10 a side, at Tividale, near Dudley, on Monday afternoon. According to the conditions, the latter man with the pretty name received three yards' start. The betting was 7 to 4 on Mountfield, who had it all his own way, winning easily by as much as he gave. He received the stakes the same night at Mr. *Cliffe*'s, JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury.”

AND

“John Rhodes will take two minutes in ten miles from the American Deer, for £25 or £50 a side; and will make a match at any time at the JOLLY COLLIER (*W. Cliffe*'s), Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/1/1853

“William Meers of Oldbury will run Elijah Morris or Astons of Tipton eight or 10 score yards, Richard Dickinson of Westbromwich 10 score yards if he will give him five yards start, Bailey of Oldbury 10 score yards if he will give five yards start, William Kellshaw of Tividale eight or 10 score yards, Nally of Oldbury 10 score yards, Tipits of Greatbridge from seven score yards and upwards, or Walker of the same place 10 score yards. The money is ready any night next week, at Mr. *William Clift*'s, JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury, for from £5 to £10 a side.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/5/1853

“W. Meers of Oldbury still hearing that W. Kelshaw of Dudley Port is not satisfied, he will give him another chance of regaining his lost laurels, and will give him two yards start in 160 yards, for £10 a side, or more; or he will take 100 yards start in a mile of Joseph Wall of Tividale, for his own sum. The money is always ready at Mr. *Clift*'s, JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury.”

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

“Harry (the tailor) of Oldbury having been idle a long time, wishes to have another match with his old opponent, William Bayley, of the PEDESTRIAN TAVERN, Oldbury, to run 100 or 120 yards, for £15 or £20 a side. Man and money ready at Mr. *William Clift*'s, JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury, any night next week.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/3/1854

“John Rhodes of Wolverhampton and W. Hill of the Lye Waste are matched to run ten miles level, for £50 a side, in twelve weeks from signing articles. £1 a side is down, and the men meet tomorrow (Monday), at *Clift*'s, the JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury, to make it £5 a side and draw up articles.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/4/1854

“John Taylor of Oldbury will walk Watson's Lad one mile, for £10 a side. Money ready any night next week at *Cliff*'s, JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/7/1856

“John Hampton and John Burton, both of Oldbury, the final deposit of £2 10s a side will be made this evening (the 5<sup>th</sup>), at *Clift*'s, the JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury, for their six score yards match, for £10 a side,

which comes off on Monday, at Aston Cross Grounds, Birmingham. The men to be at scratch between two and three o'clock."

AND

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/7/1856

"Hampton and Burton. These Oldbury men met on Monday, at Aston Cross Grounds, Birmingham, to run a six score yards match, for £10 a side. Although the weather was wet and cold, blowing at times a gale, yet there was a pretty good attendance in the grounds. The betting was 2 to 1 on Hampton, who was booked by his friends safe to win. After dodging about for some time, Hampton went off (but after running three yards stopped short), followed by Burton, who, as soon as he had passed, Hampton again took up the running, but too late to retrieve his error of stopping, for Burton ran in a winner by two yards."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/3/1857

"John Shakespear of the Brades will match a bird to fly from Stafford against any other in Oldbury, for £3 a side, or he will match one to fly from Wolverhampton, for the like sum, against any one in Oldbury. Money ready any night next week at Mr. *Wm. Clift's*, the JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury."

Birmingham Journal 16/1/1858 - Advert

"A New Market Hall for Oldbury.

Mr. Edward Perrins begs to announce that he Will Open the New Market Hall, recently erected by him, near the Old Market Place, Oldbury, on Saturday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of January instant, and that the Letting of the Stalls therein will take place on Tuesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, at Two o'clock in the day, when a Public Dinner will be provided, at the house of Mr. *Clift*, the JOLLY COLLIER, near the Market Place."

[Edward Perrins – see WAGGON AND HORSES.]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/2/1859

"Tom Hadley of Oldbury will shoot a match with Cottis of Westbromwich, at 11 birds each, for £20 a side, at Aston Cross Grounds. Money ready at any time at Mr. *Clift's*, JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury."

Sporting Life 10/8/1859

"Manks and Cooke. The 15 miles match between these well-known men is going on. The match comes off at Aston Cross Grounds on Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup> inst, Manks staking £25 against Cooke's £15 and his champion's belt, and also allowing Cooke £3 for choice of ground. The final staking of £10 on the part of Manks, and Cooke staking his belt, was made on Wednesday night at the stakeholder's, Mr. Watson's, the Wonder Tavern, Brearley Street, Birmingham, where the belt can be seen. Both men are in active training for the match, Manks in the neighbourhood of Dudley, and Cooke has taken up his quarters at Mr. *Clift's*, the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Oldbury, where he will be glad to see his friends."

AND

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/8/1859

"On Monday last there was a very large attendance of lovers of pedestrianism at Aston Cross Grounds, not only from Birmingham, but from all the districts around, to witness the 15 miles match between C. Cooke of Marylebone and R. Manks (the Warwickshire Antelope), Manks running for £25 against Cooke's £15 and his champion's belt. It is contended by many that pedestrianism is on the decline. We only wish that those who make the assertion had been present on Monday at this race; it would have altered their views to have witnessed the interest taken in the above match.....

A little before six o'clock the men appeared on the ground, each looking in first-rate condition. Manks had trained himself in the vicinity of Wednesbury, and Cooke under a well-known London friend at Oldbury..... At the turn of 10½ miles Manks again fell off, Cooke gradually leaving him in the distance; he struggled on to the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> mile, when he gave in, apparently much distressed ..... Cooke kept on in gallant style and ran the whole distance in 1h 28min. The first 10 miles of the race was well contested, and the arrangements gave the greatest satisfaction. Cooke has received the money from Mr. Watson, the stakeholder."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/10/1860

"John Marshall and B. Aston (both of Oldbury) are matched to run six score yards, for £10 a side, at Wall

Heath (Yew Tree Grounds), on November 5. Mr. *Clift* of Oldbury is stakeholder and referee, who has now received £3, and the men meet this (Saturday) evening, at *Clift's*, the JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury, to make a further deposit.”

#### 1861 Census

Albert Street – JOLLY COLLIER

- [1] *William Clift* (50), publican, born Harborne;
- [2] *Mary Ann Clift* (50), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] *Mary Ann Clift* (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Matilda Duffil* (17), visitor, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/9/1862

“Oldbury. The Suspicious Death by Drowning.

The adjourned inquest on the body of Louisa Jones, whose death by drowning under suspicious circumstances has been previously recorded in the *Daily Gazette* was held yesterday before Mr. Ralph Docker, at the JOLLY COLLIER INN. It will be remembered that at the last inquest it was stated that when the body was found (on Thursday week) it had been in the water two days, and that with the exception of a slight bruise on the throat, there were no marks of violence. The adjournment was taken in order that the police might make inquiry as to whom the deceased was last seen alive with, and any further particulars likely to throw light upon the manner in which she came to her death.

A woman named Shaw was the first witness examined, and she stated that on the night deceased was last seen alive she visited her house with a man whom she did not know. The man said he was going to Durham, and the deceased said that if he did not take her with him she would drown herself. This was on the Tuesday night at about ten o'clock.

A woman named Tilley was next called, and after some delay answered to her name. She stated that she had had come conversation with a man named Lowe, who it was stated had been last seen with deceased. He had stated to her that he knew nothing whatever of the manner in which deceased came by her death.

There being no other evidence the Coroner asked the jury if they were satisfied with the evidence at present before them. The jury retired, and after some deliberation they returned, and said that could not come to a verdict in the present unsatisfactory state of the evidence.

The Coroner said there were rumours to the effect that a man with whom the deceased had been seen had been heard to threaten violence towards her, and it would perhaps be as well to adjourn the inquiry for the police to try and obtain evidence upon this point.

The jury were of opinion that such a course was desirable, and they also expressed an opinion that the man Lowe should be looked up and brought forward to give evidence.

It was then arranged that the inquest should be adjourned sine die, and that the jury should be called together when the police had obtained any further information.

The mother of the deceased was present, and was miserably clad. Her appearance caused considerable remark. She stated that a report had been given currency to the effect that she was addicted to drink was totally untrue, and she also said that she had always done the best she could to bring up her family respectably.”

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/11/1862 - Marriages

“On the 10<sup>th</sup> instant, at the Parish Church, Dudley, *James Henry Joseph*, second son of Mr. *James Beesley*, of Brades Village, to *Mary Ann*, youngest daughter of Mr. *William Clift*, of Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 25/4/1863

“The JOLLY COLLIER INN, Albert Street, Oldbury.

To be Disposed Of, by Mr. A. G. Atree, this genuine Old-licensed Public House, now in full business. It is situated within forty yards of the Market Hall, the Works of Messrs. Parkes, Round, and Wilkes; and is surrounded by Messrs. Chance's, the Railway Carriage, and other Works. The Premises are substantially-built, handsomely painted, and fitted with entire Yard, and a plentiful supply of hard and soft Water. There are several Societies attached. The Club Room is capable of holding about sixty Members to dine, together with suitable Bed Rooms and Out-offices.

In-coming can be reduced to £200, and the Purchaser can have the option of purchasing the Freehold. Satisfactory reasons can be assigned why the same is to be disposed of.

For further particulars, apply on the Premises; or to the Auctioneer, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/4/1864

“W. Foster and B. Asten. These Oldbury men continue to make good their money to Mr. *W. Clift*, the JOLLY COLLIERS ARMS, Oldbury (the stakeholder), for their 110 yards match, for £10 a side, which comes off at Aston Grounds on May 16.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1865 - Advert

“Found, a Black Horse, 3 years old, about 14 hands high.

May be had on payment of expenses, by applying to *Wm. Clift*, JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1867 - Died

“On the 24<sup>th</sup> inst, aged 55 years, Mr. *William Clift*, of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Oldbury; deeply lamented.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/8/1868

“Prosecution of an Unqualified Medical Practitioner at Oldbury.

At the Hales Owen Petty Sessions, on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, before Mr. S. Hanbury and Major Lea Smith, Thomas Holland, of Oldbury, was charged under the 27<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup>, and 40<sup>th</sup> section of the above Act with having ‘wilfully and falsely pretended to be, and taken and used the name or title of a surgeon, implying that he was registered under this Act;’ and also with having acted as surgeon to a Friendly Society, for affording mutual relief in sickness, contrary to the Act. Mr. William Shakespeare, of Oldbury, appeared to prosecute on behalf of the medical men of that town; Mr. Henry Jackson, of West Bromwich, was for the defendant.

In opening the first case Mr. Shakespeare said Mr. Holland was a person who had practised in Oldbury for many years without any interference from the medical men of the place; but having lately placed himself in an antagonistic position towards them on the club question, they felt it their duty to take the present proceedings to protect their professional interests.

Fanny Cleaver was called, who deposed that Mr. Holland attended a child of hers in June last, who died of convulsions, and that Mr. Holland gave her a certificate of the death signed ‘Thomas Holland, surgeon,’ which she transmitted to Mr. Parish, the registrar of births and deaths. (This certificate was produced by the deputy registrar, Mr. Parish having died since the issuing of the summonses.)

Mr. Parish, jun. knew Mr Holland’s writing, and the certificate then produced was in his hand-writing.

Mr. Jackson, for the defence, raised a technical objection as to the absence of Mr. Holland’s name from the Medical Register being proof of his not being qualified.

The Bench overruled this objection, and, after a short consultation, they fined the defendant £5.

The next charge was for acting as surgeon to the Miners’ Refuge Friendly Society, held at Mr. *Clifton*’s [sic], the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Oldbury.

Joseph Matthews, secretary to the society, deposed that Mr. Holland had acted as surgeon to the Miners’ Refuge for many years, and that he was re-elected every six months. He produced the minute book containing the last entry of such re-election.

This charge was also considered proved, and the same fine (£5) was imposed.

There were nine other cases against the defendant, but these were withdrawn, as the object of the prosecution, by the judgement in the first cases, had been gained.”

[See also CRYSTAL PALACE and QUEENS HEAD (MODEL), Langley.]

1871 Census

50, Albert Street – JOLLY COLLIER

[1] *Mary A. Clift* (61), widow, public house keeper, born Brickhill;

[2] *Mary A. Cartwright* (24), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1872 - Advert



“Valuable Freehold Properties situate in Albert Street, Back Lane, and Albion Street, Brades Village, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. J. Cooper, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Friday Next, the 20<sup>th</sup> December, at 6 o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.....

Lot 1. All that very desirable and well-built Old-licensed Public House, known by the sign of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, situate in Albert Street, Back Lane, Oldbury, aforesaid, and late in the occupation of Mrs. *Clift*. The Premises comprise large Tap Room, Smoke Room, Bar Parlour, Sitting Room, Cooking Kitchen, Brewhouse, capital Bed Rooms, large Club Room, Stabling, Hay Loft, Piggeries, good Yard, and necessary Out-buildings, together with a good supply of hard and soft Water. Also, all those 5 Freehold Houses, with the Out-buildings and appurtenances thereto, adjoining the Public House, and now in the respective occupations of A. Lester, J. Aston, and others, and which 5 Dwelling-houses produce the low annual rental of £33 3s.”

#### Dudley Herald 3/6/1876

“Joseph Nicholls, striker, West Bromwich, was sent to prisoner for six months for stealing several household articles belonging to Mr. *James Beesly*, landlord of the JOLLY COLLIER, Albert Street, Oldbury, on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult.”

#### 1881 Census

50, Albert Street

[1] *Edward Hadly* (32), puddler, born Dudley;

[2] *Mary A. Hadly* (31), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *Ann Hadly* (7), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;

[4] *Emily Hadly* (4), daughter, scholar, born Dudley Port:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/8/1882 - Advert

“Oldbury (The JOLLY COLLIER, Albert Street).

This well-known Full-licensed House to Let, upon very advantageous terms.

For particulars, apply to W. H. Pass, Auctioneer, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 2/1/1883

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. G. C. Adkins and E. B. Phillips, magistrates – *Benjamin Hadley*, of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Albert Street, was summoned for selling liquors during illegal hours on the 12<sup>th</sup> ult.

Police-constable Williams said about 12.15 on the morning in question he saw a man supplied with half a gallon of ale through the window.

Defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

#### London Gazette 13/3/1883

“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 *Benjamin Harley*, of 22, Talbot-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Blacksmith, formerly of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Albert-street, Oldbury aforesaid, 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. William Shakespeare, 51, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 23rd day of March, 1883, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 8th day of March, 1883.

William Shakespeare, Oldbury, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

#### Birmingham Mail 27/8/1883

“The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held this afternoon at the Police Court.....

Police Superintendent Hardman presented his report.....

Since the last meeting 12 licensed persons had been summoned and convicted for offences against their

licenses ..... *B. Harley*.....

The Bench decided that all the applications for renewals made by those prisoners who had been convicted during the year should be postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, with the exception of two whose conviction took place on licensing day last year and who were then called up and cautioned. The persons whose renewals were refused would be required to attend and show reasons why their licenses should be renewed.”

Birmingham Mail 24/9/1883

“Today the adjourned Licensing Session for the Oldbury Division was held at the Court House.....

The persons whose names were included in the ‘black list’ presented by the superintendent of police at the annual meeting, and whose applications for renewals were consequently postponed, were called before the Bench to show cause why their licenses should be renewed.....

The license held by ..... *Benjamin Harley*, formerly of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Albert Street ..... were all renewed, the applicants being cautioned by the presiding magistrate as to their future conduct.....

Mr. Shakespeare explained that in the case of *Benjamin Harley* the license had been transferred to another tenant.”

Smethwick Telephone 31/10/1885

“John Windmill, Albert Street, was charged with being drunk upon and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the JOLLY NAILOR [sic], on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. S. H. Forrest appeared to prosecute.

*Mary Carpenter*, landlady of the house, stated that on the day named the defendant entered the bagatelle room, and created a disturbance. She went to him, but he refused to quit, and pushed her about. He was drunk.

The defendant, who pleaded guilty, was fined 5s and costs, or 14 days’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/7/1887

“Yesterday, at Oldbury Police Court – before Messrs. H. Heaton and E. B. Phillips – George Hazeldine (52), of Bulls Head Yard, William Spittle (19), Jeremiah Bradley (20), and Harry Parkes (18), all of Albert Street, Oldbury, were charged with stealing 7½cwt of pig-iron, at Oldbury, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, also with stealing 6cwt on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, of the value of 20s, the property of the Birmingham Canal Company. Mr. Godlee, of Birmingham, appeared for the prosecution.

The charge against George Hazeldine was withdrawn upon the application of Police-sergeant Stanton.

The officer stated that on Saturday last he visited Mr. Wilkes’s ironfoundry in Albert Street, when he saw the prisoner Spittle come out of the gate. He afterwards went down the yard and saw another youth, whom he believed to be Parkes, who ran away when he approached. He also found a horse and cart there belonging to Hazeldine, and on the scales close by there was a quantity of pig-iron, weighing about 7½cwt. He subsequently arrested the prisoners at various places. One of the prisoners told witness that they received 1s 1d per cwt for the iron. Witness was informed it was worth at least £2 10s per ton. Prisoners also said they went to the JOLLY COLLIER INN and divided the money.

George Hazeldine stated that the prisoners asked him to convey the iron from the canal side near Williams Bridge at the Albion to Mr. Wilkes’s works, for which they gave him 8d. Prisoners told him that they had got the iron out of the canal, and that the foreman at the works near had given them permission to get it out. Mr. Wright (clerk) asked Mr. Godlee if there was any notice cautioning persons not to get things out of the canal. Mr. Godlee said there were notices issued respecting bathing in the canal, but he did not know whether they contained anything as to taking things out of the canal. The company could never prove how the iron got into the canal, but they came in as proprietors to protect traders who were their customers.

Mr. Wright pointed out that he supposed if in unloading a boat the iron fell into the canal it would be the property of the owners of the works so long as they claimed it.

Defendants pleaded that it was a custom in the district to allow youths whilst bathing in the canal near works to take iron and coal out, and they thought they were helping the canal company in clearing the canal out. Taking these circumstances into consideration the Bench discharged the prisoners with a caution on payment of costs.

Referring to the sale of the iron, Mr. Heaton remarked that the magistrates thought the fact that they could

so readily dispose of iron was a great inducement held out to any youths to practise this sort of thing. Those persons who purchased iron considerably below its value could not do so without having a strong suspicion that it must have been procured in some irregular manner. He thought it only right to make those observations, because the easy way in which that iron was disposed of was really a great temptation for youths to get it out of the canal or other places where ownership might be a little more clearly defined. Mr. Wilkes said he did not buy the iron under value, as he gave the prisoners 24s per ton for it.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 15/10/1887

“Thomas Lees and Henry Gough, of Parsonage Street, were charged with stealing a cow’s tongue, the property of *Mary Carpenter*, landlady of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Albert Street, on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst.

Prosecutor stated that prisoners went into her house about eight o’clock on the date in question, and stayed about two and a half hours. They were left in by themselves towards the last, and the tongue was hanging on a rack under the ceiling, and she saw it safe about 8 o’clock. About 10 o’clock she heard a noise as if a chair had fallen, and she sent her daughter in to see what it was. Defendant had fallen off the chair, but would not get up. She did not miss the tongue until morning, but about 10.30 she saw them go out, and Gough had got something under his arm, but she did not think about the tongue then. She gave information to the police regarding it.

Alice Bate, daughter of prosecutor, stated that she was with her mother in the bar when defendants entered the house, and about 10 o’clock, when they heard the noise with the chair, she went into the kitchen, and Gough was lying on the floor. She asked him to get up, but he would not while she was in the kitchen.

When they went out, she noticed that Gough had something under his arm about the size of the tongue.

Gough stated that he fell over the hearth-rug, having had a drop of beer.

Elizabeth Hurley stated that she went into the public house for her supper beer, when she saw the tongue under Gough’s legs. She asked him what it was, and he said it was a tongue he had bought.

Ruth Cooper stated that she went into the house a little before 10 o’clock, and heard the chair fall in the kitchen.

PS Stanton stated that he went in search of the defendants, who at length gave themselves up. He charged them with the theft, but both denied any knowledge of it.

Gough said he was that drunk that he did not know anything about it.

The case was dismissed against Lees, no evidence being given to implicate him, but Gough was fined 10s and costs, or 14 days’ hard labour.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 23/2/1889

“JOLLY COLLIER, Albert Street, Oldbury.

This well-accustomed Old Licensed Inn to be Let (illness the sole cause of leaving). Rent £30.

For particulars apply Mr. W. H. Pass, Auctioneer, 52 Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 2/4/1890

“Yesterday, at Oldbury Police Court, *Alfred Collins*, landlord of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Albert Street, was charged with selling during prohibited hours, also with permitting gambling, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March.

Sergeant Hill deposed to visiting the house at 11.35, when some men were singing. When the noise ceased he heard one man call for a glass of whisky. Several others asked for drinks. Upon entering the house he saw six men, and some glasses containing liquor were before them. The defendant said it was his wife’s birthday, and they were his friends. Upon leaving the house he heard a statement respecting the police, and upon returning to the house some men were gambling for beer.

Police-constables Holton and Buggins gave corroborative evidence.

For the defence it was contended that the defendant was celebrating his wife’s birthday, and that the persons on the premises were his friends.

The case was dismissed.”

#### 1891 Census

11, Albert Street – JOLLY COLLIERS

[1] *Abraham Hill* (29), moulder, born West Bromwich;

[2] Ann M. Hill (27), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Mary A. Sheldon (18), domestic servant, born Scotland:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/7/1891

“Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest yesterday afternoon, at the JOLY COLLIER INN, Albert Street, respecting the death of Florence Hadley, aged six months, illegitimate child of Sarah Hadley, of Albert Street, Oldbury, who died suddenly on Monday last.

The mother stated that the baby was taken ill when it was a fortnight old, and Dr. Cunningham supplied some medicine for it. It had been weak ever since. On Sunday last she took the deceased to a local surgery, but the medical man declined to give her any medicine, and as she was returning home she fell down with the child in her arms. She afterwards carried the child to Dr. Buttery’s surgery, who prescribed for it. She took the baby to Dr. Buttery’s surgery again on Monday morning, but it died in the afternoon of the same day. She asked the father of the child to support it, but he refused to do so, and on one occasion he offered to give her 2s if she would drown herself and the child. Witness earned 7s per week, and frequently had to go without food in order to feed the baby. She denied that she had illtreated deceased.

Mary Ann Mason, Mary Ann Smith, Ann Moore, and Dinah Cooper also gave evidence.

Smith and Cooper, in reply to Superintendent Speke, both admitted that they told him some time ago that Hadley illtreated the child.

Dr. Buttery said the child was very emaciated, only weighing 7lb instead of about 14lb. There were no traces of food in the stomach. The cause of death was peritonitis,

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Peritonitis, accelerated by improper feeding and want of proper care.

The Coroner disallowed the expenses of the two witnesses Smith and Cooper, as a mark of his disapprobation of the manner in which they gave their evidence.”

Walsall Observer 28/4/1900

“An inquest was held at the Hospital yesterday, by the Borough Coroner (Mr. T. H. Stanley), on the body of *Thomas Baker*, aged 31, grocer, of Bilston Street, Darlaston, and owner of the JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury, who was killed by an accident caused by his horse taking fright.

The facts of the case were that the deceased had gone into a shop belonging to Lizzie Evans, James Bridge, leaving the horse and trap outside, and while he was in there the horse’s bridle in some manner fell to the ground. Immediately after an electric tram passed, and the horse – although it had been driven by the deceased for some ten years in this district – took fright and jumped on to the pavement. Baker then ran out and caught the horse by the neck. The animal bolted, dragging deceased for about 50 yards, when the man fell, and probably from the nature of his injuries struck his head against the step of the trap. The tram immediately went back and conveyed him to the Hospital. Deceased was admitted to hospital on April 12<sup>th</sup>, and died on April 24<sup>th</sup> from exhaustion, following on a compound fracture of the skull.

The jury returned a verdict of verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1900

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

Mr. Jeffries opposed the renewal of the license of the KINGS ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, kept by the Manchester Brewery Company Limited; the TRAVELLERS REST INN, Hales Owen Street, kept by Samuel Sherwood; the JOLLY COLLIER INN; Albert Street, kept by *Alice Baker*, on the ground that they continued to give the long pull. The objection set forth that it was an unfair system of trading, that it was opposed to the wishes of the licensed trade generally, that it was contrary to public order and morality and calculated to increase drunkenness, that the license in each case was not necessary, and that the holder was not a fit and proper person to hold such license.

Mr. R. J. Lawrence appeared on behalf of the Manchester Brewery Company, and Mr. J. Clark represented the other two.

Mr. Jeffries, who opposed the licenses on behalf of the Oldbury Licensed Trade Association, gave evidence to the effect that the three publicans in question were giving more than 25% over measure agreed upon by resolution of the trade. Witness was subjected to a severe cross-examination by Mr. Lawrence, in the course

of which he acknowledged that trade combinations did sometimes fail, and that in the event of this particular one failing all the publicans would go back to the old plan of giving excessive over-measure.

The Bench retired to consider their decision, after which the chairman remarked that the justices did not consider there was any reasonable ground of objection in the arguments laid before them why the licenses should not be renewed. The licenses would therefore be renewed.”

#### 1901 Census

11, Albert Street – JOLLY COLLIER

[1] *Alice Baker* (30), widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Miriam F. Baker* (20), cousin, school teacher, born Oldbury;

[3] *Thomas W. Baker* (6), son, born Darlaston:

#### Birmingham Mail 24/9/1906

“Today, at West Bromwich Police Court, William Henry Heath (24), residing at Frederick Road, Walsall, was charged with stealing a horse of the value of £10, the property of Thomas Powell, of Whitehall Road, Greets Green, West Bromwich, on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst.

It was alleged that prisoner fetched the horse out of a field at Greets Green and rode it to the JOLLY COLLIER INN at Oldbury, where he placed it in a stable. Subsequently he sold the animal to a fishmonger named Murphy for 12s, telling him that it had twisted itself on the wake ground in drawing off a van, and that it would be dead on the following morning. Early the next morning a noise was heard in the stable and the animal was found lying dead. The horse was removed by Murphy to the premises of a slaughterer, where it was disposed of.

Prisoner was committed for trial at Staffordshire Assizes.”

#### Gloucester Citizen 6/12/1906

“At Staffordshire Assizes on Wednesday William Henry Heath, basket maker, who pleaded guilty to stealing three horses at Tipton, Perry Barr, and West Bromwich, was indicted for maiming one of the horses. The evidence showed that prisoner caused such severe internal injuries to the animal that it died. The prisoner denied the charge and alleged that the animal injured itself. A verdict of guilty was returned. There were numerous previous convictions against the prisoner, who was sentenced to six years’ penal servitude.”

*Thomas Dennis* – see also ROLLERS ARMS.

#### Smethwick Telephone 2/5/1908

“There were some important comments made in reference to the granting of three off licenses for the Lightwoods district by the Oldbury justices, at a meeting of the County Licensing Committee, at which application was made for the confirmation of the concessions. At the outset, Mr. Willis Bund (the chairman) said that in reference to these three applications he understood there was some agreement or understanding between the Oldbury justices and the applicants. They had no particulars of that understanding. The brewers were willing, if the licenses were granted, to surrender certain licenses in Oldbury. The question was whether the committee ought not to have before them very full information concerning those houses which were going to be surrendered.

The first applicant was James Swain, Katherine Road, Warley, grocer, on whose behalf Mr. J. J. Parfitt, KC, appeared. The offer made on behalf of the brewers, through the applicant, was to surrender three licenses in Oldbury, viz, the JOLLY COLLIER, Albert Street; BOAT INN, Birchfield Lane (both fully-licensed houses); and the RISING SUN, Queen Street, a beer ‘on’ license. The district (observed Mr. Parfitt) for which the new license was asked was a growing one, and many houses were springing up on all sides. The shop for which the off license was requested was at the corner of two streets, and in those streets and three others adjoining there were 278 houses, and something like 1,390 inhabitants, so that the need was real.

The Chairman said his point was that they ought to have further information as to the value of the houses which were to be surrendered. They might be valuable, and they might not, but it was very important for the Court to know what value the brewers put upon the houses.

Mr. Parfitt said information could be given, and handed in a statement, expressing the hope that with this

information it would be possible for the committee to come to the conclusion that the site for the new license was an admirable one. and confirm the granting of the license.

The Chairman said that the site of the house was only fifty yards from the Staffordshire border.

Evidence was given showing that 280 people petitioned in favour of the license being granted.....

The Chairman said an attempt had been made – rightly or wrongly he would not say – to cover the district with off licenses, which would pay no monopoly value and contribute nothing to the compensation fund, and for which certain licenses were offered in order to get over any objections. The licenses it was proposed to surrender were not those it was most desired to take away, because they were not included in the twenty reported by the Oldbury justices. In the discharge of their duty to the ratepayers were the committee justified in covering the district with off licenses? Another point was whether the committee ought to grant the licenses applied for. They were offered valuable terms, but he was loth to tie the hands of the committee by asking them to accept them in view of the pending legislation. The applications would be granted, but it must be distinctly understood that the terms agreed upon between the justices of Oldbury and the applicants did not fetter the committee in any way if they were called upon to deal with the licenses in the near future.”

The license was surrendered on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1908.

#### Smethwick Telephone 8/5/1909 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold Houses and Premises, Dingle Street, Rounds Green; Whyley Street, Spring Street, and Cross Street, Langley; Albert Street, Unity Place, Churchbridge and Park Street, Oldbury; and Eligible Freehold Building, Valuable Mine of Clay and Extensive Tip, Churchbridge, Oldbury.

By Messrs. Samuel Jones, Son, & Vernon at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Monday May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1909, at 6.30 for 7 o’clock pm prompt, subject to Conditions of Sale which will incorporate the Common Form of the Birmingham Law Society.....

Lot 13. A substantially-built Freehold Premises, formerly known as the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Albert Street, Oldbury aforesaid, the license of which has been surrendered. This is a Double-fronted House, and contains Hall, Four large Rooms and Pantry on the ground floor, One large Room the whole width of the house, and Three other Rooms on the second floor. Outside, in Paved Yard, with Double-gateway approach from Unity Place, is small Brewery, four-stall Stable with Loft over, Horse-box, Scullery, Pig-stye, Fowl-pen, WC, Urinal, etc. This House could, at a very small expense, be converted into two, or is on account of its central position, large rooms, stabling, etc, well adapted for many businesses.....”

#### Smethwick Telephone 29/5/1909

“An auction sale on Monday last at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, conducted by Mr. Frank Jones (Messrs. Samuel Jones, Son, and Vernon) aroused considerable interest, the attendance being exceptionally good.

There was some spirited bidding for those lots which were disposed of.....

The premises which were formerly known as the JOLLY COLLIER INN, situate in Albert Street, Oldbury, realised £100.”

### **JOLLY COLLIER**

43, (23), Junction Street, (Albion Street), Brades, (New Village), OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Sarah Hill

George Jerrams

City Brewery Co. Ltd., Birmingham

Holden Brewery Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired c.1919) [1962]

David John Penn (acquired in March 1991)  
David and Wendy Yale [2007], [2019]

## LICENSEES

George Hill [1845] – [1851]  
George Hill [1861] – **1863**;  
John Hill (**1863** – [1873]  
Mrs. Sarah Hill [1880] – **1884**);  
Henry Jerrams (**1884** – **1886**);  
George Jerrams (**1886** – **1895**);  
Joseph ‘Joe’ Green [1887] – [1892] manager?  
Thomas Yates (**1895** – **1899**);  
John Holland (**1899** – **1902**);  
John Jacks Gough (**1902** – **1930**);  
George Thomas Owen (**1930** – **1931**);  
Wilfred Basterfield (**1931** – **1933**);  
Ernest Yates (**1933** – **1954**);  
Lilian Gwendoline Yates (**1954** – **1955**);  
Kenneth Soley Butler (**1955**);  
Austen Arthur Link (**1955** – **1956**);  
Dennis Roy Brookes (**1956** – **1957**);  
Sarah Jane Day (**1957** – **1960**);  
Rose Bradbury (**1960** – **1961**)  
Joseph Edward Mills (**1962** – **1966**);  
Gordon Amos (**1966** – **1970**);  
Eileen Singh Kaley (**1970** – **1971**);  
Patrick Leo Crowley (**1971** – **1973**);  
Herbert George Ingram (**1973**);  
John Henry Higgs (**1973** – **1991**);  
David John Penn (**1991** – **1995**);  
Bryan James Metcalfe (**1995** – **1996**);  
Richard David Penn (**1996** – **1998**);  
Wendy and David ‘Dave’ Yale (**1998** – [2019])

## NOTES

Brades New Village [1850], [1862]  
Albion Street [1892]  
23, Junction Street [1871], [1873], [1881], [1892]  
43, Junction Street [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939], [2020]

## VILLAGE COLLIER [1855]

It had a beerhouse license.

## Birmingham Journal 1/1/1859

“Important Licensed Victualler’s House, the JOLLY COLLIER, Brades New Village, Oldbury, near the Brades Works and the Albion Furnaces, within five minutes’ walk of the Albion Station, and in the midst of a large population.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of, that very important Old-licensed Inn, the JOLLY COLLIER,

Brades New Village, Oldbury, which has been very successfully carried on by the present Proprietor for the last twenty-five years, who is declining the Public business.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Appraiser, and Land Surveyor, Oldbury.”

#### 1861 Census

Junction Street – JOLLY COLLIER INN

- [1] *George Hill* (34), victualler, stock taker steel works, born Oldbury;
- [2] Harriot Hill (34), wife, born Drayton, Staffordshire;
- [3] Ann M. Hill (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] George Hill (12), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] Matilda Hill (7), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Henry W. Hill (5), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] Harriot W. Hill (3 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] George Hill (63), widower, boarder, coal miner, birthplace not known:

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 31/7/1861

“On Friday last, an inquest was held at the JOLLY COLLIER public house, in the parish of Oldbury, before R. Docker, Esq, coroner, on the body of Richard Hazledine, whose death resulted from injuries received by a fall of coals at the Brades Colliery some days previous. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

#### Birmingham Journal 11/1/1862 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, situated at Brades Village, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at the house of Mr. *George Hill*, the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Junction Street, Brades Village, Oldbury, on Monday, the 3rd day of February, 1862, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale.

Lot 1. All that Old-Licensed Public House, known as the JOLLY COLLIER, situate in Junction Street, Brades Village, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, in the occupation of Mr. *George Hill*; comprising Front Parlour, Tap Room, Back Parlour, Kitchen, and Bar, on the ground floor; three Bed Rooms and large Club Room on the upper floor; four capital Cellars under the whole; Pantry, Brewhouse, Malt Room, and other Out-buildings.

The above Property has a large Garden attached thereto, a good supply of Hard and Soft Water, and is situate in a populous neighbourhood, and offers a capital investment for any Person desirous of entering the Public Business.....”

#### Worcester Journal 14/3/1863 - Notice

“Pursuant to an order of the High Court of Chancery, made in the matter of the Estate of *George Hill*, deceased, late of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Brades Village, Oldbury, deceased, and in a Cause Richard Boyden Burleigh, William Snelgar, and George Burleigh, against John Hill and Samuel Marsh, the Creditors of *George Hill*, late of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Brades Village aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, deceased, who died on or about the 15th June 1861, and also the Encumbrances on his Real Estate are, by their Solicitors, on or before the 10th day of April next, to come in and prove their Claims, at the Chambers of the Vice-Chancellor, Sir John Stuart, No.11, Old Square, Lincolns Inn, Middlesex, or in default thereof they will be peremptorily excluded from the benefit of the said order. The 17th day of April, at one o'clock in the Afternoon, at the said Chambers, is appointed for hearing and adjudicating on the said Claims. Alfred Hall, Chief Clerk, Cox and Sons, Plaintiffs' Solicitors, 14, Sise Lane, London.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 16/4/1863 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District.

*George Hill*, of Brades Village, in the township of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Stock Taker and Licensed Victualler, having been adjudged Bankrupt under a Petition for Adjudication, filed in her Majesty's Court of Bankruptcy at Birmingham, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1863, is hereby required to surrender himself to



a Registrar of the said Court, at the first Meeting of Creditors, to be held before the said Registrar, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 1863, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the said Court of Birmingham. At the said first Meeting of Creditors the Registrar will receive the Proof of the Debts of the Creditors, and the Creditors may Choose an Assignee or Assignees of the Bankrupt's Estate and Effects. Notice is also hereby given, to all Persons indebted to the said Bankrupt, or that have any of his Effects, not to deliver the same but to Mr. Frederick Whitmore, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, the Official Assignee whom the Court has appointed in that behalf, and give notice to Henry Jackson, Heath Chambers, West Bromwich, the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy."

Birmingham Journal 2/5/1853

"Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *G. Hill*, Brades Village, stock-taker and licensed victualler. First sitting.

On the nomination of Mr. Shakespeare, of Oldbury, Mr. H. Gulliver, Banbury, hop and spirit merchant, was appointed assignee. The case was removed to the Oldbury County Court."

Birmingham Journal 30/5/1863 - Advert

"Brades Village, near Oldbury.

Valuable and Important Freehold Property, consisting of an Old Licensed Inn, with spacious Garden, convenient Out-Houses, and other Premises, situate in Junction Street, Brades Village, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, adjoining the Dudley and Birmingham Turnpike Road, and close to the celebrated Iron and Steel Works of Messrs. James Hunt and Sons.

To be Sold by Auction, by Robert H. Jones, at Mr. John Green's, the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury, on Monday Next, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that capital Old-Licensed House, known as the JOLLY COLLIER, situate at Brades Village aforesaid, and late in the occupation of *George Hill*.

The Premises consist of spacious Bar, Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, and Kitchen, extensive Club Room, and three good Bed Rooms, four roomy and cool Cellars, Brewhouse, and other convenient Out-houses, Piggeries, &c, &c, and large piece of Garden Ground, the whole containing 887 square yards or thereabouts. There is also an abundant supply of hard and soft Water of very excellent quality for brewing purposes.

For further particulars apply to William Shakespeare, Esq, Solicitor, or to the Auctioneer, both of Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/11/1863

"Eliza Harrold was brought before the Magistrates charged with stealing a bottle of brandy, the property of Mr. *John Hill*, JOLLY COLLIER INN, Brades. The evidence showed that on the 30<sup>th</sup> of last month, she was drinking at the house of complainant, and upon leaving she committed the theft in question. The brandy was found in her possession. She pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to twenty-one days' imprisonment."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 5/11/1863

"At Oldbury Petty Sessions on Tuesday, the business before the Justices was not of much importance.....

Eliza Arnold was charged with having stolen a bottle of brandy, the property of *John Hill*, the JOLLY COLLIER INN, at the Brades Village. The prisoner went to the house of the prosecutor, as was her custom, and after drinking there some time she took her departure, and with herself the bottle of brandy. Sentence, twenty-one days' imprisonment with hard labour."

*John Hill* was also a shopkeeper. [1864], [1865]

*John Hill*, beer retailer, Brades. [1870]

1871 Census

23, Junction Street – JOLLY COLLIER

[1] *John Hill* (47), victualler, provision dealer, born Oldbury;

[2] *Sarah Hill* (44), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Hannah M. Hill* (18), daughter, born Oldbury;

- [4] Mary J. Hill (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Sarah L. Hill (14), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Emily A. Hill (11), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] Clara Hill (9), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] John A. Hill (6), son, born Oldbury;
- [9] Isaac M. Hill (3), son, born Oldbury;
- [10] Anna R. Hill (1), daughter, born Oldbury:

*John Hill* died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1875.

#### 1881 Census

23, Junction Street – JOLLY COLLIERS

- [1] *Sarah Hill* (53), widow, provision dealer, born Rowley;
- [2] Mary J. Hill (26), daughter, assists in business, born Oldbury;
- [3] Clara Hill (19), daughter, dressmaker, born Oldbury;
- [4] John A. Hill (16), son, clerk, born Oldbury;
- [5] Isaac Hill (13), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Ann R. Hill (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Gertrude E. Whitehouse (4), niece, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1884 - Advert

“To be Sold by private treaty, valuable Freehold Free Old-licensed Public-house, the JOLLY COLLIER, Brades Village, near Oldbury. The house contains grocer’s shop, bar parlour, tap room, kitchen, four good cellars, three large bed rooms, club room; brewhouse, malt room, stable, piggeries, large garden; all retire; of the estimated annual value of £40. Price, including licenses, goodwill, and possession, £600. Stock and fixtures at valuation. This house has not changed hands for twenty-three years. For further particulars, apply to Mr. W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Public-house Valuer, Talbot Street, Oldbury; and 491, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.”

#### Birmingham Mail 16/9/1884

“Failure of a Publican at Oldbury.

A petition for a receiving order has been filed in the Oldbury County Court by *Sarah Hill*, residing at the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Junction Street, Brades Village, publican and grocer. Mr. H. S. Forrest, Oldbury, is the debtor’s solicitor.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 20/9/1884 - Advert

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1883.

Re *Sarah Hill*, JOLLY COLLIER, Brades Village, near Oldbury.

Mr. W. H. Pass will Sell by Auction, by order of Mr. L. J. Sharp, Esq, the official receiver, on Friday Next, September 26, the whole of the Household Furniture, Trade Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, Brewing Plant, together with the valuable Licenses, Goodwill and Possession.

Sale at 11am prompt.

Auctioneer’s Offices – Smethwick and Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1884

“Yesterday a meeting of the creditors of *Sarah Hill*, residing at the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Junction Street, Brades Village, Oldbury, publican and grocer, was held at the County Court, before Mr. Chas. Woollett (deputy Official Receiver). Mr. S. H. Forrest appeared for the debtor, and creditors were represented by Messrs. W. H. Pass, C. Hewitt, and W. Todbury (from Mr. Shakespeare’s office). The statement of affairs showed total liabilities £409 6s 7d, and a deficiency of £284 5s 2d. A resolution was passed confirming the adjudication. Subsequently the debtor was examined by Mr. Woollett, before Mr. G. S. Watson (Registrar), and on the application of Mr. Forrest was allowed to pass.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 2/7/1887

“John Ward and Arthur Thomas, both of Junction Street, Brades Village, were charged with stealing a live fowl at Tividale, on the 25<sup>th</sup> June, the property of Samuel Leadham, of Gipsy Lane.

Complainant stated that he saw Ward putting the fowl under his jacket. Mr. Blewitt brought the fowl to him the same day.

John Johnson deposed to seeing prosecutor chasing these men, and hearing them shout ‘stop him’ he caught hold of Thomas having run him into the Brades work.

Albert Clift deposed to finding the fowl under a hedge, and taking it to Mr. Leadham’s.

PC Macdermott arrested prisoners at their homes, and charged them with the theft. Ward pleaded guilty, but his mother who was present told him to say not guilty. Thomas said he had not been out of the house for over an hour.

Arthur Thomas was further charged with stealing one cleaver handle, and a chopper handle from the Brades Steel Works. Jarvis Clark, manager, identified the articles as the property of Mr. Heaton. They sent the articles out complete with the handles upon them. He could not say when they were taken away, but by their appearance he should say recently. Defendant said he had the goods given to him in a public house. Mr. Clark stated that defendant was in their employ up to last week.

PC Winfield deposed to searching prisoner’s home on Saturday last, for the fowl in the last case, and in a box in the bedroom he found the handles produced. He charged him with stealing them, when he said he had them brought to him by Albert Lewis, a woodturner at the Brades Works, who gave them to him in *Joe Green’s* public house. He gave him a drop of beer for them.

Albert Lewis was called and denied having given them to prisoner. They did not turn those kind in his department. He gave him one in the works once, but neither of the ones produced.

Defendant said that witness told him he would get him one from the warehouse and say it was for a pattern.

Defendant again stated that last witness gave him the handles.

Mr. Bassano said Ward had a very bad character and he would be sentenced to three months with hard labour.

Thomas not having appeared before was committed for a month for stealing the fowl, and a month for the theft of the handles.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/1/1891 - Advert

“Found, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, a Donkey. If not owned in three days will be sold.

Apply, JOLLY COLLIER, Brades Village.”

1891 Census

43, Junction Street – JOLLY COLLIER INN

- [1] *Joseph Green* (46), publican, victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary J. Green* (46), wife, born Burton, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Charles Green* (15), son, spade roller, born Oldbury;
- [4] *George Green* (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Minnie Green* (16), daughter, pupil teacher, born Oldbury:

West Bromwich Weekly News 1/9/1900

“Stabling to let for Two Horses.

Apply, JOLLY COLLIER, Brades Village, Oldbury.”

*John Holland* was married to Emma. She died in 1899.

1901 Census

43, Junction Street – JOLLY COLLIER INN

- [1] *John Holland* (61), widower, publican, born Pelsall:

*John Holland* died in 1904.

See also LAMP, Walsall.

### Birmingham Mail 10/4/1906

“An application to carry out certain alterations and improvements at the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Brades Village, was granted, but the Bench declined to grant a similar application in respect of the PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, although they were assured that the alterations were purely for domestic purposes.”

### 1911 Census

43, Junction Street

- [1] *John Jacks Gough* (45), publican, born Pontesford, Shropshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Gough* (50), wife, married 14 years, born Oldbury;
- [3] *John Charles Gough* (13), son, school, born Rounds Green;
- [4] *Wilfrid Gough* (10), son, school, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Ellen Safe* (16), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

### West Bromwich Weekly News 1/3/1913

“On Thursday, last week, the first annual supper of the JOLLY COLLIER Bowling Club was held at the JOLLY COLLIER INN, where a good muster of the members turned up, and did ample justice to the excellent repast provided by Host *Gough*. After the cloth was drawn, the President, Mr. William Gough, took the chair.....”

*George Thomas Owen* – see also BLUE BALL, Old Hill.

### 1939 Register

43, Junction Street – JOLLY COLLIER Public House

- [1] *Ernest Yates*, date of birth 13/7/1900, manager of licensed inn, married;
- [2] *Gwendoline Lilian Yates*, dob 14/3/1906, unpaid domestic duties, married:

*Ernest Yates* died in 1954

### Sports Argus 3/11/1956

“Brothers-Well-Met caught 112 fish in their match at Pershore with JOLLY COLLIER, Oldbury, who recorded only 38 fish, among which was a 10oz roach caught by H. Norris. Brothers-Well-Met won with 14-6-8 to JOLLY COLLIER’S 5-3-8.”

### Express & Star 1/2/2011

“A man who died after being hit by a car in the Black Country was today described by his family as ‘a true gentleman of the old school.’ *Brian Metcalfe*, aged 71, was crossing Dudley Road in Oldbury on his way to the GEORGE pub when he was hit by a Nissan Micra that failed to stop.....

Mr. *Metcalfe*, who was born in Wales, then became landlord of the JOLLY COLLIER on Junction Road, before returning to his RAF roots – as a safety equipment supervisor for Babcocks at RAF Valley in north Wales. He worked there for the past 14 years, visiting his family in Oldbury at weekends.....”

It closed and the license was revoked on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1998.

It reopened in May, after a six-week refurbishment

*Wendy Yale* was born in Oldbury.

She married *David Yale* of the PRINCE OF WALES.

### Express & Star 28/4/2011

“Royal Wedding fever was sweeping the West Midlands today with 24 hours to go until the historic spectacle.....

The JOLLY COLLIER on Junction Street, Oldbury, is holding a Royal Wedding beer festival with a host of

aply named ales for the occasion. Landlady *Wendy Yale*, 51, said customers will be able to toast the happy couple with beers sourced from Black Country breweries, designed and named specially for the occasion. They include beers called English Pride, Royal Flush, May Queen and Royal Spice. She said, ‘It will be a real family fun event. The beer garden will be open and it has a zip wire for the children. We will be opening from 11am and the wedding will be screened in the pub. We are going to be open all weekend, or until the beer runs out.’”

[The wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton.]

Express & Star 18/4/2013

“A landlord who says his takings are 30 per cent down due to a triple whammy of roadworks is stocking a new tittle to highlight his plight. *Dave Yale*, the boss of the JOLLY COLLIER in Oldbury, is selling a 4.6 per cent ale called Road Closed. He says his trade has dwindled ever since Brades Road was shut in both directions at the start of February. Bury Hill Road has been closed since the start of March and Newbury Lane shut a few days ago so the electricity can be installed at the new Portway Lifestyle Centre. ‘Everyone has been moaning about the road works,’ said Mr. *Yale*. ‘I was talking to Church End Brewery, based in Nuneaton, Warwickshire, and they told me they were having the same problems there. They said they had brewed a beer called Road Closed and I said, ‘Put me down for a barrel of that. It’s very nice, 4.6 per cent and very light in colour . . . . When you consider the bad weather we were having not too long ago as well, it’s probably the worst start to a year I’ve had since I became landlord in 1998.’”

*Dave Yale* – see also PRINCE OF WALES.

It was sold in June 2019.

[2021]

## **JOLLY COLLIER**

Park Lane, (Park House Lane), Langley Green, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

William Jones [1850] – [1853]

### NOTES

*William Jones*, beer retailer, Park Lane. [1850]

### 1851 Census

Park House Lane

[1] *William Jones* (42), blacksmith and beer retailer, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Jones* (39), wife, born Rowley;

[3] *Eliza Jones* (15), daughter, employed at home, born Oldbury;

[4] *John Jones* (14), son, blacksmith, born Oldbury;

[5] *Mary Ann Jones* (7), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *Jacob Jones* (3), son, born Oldbury;

[7] Phebe Jones (6 months), daughter, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Journal 6/11/1852 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Houses and Building Land, situated in Park House Lane, leading from Oldbury to Langley Green.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Hawkins, at Mr. James Jones’s, the QUEENS HEAD, near to Trinity Church, Langley Green, on Monday Next, November 8<sup>th</sup>, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be produced.....

Lot 2. All those Two substantially built Houses, one a Public House, known by the sign of the JOLLY COLLIER, fronting to Park House Lane, and adjoining Lot 1, now in the occupation of *William Jones*; the other a House adjoining at the back, in the occupation of Maria Pool; and also, all that Land or Garden Ground, with the Pump of Water, Out-buildings, and Pigsties, situated at the back.

This Land is intended to be divided from the Land belonging to Lot 1, by a fence Wall, to be erected by the Purchaser, running in a straight line from the wall in the entry, to the extreme part of the Land, adjoining the brook, as now staked out. The above lot, inclusive of the site of the Buildings, contains an area of 393 square yards or thereabouts, and produces at very low rentals £16 18s per annum.

The above Properties are situated in a populous and thriving neighbourhood, being contiguous to several very extensive works, and only a short distance from Trinity Church, and are calculated to command respectable Tenants and derive a regular income.....”

Birmingham Journal 12/2/1853 - Advert

“Freehold Houses and Building Land, Park Lane, Oldbury, near to Langley Green New Church.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hammond and Oldfield, on Wednesday Next, the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.

Lot 1. A well-built Retail Public House, known as the JOLLY COLLIER, fronting to the road leading from Oldbury to Langley Green, in the occupation of *William Jones*; consisting of two front Rooms, back Room, Cellarage, two Chambers, Brewhouse, Piggeries, and Garden. A Front Retail Shop and Premises, in the occupation of David Davis. Two Back Houses, in the occupation of Thomas Fellows, and void, calculated to produce together £29 10s per annum.....”

**JUNCTION**

2, (32), (17), (15), (24), Birmingham Street / Unity Place, OLDBURY

**OWNERS**

Peter Walker and Co. Ltd., Burton on Trent

Atkinsons Ltd. [1930]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Centric

Gibbs Mew [2002]

Admiral Taverns

**LICENSEES**

John Green [1859] – [1873]

Betsy Green [ ]

Mrs. Sarah Cooksey [1877] – [1880]

Alfred Gould [1881] manager  
William Brennand [1884] – **1902**);  
Henry Edward ‘Harry’ Wright [1891], [1896] (**1902 – 1913**);  
John Jagger (**1913 – 1918**);  
George Henry Moore (**1918 – 1922**);  
W H Wright [1918] ?  
Joseph Hunt (**1922 – 1929**);  
Frederick Henry ‘Fred’ Vaughan (**1929 – 1934**);  
W H Wright [1934] ?  
Daniel Jeavons (**1934 – 1935**);  
Percy Edwards (**1935 – 1940**);  
Samuel Snow (**1940 – 1945**);  
Joseph William Whitehouse (**1945 – 1947**);  
Joseph Crosby (**1947 – 1948**);  
Arthur Hackett (**1948 – 1950**);  
Charles Albert Taylor (**1950 – 1952**);  
Evan Edwin Lawrence (**1952 – 1955**);  
Clara Freer (**1955**);  
James McMeekin (**1955 – [1962]**)  
Joseph Edward Mills [1971]  
Fellows [1993]

## NOTES

24, Birmingham Street [1871]  
15, Birmingham Street [1881]  
17, Birmingham Street [1873], [1884]  
32, Birmingham Street [1891], [1892], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939]  
2, Birmingham Street [1996], [2020]

GRAND JUNCTION INN [1861]  
JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS [1859], [1861], [1864], [1865], [1866], [1868], [1871], [1873], [1880]  
JUNCTION WINE VAULTS [1867]  
JUNCTION LIQUOR VAULTS [1866], [1881], [1900]  
JUNCTION HOTEL [1864], [1865], [1866], [1868], [1871], [1877], [1878], [1879], [1880], [1887]  
JUNCTION VAULTS [1865], [1866], [1869], [1870], [1871], [1872], [1873], [1877], [1884], [1888],  
[1892], [1912], [1916], [1921]  
WREXHAM JUNCTION VAULTS [1911]

It was known locally as the “Wrexham” – it sold Walker’s (of Warrington) Wrexham Ales.

### Birmingham Journal 21/5/1859 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Properties, consisting of Old-Licensed Public House, and Freehold Dwelling Houses, situate in Birchy Filed Lane, in the Township of Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by A. G. Atree, at the house of Mr. *John Green*, JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS, opposite the Church, Oldbury, on Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May instant, at Seven o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions of sale as shall be then produced.....”

### 1861 Census

Birmingham Street – JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS

[1] *John Green* (55), spirit merchant and agent, born Birmingham;

[2] Elizabeth Green (56), wife, born Birmingham;

- [3] Mary Green (27), daughter, born Birmingham;  
[4] John Green (24), son, carpenter, born Birmingham;  
[5] Elizabeth Green (20), daughter, born West Bromwich;  
[6] Joseph Green (19), son, born Oldbury;  
[7] *Sarah Green* (17), daughter, assistant to father, born Oldbury;  
[8] Mary Cook (21), servant, born Oldbury:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/9/1861 - Advert

“To Coalmasters and Others. Land and Mines, at Oldbury.

Mr. B. Wooldridge will Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *John Green*, the GRAND JUNCTION INN, at Oldbury, on Monday next, the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 1861, at five o’clock in the afternoon.

All that very desirable Piece of Old Turf Land, situate at Tat Bank, Oldbury, now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Underhill, containing by recent measurement 2a 2r 5p (together with the Mines and Minerals there-under).

Also, the Mines and Minerals lying under part of the Canal, the Engine House, Lock House, and Land of the Birmingham Canal Company, containing 3r 38p.

Also, the Mines and Minerals lying underneath half the road in front of the said Land, containing 10p. For further information, apply to Mr. John Harward, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Stourbridge.”

Birmingham Journal 14/12/1861 - Advert

“Oldbury. To Grocers, Bakers, Provision Dealers, &c.

To be Let, and may be entered upon at Christmas, a good Business Premises, in the centre of the town, opposite the Church, suitable for either of the above trades, comprising front Shop, Sitting Room, five Bed Rooms, Cellars, Warehouse, 24 feet by 12 feet, with Bakehouse and Oven under the same. A good Business has been done in the Baking Trade by Mr. Balinger, who is leaving. Rent £27 10s.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *John Green*, JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS, opposite the Church, Oldbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/1/1862

“On Tuesday, R. Docker, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury, on the body of Mary Ann Dickenson, a widow, aged 61, who was found dead on the floor of her own house about half-past one on the 9<sup>th</sup> instant.

It was proved that the deceased was of intemperate habits, and was not sober on the day of her death. Dr. Cooper said the appearances presented induced him to believe that death had resulted from apoplexy caused by excessive drinking, and the Jury returned a verdict to that effect. A curious circumstance connected with the case was that the woman’s husband died in a similar way eighteen months ago.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/8/1862 - Advert

“By Mr. Parkes. Sale on Monday Next, at 6pm.

By Mr. J. S. Parkes, at Mr. *John Green*’s, the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury.

Growing Crops of Wheat, Potatoes, Oats, and Barley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/1/1863

“Hollowware Moulders’ Strike.

A large number of the hollowware trade operatives met on Wednesday evening last, at the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury, when Mr. Chumbley, secretary of the society, occupied the chair. The Chairman said he would urge upon them to look after their own interests, and protect their own rights. Whilst two or three petty employers wished to discount their men four or five shillings in the pound, we, who get twenty shillings to the pound, are determined, knowing the evils of the discount system, to say if possible, ‘Thus far shalt thou go, and no further.’ He was glad to say it was not a general discount, but only looked for by one or two of the small firms; the larger ones did not wish to reduce them. He was also proud to say that the men at their works, Mr. Bullock’s, paid their money as freely as ever; indeed, the men began to see more than ever that it is to their own interest to pay. The strike has now been carried on nine months, and the men appear willing to carry it out nine months longer if necessary.



The Chairman then called Mr. Loach, from Messrs. Clarke's firm, Wolverhampton. He thought that when a man had laboured hard all the week to earn twenty shillings, he ought to receive it without discount, and expressed his willingness to double his contribution before they should succumb. He only hoped that the men who are out would prove firm, and then he had no doubt but that the strike would come to favourable conclusion.

Mr. Simcox believed that the object of their assembling together was not only for the maintenance of their principles, but they also wanted to see those men who had been so long grappling with difficulties raised to a common level with those who received 20s in the pound. He felt sure that if those who are out would prove firm, they would prove firm to them till they gained their ends. He was extremely pleased to see so many present, and so fully resolved to stand firm. They wanted nothing but what was just – 20s to the pound, no more and no less.

Mr. Holloway expressed himself adverse to all strikes, as they caused an unpleasant feeling to exist between the employer and employed. He could not see how they could possibly maintain themselves and families respectably at the proposed terms. Twenty-five years ago they formed a statement of prices, and they never attempted a reduction from them till now. He would urge them to take fresh courage – those that pay, pay; and those that play, play.

Many other speakers addressed the meeting, after which a resolution, proposed by Mr. Simcox, to the effect that they all agree to stand up for 20s in the pound, was heartily accorded, they at the same time rising en masse with a hearty 'Ay,' to give greater effect to their determinations.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and also to Mr. *Green*, proprietor of the room with which they were so comfortably accommodated, brought the proceedings to a close."

#### Birmingham Journal 24/1/1863 - Advert

"Preliminary Announcement. A Desirable Opportunity.

A Most Delightfully Situated Country Residence, within One and a Half Mile of Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Joseph S. Parkes, at the house of Mr. *John Green*, JUNCTION INN and WINE AND SPIRIT VAULTS, Oldbury, in February next – a most desirable compact Freehold Gentleman's Residence, within one and a half mile of Oldbury and the Bromford Lane Railway Station.

Particulars will appear next week.

Auctioneer and Estate Agent's Office: Wesley Street, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 25/3/1863

"At Oldbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, before Messrs. Dawes and E. Gem, Jonah Jeffcoth, retail coal dealer, was charged with having stolen five hundred weight of coal, the property of Mr. *John Green*, the JUNCTION INN. Mr. H. Jackson defended.

The evidence of Mr. *Joseph Green*, son of the prosecutor, was to the effect that on the 19<sup>th</sup> February last, he gave defendant an order to fetch some coal from Parkes's field. It was his duty to procure the load of coal and deliver the whole of it at the house of prosecutor. In about an hour and a half defendant returned with a load of coal. The witness did not know the weight of the load delivered, or what the original weight was.

Mr. Job Parkes, one of the partners in the colliery above named, proved the weight of the load given to defendant on the day in question was, including the cart, twenty-seven hundred weight and three-quarters. Six hundred weight and a half were allowed for the weight of the cart, and the coal was booked at 18cwt.

Witness generally allowed about 3cwt over to Mr. *Green*. He followed defendant with the cart, and saw him stop at his own house, and back the cart up to the door. Watched him while he removed a quantity of coal from the cart to his house. He took as much as he could carry in his arms four times.

Edward Humphries, alias 'Ted the Lamplighter,' gave evidence to the effect that he watched the defendant on the morning in question, at the request of last witness, and saw him remove coal from the cart three times, and put it into his house by a side door.

Information of these facts was subsequently given to prosecutor, who thereupon instituted the present proceedings, as he had been previously been previously dissatisfied with the loads of coal before drawn for him from the colliery by defendant.

Mr. *Green*, the prosecutor, said he had known defendant for a long time, and did not know much harm about him. There had some time ago been a subscription got up for him, to which he (witness) had contributed.

Mr. *Green*, in reply to a question from Mr. Jackson, as to whether he wished to press the charge, said that there was a great deal of coal stealing going on, and when he saw three women sent to prison for taking small quantities of coal, under very different circumstances, he thought such a man as defendant should not escape.

Mr. Jackson made an appeal to the Bench on behalf of his client, chiefly in mitigation of punishment, suggesting that the felonious intent was not made out, but that the defendant might have thought that he had a right to overweight.

The Bench convicted the prisoner, and ordered him to prison for fourteen days, to be kept to hard labour, a sentence, the leniency of which caused much surprise in Court.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/3/1864 - Advert

“Sale This Day, at 7pm. By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury.  
Front Freehold Building Land, situated in important and central situations in the town of Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/7/1865 - Advert

“Sale on Monday Next, at 7pm.  
By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury.  
Freehold Liquor Vaults and Two Front Shops, situated in Freeth Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/10/1865 - Letter

“To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir. At a meeting of ratepayers in Oldbury, yesterday, on the Sewage question, Mr. William Underhill stated that I had said at the meeting of the Board of Health that we intended to have Rounds Green and Langley Green unsewered, which was calculated to make the ratepayers of those two places think that we intended to exclude them from benefits towards which they would be compelled to pay, which statement I have denied, therefore one of us must be wrong, and I propose that whichever it is of us he should pay five pounds to one of the Birmingham Hospitals, the Chairman of the Board of Health or the two reporters who were at the said meeting to decide.

By allowing a space for the above you will oblige.

Your respectfully, *John Green*, JUNCTION VAULTS, Oldbury, October 14, 1865.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1866

“*John Green* begs to inform the inhabitants of Oldbury and its vicinity that, at the solicitations of a few friends, a Hundred Pounds Society will commence at the JUNCTION VAULTS, Oldbury. The first meeting will be Wednesday next, at eight o’clock in the evening.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/1/1866

“JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS, Oldbury.

*John Green* begs to inform his friends and the public generally that the first night of payment in the Fifty Pounds Society starting at his house, will be tomorrow (Wednesday), January 24, 1866, from eight till nine o’clock.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/8/1866

“On Friday morning, Mr. Hayward delivered a lecture, in the large room, at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury, on Sanitary Science: the modus operandi of the various disinfectants; the best means of testing and purifying water, &c, with illustrations and specimens.

Invitations were sent to the gentlemen in the neighbourhood interested in sanitary matters. There were about forty present, including the Chairman and other members of the Board of Health.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/9/1866 - Letter

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Daily Post*.

Sir, I think the public by this time must be thoroughly tired of the bickering at the Oldbury Board of Health, which bickerings are not likely to cease as the Board is at present constituted. I would therefore, for the sake

of peace, suggest that Messrs. Powell and Beach retire from the said Board, and that I and one other on our side retire also, and allow the parish to have an opportunity of rectifying matters which have certainly been a disgrace to the Board.

By allowing these few remarks a space you will oblige.

Your truly, *John Green*, JUNCTION VAULTS, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/9/1866 - Advert

“Building Land, Langley, near Oldbury. Preliminary Announcement. To Parties About to Build, and Others. *J. Green* begs to inform the Inhabitants of Oldbury and the Public generally, that he has made arrangements with the Trustees of Hampton-in-Arden Charity for a Select Plot of Freehold Building Land, with the Mines and Minerals, on the south side of Oldbury, at a convenient distance from the Town, near Langley Church, and within three or four minutes’ walk of the Langley Station on the Stourbridge Extension Railway to Birmingham. The Land will be apportioned into lots for building purposes, and in order to meet the convenience of purchasers the purchase money can be paid down at once or by fortnightly instalments of not less than four shillings. Payments to be made every alternate Monday evening, at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury, between the hours of Seven and Nine o’clock.

NB. Parties making payments are requested to observe that they are not compelled to spend any money whatever for drink,

Applications to be made to Mr. *J. Green*, JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 12/11/1866 - Advert

“By Messrs. Clarke and Barrows, This Day (Monday), at JUNCTION LIQUOR VAULTS, Oldbury, at Six o’clock.

Freehold Building and Wharf Land, situated at Langley, near Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 29/6/1867 - Married

“On the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, by license, at the Parish Church, Aston (by the Rev. H. G. Cranmer), Samuel F. *Cooksey*, to *Sarah*, youngest daughter of Mr. *John Green*, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/12/1867

“On Tuesday last, an inquest as held before Mr. Ralph Docker, at the house of Mr. *John Green*, the JUNCTION WINE VAULTS, concerning the death of a child, three years old, named Henry Parkes, whose parents live in Collins Buildings, Pig Street. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the deceased was left at home with two younger children, whilst in his mother went out, and during her absence a neighbour, named Clift, heard the children screaming, and, on going to the house, saw the deceased with his clothes all in flames. She instantly extinguished them with her hands, and in doing so burnt herself rather severely, but the deceased was so baldly burnt, that, notwithstanding the attentions of Mr. Hayward, surgeon, he died on the following day. It is supposed, as there was no guard in front of the fire-grate, that the deceased got too near to the fire, and so his clothes ignited. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### County Express 21/12/1867

“An inquest was held at the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury, on Saturday, before Mr. Ralph Docker, one of the coroners for the county of Worcester, on the body of Sarah Ann Edwards, aged two years. The mother had only left the deceased for two or three minutes, and on her return the child complained to her of something sharp in her throat, and put her hands to her chest. There was a kettle of boiling water on the fire-grate, which the child could reach. Some oil was instantly applied. Mr. Sainsbury, surgeon, at Oldbury, was sent for, and attended immediately. He stated that the marks on the chest, the inflamed mouth, and the symptoms were altogether consistent with severe internal scalds, and that death, in his opinion, occurred from exhaustion. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/2/1868 - Marriages

“On the 26<sup>th</sup> ultimo, at the Wesleyan Tabernacle, Oldbury, by the Rev. Lot Paxton, Henry, eldest son of Mr. *John Green*, of the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury, to Louisa, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Orton, foreman

of Mr. Mitchell's steel pen works, Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/4/1868

"Yesterday morning Mr. Ralph Docker, coroner, held an inquest at the JUNCTION INN, Birmingham Street, concerning the death of John Flanagan, aged 45, an Irishman, who was engaged in the ammonia department of Messrs. Chance's Chemical Works, and who met with his death there under the distressing circumstances reported in the *Gazette* of Thursday last. It transpired at the inquest that the deceased had to attend to a row of boilers, and it is supposed that he left the wooden lid off one, and that in walking over the sides of the others he accidentally fell in.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Birmingham Journal 25/7/1868 - Advert

"John Green, Auctioneer, Appraiser, and Commission Agent.

JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS, Oldbury.

PS. There is a commodious Room at the JUNCTION VAULTS, for convenience of Sales."

[From October 1868 similar adverts read John Green and Son.]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/12/1868 - Deaths

"On the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, at Oldbury, aged 24, Samuel F. *Cooksey*, son of Mrs. John Chambers, of The Beeches, near Oldbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/1/1869 - Advert

"Important Sale of Excellent and Modern Household Furniture.

*John Green* and Son will Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January.

The Household Furniture of the late Mr. Samuel Francis *Cooksey*, of Wesley Street, Oldbury; comprising excellent Drawing Room Suite, in walnut; oval Centre Table, with massive carved pillars and claws, in walnut; Chiffonier, with plate-glass doors and back, and Marble Slab, in walnut; 7-octave Piano-forte, walnut; splendid mahogany half-tester Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Tapestry and other Carpets, excellent electro-plated Tea and Coffee Service, with Tea Kettle, Stand, and Tray complete; Water-Colour and other Pictures, &c. The above Furniture has been bought new within the last eighteen months, and will be on view three days previous to Sale.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock punctually."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1869 - Advert

"Notice. To Market Stallkeepers. To be Let, in a Covered Market Place, opposite the Church, Oldbury, Several Stalls, free of charge, except 6d per week for Gas.

Apply at the JUNCTION VAULTS, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/5/1870 - Advert

"To be Sold by Private Contract, a very valuable Lot of Wharf Land, on the Oldbury Canal, opposite the Victoria Flour Mills, containing 1,368 square yards, with excellent well-built Warehouse, 14 inch walls, Size 32ft 9in by 27ft; bottom storey, 12ft 6in in height; upper storey proportionately high.

For particulars, apply to Messrs. John Green and Son, JUNCTION VAULTS, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1870

"Upon the subject of the war between France and Prussia, the Rev. A. O'Neil, of Birmingham, addressed a large audience on Saturday evening, assembled near the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury. He described the war as one generated by ambition, pride, and jealousy, and condemned, in strong terms, personal governments. He hoped soon to see the end of these despotic Powers, and to hear of that freedom and prosperity which would result from the people's rule. He congratulated the country at large upon the fact that up to the present time England had been enabled to maintain strict neutrality, and pointed out several instances in which interference had resulted in great harm.

Mr. Heinrick and Mr. Adams, of Birmingham, and Mr. C. Pass also addressed the meeting. It was stated that

subscriptions were being raised in Oldbury for the benefit of the wounded, and that a list lay at the house of Mr. *Green*, JUNCTION INN. Mr. Pass volunteered to give a lecture in the People's Hall, with the view of augmenting the fund, and it was suggested that no partiality should in any way be shown towards either of the belligerents but that the money realised should be appropriated to the relief of the sufferers, whether soldiers or civilians."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1870 - Advert

"By John Green and Son, This Day (Monday), at Eleven o'clock, at Park Lane, Oldbury. Grocer's Stock-in-Trade, Shop Fixtures, and Effects; also, a quantity of Forfeited Pledges."

Birmingham Daily Post 4/11/1870 - Advert

"For Sale, a Single-bodied Phaeton; also a capital Malvern Dog Cart, both newly lined, painted; suitable for a horse 14½ hands high. Apply, Jos. *Green*, JUNCTION VAULTS, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/3/1871 - Advert

"Chain Works, Rivet Works, or Other Works.

John Green and Son beg to call the Attention of the Public to an Advertisement in this day's *Post* of a Sale at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury, on Monday Next, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

Lots 3 and 4 would be an admirable site for a Works, having a frontage of two boats' length to the Canal, the other three sides bounded by brick walls, containing 2,770 square yards of Land, with large Warehouse or Store Rooms on one side."

1871 Census

24, Birmingham Street

[1] *John Green* (67), widower, spirit merchant, born Birmingham;

[2] *Mary Green* (45), daughter, born Birmingham;

[3] *Joseph Green* (28), son, auctioneer, born Oldbury;

[4] *Sarah Cooksey* (26), daughter, widow, born Oldbury;

[5] *Eliza Gilbert* (20), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*John Green* issued tokens bearing JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS.

Birmingham Daily Post 6/6/1871 - Advert

"To be Sold, cheap, 12,000 good sound Tiles, which have not been used with mortar. Apply to John Green and Son, Auctioneers, JUNCTION VAULTS, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/9/1871 - Advert

"Chemical Works, and Valuable Building and Wharf Land, at Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. John Green and Son (by order of the Mortgagee), at the JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS, Oldbury, on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions to be then produced and read....."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/5/1872 - Advert

"Freehold Building Land, in and near Arden Grove, Langley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. John Green and Son, This Day (Monday), the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, at the JUNCTION VAULTS, Oldbury....."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/8/1872 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold and Leasehold Properties, situate in Canal Street and Hunt Street, in the town of Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Joseph Cooksey and Son, at the house of Mr. *John Green*, the JUNCTION VAULTS, Oldbury, on Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August....."

*John Green* was also a brewer of Titford Road. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 17/3/1873 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir. Your correspondent, Mr. Samuel A. Goddard, disputes the fact of Mr. O’Connell speaking on Newhall Hill. Permit me to put him right on the question. I was present on the occasion, and heard him speak, and was standing within four yards of him. At the time I was an active member of the Political Union, and was cognisant of all its proceedings. I am now over seventy years of age, and consequently was at the period alluded to of mature age, and not likely to be deceived in the matter. So confident am I in my statement, that his harangue appears even now to be as familiar to me as when I heard him. Speaking of the late hours of the House of Commons, Mr. O’Connell said, ‘I have left those beautiful hills and fine mountains on which I love to roam to come and labour in that miserable factory called the House of Commons, and that at a time when none but characters of the worst description are out in search of evil.’

Mr. Goddard like asserts that Mr. O’Connell was never enthusiastic in the cause of Reform. In refutation I would allude to the speech of the honourable gentleman in the Town Hall, when alluding to the manifesto sent to Parliament by the Union, and its presentation by himself, said that that was the proudest moment of his life. As far as my memory serves me, the manifesto maintained that the people of England had a right to have arms in their possession for defence, but that right had fallen into disuse from a conviction that their person and property were secure. Finding that such was now not the case, they should forthwith proceed to arm.

I am, sir, yours respectfully, *John Green*, JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS, Oldbury. March 14, 1873.

(Numerous other letters on the same subject have reached us. There is no doubt whatever that Mr. O’Connell did speak at one of the Newhall Hill meetings. On reference to the file of the *Journal*, we find that he spoke there on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, 1833, and it is estimated that 200,000 people were present. Mr. Attwood, Mr. George Edmonds, the Rev. Mr. McDonnell, and the Rev. Dr. Wade also spoke. The object of the meeting was to petition the King to dismiss the Ministry. Mr. O’Connell also spoke in Birmingham in Graham Street Chapel – we cannot find the date – and also in the Town Hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, 1844, on the state of Ireland. Ed. D. P.)”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/5/1877 - Advert

“By R. J. Cooper, This Day (Tuesday), at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury.

The whole of the valuable Oil Paintings and Engravings; also, a portion of Household Furniture, by order of the Executors of the late Mr. *John Green*.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/9/1877 - Advert

“Freehold Dwelling Houses, in Eel Street, Oldbury, and valuable Leasehold Houses, situate in Brickkiln Street and Henn Street, Birmingham; and Leasehold Ground Rents arising from Properties in Lancaster Street, Brickkiln Street, Stainforth Street, Balloon Street and Henn Street, Birmingham.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Charles Round, as follows.....

As to the Oldbury Property, at the House of Mrs. *Cooksey*, the JUNCTION VAULTS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, Tomorrow (Wednesday), September the 12<sup>th</sup> at Six for Seven o’clock in the evening.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/5/1878 - Advert

“By E. Cox, This Day (Monday) at 6, at the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury.

A Five-Quarter Brewery and Twenty Freehold Houses, and Freehold Building Sites, Langley, near Oldbury.”  
AND

“Eligible Freehold Properties, Perrott Street, Oldbury, Titford and Langley, near Oldbury.

Mr. R. J. Cooper will Sell by Auction, at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury, This Day (Monday) the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, at 6 o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

County Advertiser 23/8/1879 - Advert

“To Rivet Makers, Manufacturers, and Others.

Important and Valuable Freehold Property and Land, situate on the Oldbury Road, Blackheath, Rowley. Mr. R. J. Cooper will Sell by Auction, at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.....”

Dudley Herald 3/7/1880

“Shortly after midnight on Monday the JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, were broken into, and money and jewellery, representing a total value of between £5 and £6, were taken. Entrance was effected through the fan-light space over the main entrance, which faces along the chief street in the town.”

Dudley and District News 14/8/1880

“A special Sessions was held on Monday, when Thomas Weston, ironworker, was charged with assaulting Police-constables Lamb and Crow. The officers were called upon on Saturday night to eject the prisoner from the JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Weston became violent and kicked both officers, and struck them many times. He knocked Lamb down and bit him severely, so injuring him that he has been unable to resume duty. The uniform of both officers was damaged by the prisoner’s violence. Prisoner was remanded.”

AND

Dudley Herald 21/8/1880

“At Oldbury Police Court, on Monday, Thomas Weston, ironworker, was charged with assaulting Police-constables Lamb and Crow while in the execution of their duty on August 7<sup>th</sup>. He was also charged with being drunk upon the licensed premises of the JUNCTION INN, and refusing to quit the same. The Bench fined defendant 10s and costs for refusing to quit, and 5s and costs for the assault upon the police, or in default one month’s hard labour.”

Dudley and District News 15/10/1881

“*Betsy Green*, landlady of the BLUE BALL INN, Oldbury Road, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness.....

Several influential gentlemen bore testimony to the good character borne by Mrs. *Green*, both during her stay at the BLUE BALL and at the JUNCTION INN, at Oldbury.....”

*Betsy Green* – see also BLUE BALL.

*Sarah Cooksey* issued tokens bearing JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS.

Oldbury Weekly News (March 1880)

“Assembling of the Liberal Committee. The first meeting of the supporters of Messrs. Hastings and Gladstone was held at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 29/1/1881

“Oldbury County Court, Yesterday, (Before Mr. W. D. Griffiths, Judge).

*Cooksey v Lancaster*. This was an action brought by the plaintiff (Mrs. *Cooksey*, late of the JUNCTION VAULTS, Oldbury), to recover possession of premises adjoining the vaults, and situate in Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

Mr. William Shakespeare appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hartill for the defendant.

Mr. Shakespeare said the defendant, Thomas Lancaster, originally used the premises as a saddler’s shop, four or five years ago. After that period Mrs. *Cooksey* became the owner, and then an alteration was made in the tenancy, and the rent, which had previously been £5 a quarter, was fixed at £5 5s a quarter, and there was an understanding that a quarter’s notice must be given and accepted at any time. In September 1880, Mrs. *Cooksey* was about making arrangements for the sale of the property in question, with that adjoining it. Accordingly plaintiff saw Mr. Lancaster, who agreed to forego any notice, and said he would go at any time Mrs. *Cooksey* required that he should do so. She told him that she would not want possession of the property before November, probably not until December, in which case he might stay in until the latter month.

Defendant repeated his willingness to go out at any time, and, referring to the fact that she had previously withdrawn notices she had given, he added, 'I know you will not take the house out of my hands unless you really do want it.' On that occasion Mrs. *Cooksey* said, 'Well you might be put to some inconvenience in moving, and I think I ought to give you something. You owe me two quarters' rent, and I will make you a present of one quarter's rent.'

Mrs. *Cooksey* accordingly did so. She gave him £6 10s and consented to allow him to live rent free in the house until she required the premises. Also, at defendant's request, the plaintiff cashed a bill for £20, without discounting it, in order to oblige him. She took the precaution, withal, to give a notice to quit by the 25<sup>th</sup> December 1880. When Mr. Lancaster heard that Mrs. *Cooksey* had agreed to sell the property, he said he should require £100 for going out. The action was to recover immediate possession.

Mrs. *Cooksey* and two other witnesses were called, and deposed to these facts.

The defence set up by Mr. Hartill was that tenancy was yearly and not quarterly, and, after hearing evidence for the defendant, His Honour gave a verdict for the plaintiff, with costs, defendant to give up immediate possession and pay the rent due up to the time of leaving."

#### 1881 Census

15, Birmingham Street – JUNCTION INN

[1] *Alfred Gould* (31), manager of vaults, born Dalwood, Devon;

[2] *Jane Gould* (30), wife, born Liverpool;

[3] *Albert Gould* (3), son, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Walter Gould* (1), son, born West Bromwich;

[5] *William Garrey* (25), boarder, barman, born Kings County, Ireland;

[6] *Beatrice Cowles* (13), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

*William Brennand* issued tokens bearing JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1885

"Yesterday, Susan Irish (64), wife of Abraham Irish, of Albert Street, died from the effects of injuries received on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst by being run over, in Church Street, by a horse and brake belonging to Mr. F. Smith, of Langley."

AND

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1885

"Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held before Mr. R. Docker, coroner, at the JUNCTION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, respecting the death of Susan Irish (64), who died on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst from the effects of injuries received on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. On the day named, deceased, whilst attempting to cross Church Street, was knocked down and run over by a break belonging to Mr. F. Smith, of Langley.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 2/9/1886

"Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held at the JUNCTION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury – before Mr. R. Docker, coroner – relative to the death of Henry Onions (4), of Colliers Row, Albert Street, who was drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near Potter's Bridge, on the 24<sup>th</sup> ult. A verdict of Accidentally Drowned was returned."

AND

"Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. E. Docker, (deputy-coroner), at the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury, touching the death of Benjamin Hale, aged four years, son of Benjamin Hale, of Portway Road, who was found drowned in a basin of the Birmingham Canal, in Messrs S. and J. Saddler's brickyard, on Monday last. According to the evidence of Elizabeth Hale, the mother, the deceased went out to play in the afternoon, and a short time afterwards his hat was seen floating on the surface of the water. A search was made, and ultimately the body was pulled out. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned."

AND

"Mr. E. Docker (deputy coroner for East Worcestershire) held an enquiry yesterday, at the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury, upon the body of Thomas Collett (55), who formerly resided at 13, Broomfield, Smethwick, and



who was found hanging in a shed near Thimblemill House, Warley, on Sunday morning last. Elizabeth Collett, wife of the deceased, stated that her husband was, up till about a month ago, in the employ of Mr. W. Shakespeare, solicitor, of Oldbury. She last saw him alive on Saturday morning about ten o'clock, when he left home, saying he was going to business. He told witness he had obtained another situation. Since he left Mr. Shakespeare's employ she had noticed that the deceased was very strange in his manner, and he appeared to be full of grief and trouble owing to the loss of his situation, and was also unable to sleep at nights.

Joseph Lees, gardener, of Thimblemill Lane, deposed that on Sunday morning last, about five o'clock, he discovered the body of deceased in a shed near the Thimblemill Road, Warley. It was suspended to a hayrack by a leather waist-strap, which was fastened round the neck. Witness gave information to Police-constable Nash, and the body was cut down about half-past-six o'clock. A juror suggested that it would have been better if witness had cut down the body and afterwards communicated with the police. Witness replied that he acted on his own judgment and thought he did right, as the man was quite dead.

Police-constable Nash stated that he found a razor, pocket knife, and other articles in deceased's pockets. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst in a state of Unsound Mind.

By the permission of the coroner, Mr. W. H. Pass made a statement with reference to the circumstances under which deceased left Mr. Shakespeare's employ. He explained that deceased was suspended owing to a slight irregularity, and not because he had been guilty of anything of a serious character. On Saturday last arrangements were made for reinstating him in his former situation. He (Mr. Pass) personally regretted that deceased should have come to such an untimely end, and Mr. Shakespeare was also deeply grieved to think that the suspension, which was only intended as a punishment for a slight irregularity, should have so preyed upon deceased's mind and led him to commit suicide. He (Mr. Pass) wished to remove any false impression which might be made by the statement that deceased was discharged from his situation, and to say that there was nothing against the character of the deceased."

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 29/2/1887

"Ancient Order of Foresters. At the ordinary meeting of Court Battle Oak, No.2554, held at the JUNCTION INN, Birmingham Street, on Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, a presentation to PCR John P. Jukes was made by PDCR James Newey, PS, who said it gave him very great pleasure to present him with a framed Past Chief Ranger certificate and neck ribbon, as an acknowledgement of his services to the Court as Chief Ranger during the past year....."

#### Birmingham Mail 25/3/1887

"Last night a well attended meeting was held at the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury, for the purpose of forming a football club for the town. Mr. H. Lester presided. On the motion of Mr. Swallow it was decided to form a club to be called the 'Oldbury Town Club.' Mr. H. Garbett was elected secretary and Mr. H. Wright treasurer, and it was decided that the committee should consist of non-players."

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 26/3/1887

"On Monday evening Mr. R. Docker (deputy coroner), held an inquest at the WREXHAM, Oldbury, touching the death of James Harley, aged six months, son of Albert Harley, of Albert Street, who died suddenly on Monday morning.

Emma Harley stated that she went to bed on Sunday night and the child seemed the same as usual, and lay on her arm all night. About 4.30 the next morning she awoke and found the child still in the same position, but frothing at the mouth and nostrils, and his face was a little discoloured. She sent immediately for the doctor, but before he came the child was dead.

Dr. Lyddon stated that he had examined the body and there were no marks of violence upon it, but the face was very much discoloured, more than usual in such cases, and the hands were clenched. He was of opinion that death was caused through convulsions, which would be likely to be brought on by overloading of the stomach.

The Coroner said the rupture would not be likely to bring on convulsions, and he thought parents should be more careful with their children.

The Jury returned a verdict of Natural Causes."

West Bromwich Weekly News 21/5/1887

“On Tuesday night a general meeting of the members and supporters of Oldbury Town Football Club was held at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Birmingham Street, Mr. H. Swallow presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. Garbett) stated that circulars had been issued to the tradesmen and manufacturers of the district asking for subscriptions to defray the cost of laying out the ground and organizing the team. It was estimated that about £170 would be required for this purpose, and the committee were anxious that the money should be raised as quickly as possible so that the work might be commenced.

It was announced that Mr. J. F. Chance, MA, had accepted the office of president of the club.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/5/1889

“At the Police Court, yesterday, William Brown, who refused his address, was charged with wilfully damaging a plate-glass window, valued at £4 10s, belonging to *William Brennan*, landlord of the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury, on the 21<sup>st</sup> ult.

Police-constable Brian said he arrested the prisoner, who admitted having thrown a brick through the window. Witness asked him what he did it for, when he replied that he could not ‘pinch’ anything, and he intended to get a night’s lodgings, as he could not walk the streets all night, when there was somewhere to go. The Bench sentenced him to one month’s hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/6/1889

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, respecting the death of Edward Cadman, aged sixteen months, whose parents reside in Albert Street, Oldbury, who was found dead in bed on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst.

From the evidence it appeared that on the date mentioned the mother of the deceased went out to work and left the child with a neighbour named Hurley, who put the deceased to bed. In about an hour afterwards it was found dead, with the bed clothes and two jackets over its head.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated.”

Worcester Journal 19/10/1889

“Worcestershire Quarter Sessions.....

Samuel Porter (24), puddler, was charged with stealing a silk pocket handkerchief from the person of Henry Moss, at Oldbury, on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1888. Mr. Quarrell prosecuted.

Prosecutor was in the WREXHAM public house, with the handkerchief in his pocket. He missed the handkerchief, and ascertained that prisoner had it. Prisoner refused to give up the handkerchief unless prosecutor paid for a smoke, which prosecutor refused to do. Prisoner went out of the public house, and prosecutor followed him up an entry, and prisoner then gave him the handkerchief. The learned Chairman said he thought they had never had a more trumpery case before the Court. The jury found the prisoner guilty and recommended him to mercy. The Chairman then read a long list of previous convictions against the prisoner, and said if brought there again he would be sent to penal servitude. He was now sentenced to hard labour for three calendar months.”

Birmingham Mail 29/3/1890

“An inquest was held this afternoon at the JUNCTION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, before Mr. Edwin Docker, coroner, respecting the death of Theophilus Mark Massey (38), house painter, of Newhall Street, Willenhall, who died on Thursday last at a house in Albert Street, Oldbury, where he had been lodging. Phoebe Massey, wife of deceased, said he was employed at the Bromford Lane station, on the L.N.W. Railway, some days ago. He left home last Thursday week, and she was expecting him to return on Saturday night last, but he did not. Deceased told witness that he accidentally fell into the Birmingham Canal, near the bridge in Church Street.

Jane Wilkes said deceased told her that he was discharged from his situation on the previous Wednesday. She also explained that deceased was brought home on Saturday night last after he had been pulled out of the canal, and said he was under the influence of drink.

Benjamin Sellers said on Saturday night last he was going along the canal side when he saw deceased fall

forward into the water.

Police-sergeant Clarke deposed to visiting the deceased whilst he was alive, and ask him how he got into the water, when he said he slipped in.

Dr. Lyddon said he found deceased suffering from inflammation caused by immersion. Deceased apparently had suffered from bronchitis for some years. Deceased died from pneumonia.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

#### 1891 Census

32, Birmingham Street – JUNCTION INN

[1] *Henry E. Wright* (28), publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] Ann Wright (34), wife, born Burton in Lonsdale, Yorkshire;

[3] William H. Vaughan (13), step-son, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[4] Sarah P. Wright (2), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Edward Warner (21), barman, born Birmingham;

[6] Annie S. Holyoake (19), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Worcester Journal 21/11/1896

“John Duffill Clitheroe Tweedie (45), printer, pleaded not guilty to two charges of false pretences, at Oldbury. Mr. Shakespeare was for the prosecution.

The case for the prosecution in the first case was that the prisoner went to Harry Bowerman, who keeps a concert hall at Oldbury, and invited him to advertise in the ‘Oldbury and Halesowen fixture card.’ He represented that he had been sent by a Mr. *Harry Wright*, of the WREXHAM INN. It was on the faith of that statement that Mr. Bowerman ordered an advertisement and paid 7s 6d for it. The prisoner gave a receipt for the amount in the name of ‘D. Clitheroe,’ but the card was never published. Mr. *Wright* denied that he sent the prisoner to the prosecutor.....

The prisoner said that he had intended bringing the cards out but was prevented by circumstances over which he had no control. The circumstances were the bad weather. If he had the chance now he would get the cards out to the satisfaction of everyone. He attributed the prosecution to a rival printer who was bringing a similar card out. The jury found the prisoner not guilty, and he was discharged.”

#### Sports Argus 1/4/1899

“Through the generosity of a few patrons, the players and committee of the Oldbury Town Club were entertained to dinner on Thursday night at the WREXHAM, Oldbury, Mr. H. Wright presiding. There were over 20 medals presented to the players for winning the Worcestershire County Cup last season, and for obtaining the position of runners-up in the Walsall and District League. The presentations were made by Mr. J. H. Allbrooke, who mentioned that the club had won the Worcester Cup three times, and were again in the final.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 3/2/1900

“Ancient Order of Foresters. On Tuesday evening last the members of court Battle Oak No.2554, a branch of the Smethwick and West Bromwich District, having obtained the sanction of the Registrar of Friendly Societies for England to remove the court from the JUNCTION VAULTS to the WAGGON AND HORSES HOTEL, Church Street, Oldbury, held their first meeting in the new room.....”

#### 1901 Census

32, Birmingham Street

[1] *Henry Edward Wright* (38), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] Ann Wright (42), wife, born Burton, Yorkshire;

[3] Sarah Prudence Wright (12), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] John Wright (6), son, born Oldbury;

[5] Suie Hilda Wright (3), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Grace Wright (2), daughter, born Oldbury;

[7] William Henry Vaughan (23), step-son, grocer, born West Bromwich;

[8] Edward Adams (17), barman, born Pargate, Yorkshire;

[9] Sarah Bird (22), domestic servant, born Oldbury;  
[10] Harriet Clark (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/7/1902

“Oldbury District Council Election.

Matters promise to be particularly lively in the forthcoming contest in Rounds Green Ward, for the vacancy on Oldbury District Council. Mr. *Henry Wright*, of the WREXHAM, Oldbury, is the last candidate to issue an address, making three who are already in the field. Mr. T. Merryfield has had a requisition presented to him, which contains the names of some influential gentlemen offering him their support, but it is thought with the multiplicity of candidates, Mr. J. W. D. Pratt, a brick manufacturer, and the only resident in the ward, will stand the best chance. There is no public question to fight over, and the contest will be a purely personal one.”

[The result was Pratt, 309; Wright, 282; Merryfield, 137.]

Sport Argus 3/2/1906

“National A.R.A. Some Proud Records of the League Clubs. Out-Door Shooting.....

The Oldbury League produces the team with the greatest number of matches and the largest number of wins, the JUNCTION claiming this most honourable position, having twenty-one wins out of twenty-one matches!”

Birmingham Mail 10/3/1906

“Air-Gun Shooting. The League Tables.

It is not every air-gunner who takes an interest in figures (except perhaps his own particular league table), but to those who do, probably a summary of the 33 league tables which appeared in last week’s issue will provide congenial reading, as showing the ups and downs which most clubs experience during a league season. Eight clubs have successfully resisted all attacks so far this season, and hold an unbeaten record, viz.....

JUNCTION VAULTS (Oldbury), 24 matches.”

1911 Census

32, Birmingham Street – JUNCTION VAULTS/WREXHAM INN

- [1] *Henry Edward Wright* (50), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Ann Wright (53), wife, married 26 years, assisting in business, born Burton in Lonsdale, Yorkshire;
- [3] Sarah P. Wright (22), daughter, assisting in business, born Oldbury;
- [4] Suie Wright (13), daughter, school, born Oldbury;
- [5] Grace Wright (12), daughter, school, born Oldbury;
- [6] William Henry Vaughan (32), boarder, auctioneer, born West Bromwich;
- [7] Annie Stevens (22), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*John Jagger* – see also BEEHIVE, Henry Street.

*George Henry Moore* – see also ROYAL OAK, Churchbridge, and GOLDEN BALL, Tipton.

*Fred Vaughan* – see also RED COW, Smethwick, and TURKS HEAD, West Bromwich.

*Daniel Jeavons* – see also GEORGE AND DRAGON.

Sports Argus 17/10/1936 - Advert

“Dog Shows.....

At the WREXHAM HOTEL, Oldbury, every Sat, Sun, and Wed, at 7.45.”

[Dog shows were regularly held here over the next couple of years.]

1939 Register

32, Birmingham Street (2 of 3)

[1] *Percy Edwards*, date of birth 15/6/1887, public house manager, married;

[2] Violet (Rebecca Violet) Edwards, dob 1/6/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married;

*Percy Edwards* – see also BULLS HEAD, West Bromwich.

*Joseph Crosby* – see also BLUE BALL.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/5/1949

“Midland courts heard police tell yesterday of people who thought they were going to the Cup Final and then found they were not.....

Insp. Lawton, at Oldbury, said that a group at the WREXHAM HOTEL, Oldbury, were left stranded on Saturday morning when the bus they were awaiting failed to arrive.

William Cassidy (40), of 9, Seven Stars Road, was bailed to appear tomorrow week on a charge of fraudulently converting to his own use 17s belonging to John Thomas Cooper, provided to defray part of the cost of a coach outing to London and Brighton. Insp. Lawson said Cassidy was secretary of the group and had arranged the trip. He gave himself up at Wolverhampton at 2.30am on Sunday saying he had heard the police wanted him.”

#### Evesham Standard 24/5/1957 - Advert

“Choosing a Career? Then Visit the Mobile Army Exhibitions.....

Royal Engineers ..... WREXHAM, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, Wed. 29<sup>th</sup> May.....

Admission Free. It's a Man's Life in the Regular Army.”

Plans were approved for alterations to the premises on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1960.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/7/1971 - Deaths

“On July 8, 1971, whilst on holiday, Edna Louisa, beloved wife of *Joseph Edward Mills*, of the JUNCTION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, passed suddenly to rest in Freedom Fields Hospital, Plymouth, aged 49 years. Funeral, Thursday, July 15. Service in Oldbury Parish Church at 10.45am, followed by interment at West Bromwich Cemetery.”

A team from here took part in the Smethwick and District Charity Darts League. [1981/2]

[2021]

## JUNCTION

31, Dudley Road, (Tividale Road), TIVIDALE

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

Joseph Pratt [1856] – 1867);

John Castree (1867 – 1869);

George Proctor (1869 – 1870);

William Edwin Powell (1870);

Sampson Walters (1870 – [1872])

Thomas Pratt [1877] – **1878**);  
George William Parsley (**1878** – [ ]  
Arthur Dabbs [1879]  
Jane Stanley [1880] – **1882**);  
Robert H Hudson (**1882** – [ ]  
Richard Barnsley [ ] – **1884**):

## NOTES

It was situated near to the BOAT.

### County Advertiser 11/10/1856

“Thomas Allmark (father to the young man charged with the murder of a man at Oldbury last week) was summoned for assaulting *Joseph Pratt*, landlord of the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, on Saturday last. Defendant did not appear, and was fined 1s and costs.”

### Birmingham Journal 15/9/1860 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Public House and Premises, known as the SEVEN STARS INN, situate near the Junction at Tividale, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, and County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Tuesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 1860, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Pratt*, the JUNCTION INN, at Tividale aforesaid, and subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

*Joseph Pratt* was also a shopkeeper. [1861], [1864], [1865]

### Staffordshire Advertiser 12/1/1861

“On Tuesday last Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, on the body of Ellen Ann Willey, aged six years. On the 24<sup>th</sup> ult the deceased was in a bedroom where there was a fire, and her clothes took fire. Her father ran to her on hearing her screams, but the injuries she sustained led to her death on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. An inquest was held by the same jury on the body of Sarah Ann Elmore, aged eight years. She went to boil the kettle in a neighbour's house, on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult, and on stirring the fire some of the hot cinders caused her pinafore to ignite. The flames were extinguished by two neighbours, who heard her scream, but she died from the injuries she sustained on Monday last. In each case a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1861

“On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the JUNCTION INN, Tividale (Mr. *Joseph Pratt's*), upon the body of William Downing, aged forty-nine, who was killed about half-past eight o'clock on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, in consequence of a quantity of coal falling upon his head while at work in a coal pit at Tividale, belonging to Messrs. Bagnall and Jesson. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

### St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Marriages

19<sup>th</sup> March 1861 - Jacob Lucas (29), bachelor, carpenter, Pensnett - father, Edward Lucas, carpenter. Ann Maria Pratt (20), spinster, Tividale - father, *Joseph Pratt*, publican.

### 1861 Census

Tividale – JUNCTION INN

[1] *Joseph Pratt* (59), victualler and grocer, born Dudley;

[2] Jane Pratt (42), wife, born Dudley;

[3] John Pratt (18), son, blacksmith at sheet nickel, born Tividale;

[4] Charles E. Pratt (14), son, scholar, born Tividale;

[5] James Henry Pratt (7), son, scholar, born Tividale;

[6] Edwin Pratt (5), son, scholar, born Tividale;  
[7] Jane Pratt (12), niece, servant, born Dudley Port:

Birmingham Journal 13/4/1861 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Building Land, in the Sedgley Turnpike Road, Tividale.  
To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hipkins and Thomas at the house of Mr. *Joseph Pratt*, JUNCTION INN, Tividale, on Tuesday Next, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.....”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Marriages

24<sup>th</sup> December 1865 - Charles Edward Pratt (20), bachelor, blacksmith, Tividale - father, *Joseph Pratt*, publican. Hannah Higginson (20), spinster, Tividale - father, Henry Higginson, shoemaker.

County Advertiser 18/5/1867

“No less than 56 cases of defective weights and measures were brought before the bench by Mr. Tallett, inspector of weights and measures.....

*Joseph Pratt*, grocer, Tividale, defective scales, 1s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/2/1876 - Died

“On the 9<sup>th</sup> inst, aged 74 years, *Joseph Pratt*, of Tividale; deeply lamented.”

Dudley Herald 13/7/1867 - Advert

“Unreserved clearing out sale ..... to be sold by auction, the whole of the excellent brewing plant.....”

Birmingham Journal 22/2/1868 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Premises, New Road, Tividale.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Bent, on Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1868, at the house of Mr. *John Castree*, the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then read.....”

Birmingham Journal 28/11/1868

“On Thursday, Mr. C. H. Bayley, Deputy Coroner, opened an inquest at the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, Rowley Regis, upon the bodies of Richard Bowater (25), doggy, Rounds Colliery, and Robert Cambridge (37), miner, Rowley. Mr. J. P. Baker, the Inspector of Mines for the district, attended; and Mr. Bradley, the proprietor of the Tividale Hall Colliery, was also present.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, the deceased men and a collier named Robinson were at work in the No.13 Pit of the above colliery, when an explosion of sulphur took place, and they were severely burned upon various parts of the body.

Harriet Bowater stated that her husband left home early on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, but was brought back a few hours afterwards, severely burnt upon his back and sides. He died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> instant. Deceased never complained of the pit.

Mary Cambridge, after referring to the date of the occurrence, stated that her husband died on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst. During his sufferings he told her that the explosion was caused by Bowater and himself, and, further, that no one was to blame. Deceased said Bowater went into the workings and called out for a light. Deceased asked if there was any danger, and Bowater said he didn’t know. A naked candle was then taken down to where Bowater stood, and the explosion occurred. Mr. Bayley said he should not proceed with the inquest until he had the evidence of the man Robinson before him. His statement would be of the utmost importance.

The inquest was adjourned until the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, in order that the survivor might be in a fit state to give evidence.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1868

“About three weeks ago, we reported a fatal explosion at Groveland Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Bradley,

whereby two men, named Richard Bowater and Robert Cambridge, lost their lives.

At the inquest, opened immediately afterwards, it appeared that the men alone were to blame, inasmuch as they wantonly took a naked candle into the workings, instead of a safety-lamp.

At the adjourned inquest, held at the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, before Mr. C. H. Bayley, the Deputy Coroner, Joseph Bowater, the father of one of the deceased men, and Mr. Evans, the colliery manager, were examined but without throwing much further light on the subject.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/9/1869 - Advert

“Clearing-Out Sale at the JUNCTION INN, Tividale.

To Publicans, Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Bent, on Monday Next, September 27.

The whole of the excellent Spirit Vault Fittings, Public House Fixtures, Stock-in-Trade, Household Furniture, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, upon the Premises occupied by Mr. *George Proctor*, under a Bill of Sale and Distraint for Rent.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock prompt.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/6/1870 - Advert

“JUNCTION INN, Tividale. To be Let, immediately, the above Old-licensed Roadside Inn. A first-class situation, on the Birmingham and Dudley Road. Other engagements cause of leaving. In-coming very low. Apply on the Premises.”

#### London Gazette 22/7/1870

“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 *William Edwin Powell*, of the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, 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. Joseph Edward Sheldon, of No.51, Lower High-street, Wednesbury, in the county of Stafford, on the 1st day of August, 1870, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely.

Dated this 14th day of July, 1870.

Joseph Edward Sheldon, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

#### 1871 Census

Tividale Road

[1] *Sampson Walters* (64), publican, born Gloucester;

[2] *Maria Walters* (54), wife, born Malvern;

[3] *Louisa Cox* (27), general servant, born West Bromwich:

#### County Advertiser 29/9/1877

“*Thomas Pratt*, landlord of the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, was charged by Police-superintendent Wool-laston with permitting drunkenness in his house, in contravention of the Licensing Acts. Mr. Joseph Stokes (Dudley) appeared to defend.

Police-constable Hicklin gave evidence to the effect that at 10.15pm, on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst, he was on duty near the defendant's house, and heard a woman screaming and other noises as if a disturbance was going on inside it. He went into a dancing room where the disturbance appeared to be, and found four men there, drunk, and fighting together. Two of the men were named George Melson and Henry Ralph; the others gave the names of John Jones and John Cherrington. There were many people in the room, and there was scarcely room to stir. He spoke to the landlord and called his attention to what was going on, and he replied that a drunken man had come into his house, but he had only had one pint of ale. The men were ultimately got out of the house, but one of them was very disorderly, offering to fight anybody.

Mr. Stokes cross-examined the witness (the only one who was called for the prosecution) as to whether the landlord said one of the men had come in for the purpose of 'kicking up a row,' and whether he (the officer) had not met the servant who was sent in search of him. He also contradicted the officer's statement as to one



pint of ale being supplied, and called several witnesses to prove that the defendant took measures to eject the man as soon as he commenced a disturbance, and that the fighting was in consequence of his resisting. The men George Melson, Henry Ralph, John Cherrington, and John Jones were summoned on charges of being drunk in a public house, but only the two first-named appeared. The magistrates decided to dismiss the cases against *Pratt* and Melson, and to fine Ralph, who pleaded guilty, 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/2/1878 - Advert

“Old-Licensed House to Let, JUNCTION INN, Tividale.  
For particulars, apply on the Premises.”

County Express 14/9/1878

“James Coombs was charged with being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst. The offence was proved by the landlord, *George William Parsley*, and the defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs or fourteen days.”

London Gazette 24/12/1878

“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 *George William Parsley*, formerly of the Red Cow, Stourport, in the county of Worcester, Beerhouse Keeper, and now of the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, near Tipton, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler. Joseph Elgood, of Kidderminster, in the county of Worcester, 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1878.”

Dudley Herald 22/2/1879

“The magistrates at Wednesday’s Petty Sessions (Messrs. W. Bassano and B. Hingley) had before them a case in which *John Dabbs*, landlord of the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, was charged with permitting gambling on his premises, on the 8<sup>th</sup> instant. Mr. Hayes prosecuted; Mr. Harper (Dudley) defending. The magistrates thought the case a very bad one, and inflicted a fine of £5 and costs.”

County Express 26/4/1879

“*Arthur Dabbs*, landlord of the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, was charged with allowing Police-constable Bishop to remain on his premises whilst he was on duty, and further with supplying him with refreshments at the same time. Mr. Addison prosecuted and Mr. Stokes defended.  
Police-sergeant Cooper said that on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst at about half-past eleven at night he and Police-constable Winfield were near to the JUNCTION INN, Tividale. They heard voices in the house and on looking through the window saw a man named Melson in the room. They heard a voice which they believed to be that of Bishop say, ‘I am three points, high, low, and game.’ The landlady then said, ‘Yes; it is my deal next.’ Witness then went round the back of the house, followed by Winfield. He found the back door open and he walked in. He entered the tap-room and there found the man Melson, the landlord, the landlady, and Police-constable Bishop, who was just in the act of taking a cigar out of a cigar box which was on the table. There were also a pack of cards and two goblet glasses on the table. He spoke to the landlord about it, and the landlord then said they had been playing for nothing but pastime. Witness pointed out that he was harbouring a policeman whilst he was on duty. To this he made no reply.  
Cross-examined he said it was usual to wear an armlet on the arm when a constable was on special duty, and sometimes on ordinary duty.  
Police Constables Winfield and Bishop gave evidence supporting the charge.  
In cross-examination Bishop denied that he had told defendant that he was not on duty till twelve o’clock. The defendant was then sworn, and he swore positively that the officer had told him that he should not be on duty until twelve o’clock. The man Melson was a guest of his.

Mr. Stokes called attention in his defence to the fact that one charge would embrace the two, because although a publican might harbour a policeman and not supply him with refreshment, yet if he supplied him with refreshment he was harbouring him as well, and thus the two offences merged into one. This he contended was the true reading of the Act of Parliament. He also pointed out that the defendant had sworn that the officer had told him his beat did not commence until twelve, and though it might be an improper act to have a policeman on his premises at that hour still it was not an illegal one. He also contended that the defendant was not to blame as the officer wore no distinguishing mark when on duty, and that the officer ought to have worn some such mark in the present instance.

The Bench considered the case fully proved, and as it was a very serious offence and the defendant had been previously convicted of permitting gambling on his premises they fined him £10 and costs.

Mr. Stokes made an application that the JUNCTION INN might be transferred to the defendant. He had for some time past been holding it under a permit, and Mr. Stokes assured the Bench that it was the defendant's intention to dispose of the house as soon as possible.

The Bench granted the defendant an interim authority for a fortnight.”

#### Wednesbury Herald 31/5/1879 - Advert

“JUNCTION INN and SPIRIT VAULTS, Tividale, near Oldbury.

Peremptory Letting of a Free Old Licensed Public House and Liquor Shop, situate as above, on the main road leading from Birmingham and Dudley, and to Dudley Port and Tipton, which Must Be Let, at a great sacrifice, on or before Wednesday Next, owing to peculiar circumstances over which the present proprietor has no control. The house is replete with every convenience, and is now doing a good business of which proof can be shown. Rent £32. For all further particulars, and to treat for the same, apply immediately to Charles Gray, House Agent, &c, 30, Richard Street South, West Bromwich, who alone is instructed to Let.”

#### Dudley Herald 30/8/1879

“The annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis division was held on the 26th ult. ....

All the applications were renewed with the exception of *Arthur Dabbs*, of the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, who had been twice convicted during the previous year for offences against the Licensing Act, his application was refused; and Joseph Downing, of the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, whose license had been endorsed. His application was ordered to stand over until the adjourned session. ....

The convictions against licensed victuallers during the past year were. ....

*Arthur Dabbs*, JUNCTION INN, Tividale, allowing gaming, fined £5 and costs, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1879; and another conviction on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, for knowingly harbouring PC Bishop. Fined £10 and costs.”

#### Dudley Herald 11/9/1880

“Yesterday morning, a boatman found the body of a female in a part of the canal known as the Old Locks, Tividale. He gave information to the police, who had the deceased conveyed to the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, to await inquest. At the time of writing the body had not been identified, and there is at present no evidence to show how the deceased got into the water. The deceased, who was about 25 years of age, was respectably attired, and wore a black jacket and kid gloves.”

#### County Express 18/9/1880

“On Monday Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, on the body of Louisa Beddard. aged 32, a single woman, youngest daughter of the late John Beddard, of the Becknell Fields Farm, Kingswinford. Deceased left the house of her sister (Mrs. Caroline Male, Dudley Port) on Thursday night. On the following morning her body was found in the locks near the BLUE BALL INN, at Tividale. When she left home she had some silver money in her possession, but when the body was discovered in the water there was but 1½d in the dress pocket. She was in company with a young man on the Saturday night previous to her death, but there was no evidence to show whether or not she parted with him on good terms.

Henry Cracknell [NEW CART AND HORSES], proprietor of the theatre in West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, said the deceased called at his establishment on the night previous to the day on which the body of the deceased was found in the water. She asked if the theatre was open, and witness replied that it was not.

She said she had some friends waiting at the top of the street who desired to come in. Witness asked her to fetch her friends into the house and take them into the smoke room, as they might enjoy themselves there, he being a musician. She went out, but did not return.

Rachel Noon, of Tividale, examined the body of the deceased, but found no traces of injury of any kind. The hair was not dishevelled.

By permission of the Coroner, Mr. Shakespeare, mining engineer, of West Bromwich, brother-in-law of the deceased, stated that he desired the question as to the missing hat of the deceased cleared up.

The Coroner said that had not been brought under his notice.

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston said the hat belonging to the deceased had not yet been found.

Police-constable Winfield produced a jet chain and locket which was round the neck of the deceased when the body was found. There was only 1½d in the dress pocket. He had been unable to find deceased's hat, although the water had been drawn from that part of the canal in which the body was found.

Leah Stanley, barmaid at Cracknell's, said deceased had an umbrella with her when she called there. No umbrella was found in the canal with the body.

A verdict was returned to the effect that deceased was found dead in the canal; but how she got there no evidence was forthcoming to show."

#### Dudley and District News 11/12/1880

"*Jane Stanley*, landlady of the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, was charged with having, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, unlawfully permitted gaming upon her licensed premises. Mr. Wright prosecuted for the police, Mr. Stokes defending.

William Pratt, engineer, of Tividale, said he went into the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of last month, at half-past six in the evening, and saw four men playing at dominoes. They were playing for ale, which defendant herself brought in. They also played for money. He was there till nine o'clock, and the men were playing all the time.

William Moss, a carpenter, of Tividale, corroborated, saying that about half-past ten the defendant took the dominoes away, as a fight was taking place between two of the men. He did not see any money passed, although he told defendant he thought they were playing for 'dry.'

Sarah Jane Pratt also gave corroborative testimony.

Mr. Stokes denied that the men were playing for money or money's worth, and called defendant, who, upon oath, said that she let the men have the dominoes on the promise that they would not play for any value. The witness, William Moss, was asked by her to report to her if anything wrong was going on, but he told her it was all right. She had no knowledge whatever of the men playing for any value.

The Bench said they believed the defendant was a very respectable person, but she had a very bad house, unfortunately for herself, which she seemed scarcely able to manage. They believed defendant had been indiscreet, but they must inflict a small penalty as a caution to defendant. She would be fined 10s and costs. Mr. Stokes intimated that defendant contemplated giving up the house."

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 5/2/1881 - Advert

"To Wine and Spirit Merchants, Maltsters, Brewers, and Others.

Important Unreserved Sale of the Licenses, Goodwill, Possession, and Tenancy of the JUNCTION INN, Tividale Road, near Oldbury.

W. Hickman has received instructions from Mrs. *J. Stanley* to Sell by Auction (unless previously disposed of) on the above premises, on Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 1881, at seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced, the Licenses, Goodwill, Possession and Tenancy of that well-frequented Genuine and Old-established Full-licensed Wine and Spirit Vaults.

The premises are very large and convenient, containing Liquor Vaults, Bar, Tap Room, Smoke Room, Club Room, four Bed-rooms, Kitchen, Brewery, extensive Cellaring, and all necessary outbuildings, and are situate in close proximity to the most important Collieries and Ironworks in the district. Rent £32 per annum. NB. The Purchaser will have to take to the whole of the Trade Fixtures and Brewing Plant, at a valuation, an inventory of which may be inspected and particulars obtained at the Auctioneers' Offices, Scotland Chambers, High Street, West Bromwich."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/2/1881 - Advert

“To Maltsters, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Brewers, &c.

Important Sale by Auction of the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of that noted Spirit Vaults, known as the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, near Oldbury, on Monday Next, February 14, at 7 o'clock in the evening. By Mr. W. Hickman, subject to conditions to be then produced; further particulars of which may be obtained from the Auctioneer, Scotland Chambers, High Street, West Bromwich.”

1881 Census

31, Dudley Road

[1] *Jane Stanley* (24), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Colwich, Staffordshire;

[2] Job Perry (32), visitor, shingle, born Tipton;

[3] Elizabeth Perry (39), visitor, born Tipton:

Dudley and District News 3/9/1881

“The annual licensing session for the parish of Rowley Regis was held in Old Hill Police Court Room, on Wednesday.....

All licenses against which no conviction were recorded having been renewed, decision in the case of the following, who were on the ‘black list,’ were deferred till the adjourned meeting.....

*Jane Stanley*, JUNCTION INN, Tividale, convicted of permitting gaming, fined 10s and costs.”

County Advertiser 1/10/1881

“Adjourned Licensing Session.....

*Jane Stanley*, JUNCTION INN, Tividale; Betsy Green, BLUE BALL INN, Tividale; James Frederick Homer, BULLS HEAD INN, Windmill End; Samuel Paskin, WELLINGTON, Tividale; Ellen Darby, BEECH TREE and, Benjamin Dando, Dog Lane, Blackheath, whose names were on the black list, and whose licenses had been adjourned from the annual licensing session, were called before the Bench. Their licenses were renewed after the holders had been duly cautioned.”

Dudley and District News 28/1/1882 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Freehold Property, Tividale.

Mr. Benjamin Bellingham has received instructions to offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Miss *Jane Stanley* the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, on Tuesday, January 31, 1882, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.....”

County Advertiser 30/8/1884

“The annual brewster sessions for the Parish of Rowley Regis were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Inspector Walters opposed the renewal of the license of the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, on the ground that it was converted into dwelling houses, and now not used as a public house.....

*Richard Barnsley*, JUNCTION INN, Tividale, applied for the renewal of his license. Inspector Walters objected on the ground that no drink had been sold at the house for four years. Mr. Bassano thought they could not grant a license for a house not in use, although they would be glad if all publicans would close their houses. The application was adjourned until the adjourned licensing day.”

County Advertiser 27/9/1884

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division was held at Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday.....

It was understood that an application would be made for the renewal of the license of the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, which house had been closed for some time, but no one appeared to make the application, and Mr. Bassano said there would be no license.”

Closed

## KINGS ARMS

25, (24), (59), (57), Birmingham Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Colonel James Henry Deakin, Hardwick [**Ardwick**], Manchester  
Manchester Brewery Co. Ltd. [1889], [1900]  
Samuel Allsopp and Sons Ltd. (acquired c.1909)  
Frank Myatt, West End House Brewery, Wolverhampton (acquired c.1912)

## LICENSEES

Henry Farmer [1850] – [1851]  
William Clift [1851] – **1858**);  
Henry Lankester (**1858** – [ ]  
John Mellor [1861] – [1865]  
Mrs. Miller [1867]  
James Hudson [1869]  
John Hall [1867] – **1872**);  
Charles Frost (**1872** – [1873]  
John Smith [1878]  
Joshua Dawson [1880] – [1881]  
Arthur Adam Harvey [1882] – [1882]  
John Wortling [1884] – **1888**);  
Freeman York (**1888** – **1889**);  
Thomas Carroll (**1889**);  
Lemuel Woodward Bailey (**1889** – **1890**);  
John Turton Taylor (**1890** – **1894**);  
Manchester Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1894** – **1907**);  
Edward Warner [1895] – [1896] manager?  
Henry A Booth [1901] manager  
Arthur Catlin (**1907**);  
Bernard Owen (**1907** – **1909**);  
Marion Owen (**1909**);  
Thomas Withers (**1909** – **1910**);  
Henry 'Harry' Benton (**1910** – **1911**);  
Frederick Ralph Sturges (**1911** – **1913**);  
Henry James Wilkinson (**1913** – **1914**);  
David Round (**1914** – **1915**);  
John Hennefer (**1915**);

## NOTES

57, Birmingham Street [1873]  
59, Birmingham Street [1881]  
24, Birmingham Road [1884], [1888]  
25, Birmingham Street [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912]

It was known locally as “The Fourpenny House”.

*Henry Farmer*, wine and spirit merchant, Birmingham Street. [1850]

#### 1851 Census

Birmingham Street

- [1] *Henry Farmer* (34), victualler and spirit merchant, born Church Hill, Worcestershire;
- [2] Sarah Farmer (26), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Mary Ann Farmer (11 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Sarah Farmer (70), mother, widow, formerly farmer’s wife, born Elmley Lovett, Worcestershire;
- [5] Caroline Whitehouse (30), house servant, born Tipton:

#### Worcester Journal 31/3/1853 - Advert

“Insolvent Debtors, to be heard before the Judge of the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at the Guildhall, Worcester, on Wednesday, the Thirteenth day of April, 1853, at ten in the morning precisely.....

*Henry Farmer*, late of Dudley, in the County of Worcester (out of business); previously of the NAGS HEAD INN, Dudley, in the County of Worcester aforesaid, Victualler; formerly of the KINGS ARMS INN, Oldbury, Victualler; but formerly of Dudley aforesaid, Grocer and Tea Dealer.....

Take Notice.

1. If any Creditor intends to Oppose the said 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.....”

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/12/1853

“Ben Groves of Halesowen having been lying idle since he was defeated by Bolton Phillips, he wishes to run William Bailey of the PEDESTRIAN TAVERN, Thomas Street, Oldbury, eight score yards, in which distance he will give him three yards start, or he will run Evans of West Bromwich the same distance level. Money ready on Monday night next at Mr. *William Clift*’s, the KINGS ARMS INN, Oldbury.”

*William Clift*, wine and spirit merchant, KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street. [1855]

#### 1861 Census

Birmingham Street – KINGS ARMS

- [1] *John Mellor* (37), innkeeper, born Ashbourne, Derbyshire;
- [2] Ellen Mellor (38), wife, born Lichfield;
- [3] Emma Mellor (6), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] William Mellor (4), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] Elizabeth Mellor (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Sarah Lee (65), visitor, widow, born Lichfield;
- [7] Hannah Hill (21), servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Journal 1/6/1861 - Advert

“Leasehold Property, in Lowe Town, Oldbury Green, Oldbury, fronting the Turnpike Road and the Birmingham Old Canal.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Tuesday, June the 11<sup>th</sup>, 1861, at Six o’clock in the evening, at Mr. *Mellor*’s, the KINGS ARMS INN, Oldbury.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 3/4/1863 - Advert

“Wanted, a Piano-Fortist.

Apply, KINGS ARMS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/5/1863

“Samuel Shellard was charged with having assaulted Police-constable John Pitt. The defendant was drinking in the KINGS ARMS public house, Oldbury, on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, and the constable was called in to turn him out, as he was creating a disturbance. Instead of complying with the request of complainant, he gave him a blow on the face. Fined 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1863 - Advert

“Wanted, a Piano-Forte Player.  
Apply, KINGS ARMS, Oldbury.”

The Era 28/2/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, a Man and Woman, to Sing and Play Pianoforte, or Two Men.  
Apply at Mr. *Mellor*'s, the KINGS ARMS SPIRIT VAULTS, Oldbury.”

County Express 18/4/1868

“Thomas Sheppard (36), collier, was charged with having assaulted Police-constables Jones and Hayes. On Monday night the prisoner, who was drunk, and had been turned out of several public houses, went to the KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street, where he caused a disturbance. Police-constable Jones was sent for, and upon his making his appearance prisoner struck and kicked him. Jones was unable to arrest Sheppard, but Hayes went to his assistance shortly after, and they secured the prisoner, who continued to kick and bite them. After considerable difficulty, which was increased by the efforts of a mob to rescue the prisoner, he was safely lodged at the lock-up. Sheppard had been several times convicted for assaulting the police, and he was now ordered to pay a fine of £5 and the costs, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/6/1869

“William Smith was charged with having, in company with another man not in custody, stolen a decanter and a quantity of sherry from the KINGS ARMS, Oldbury, on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Prisoner and a companion paid a visit to the house of Mr. *Hudson*, about two o'clock, and called for a pint of porter. While Mr. *Hudson* went to fetch it, prisoner and his friend decamped with a decanter of sherry, which was placed on a shelf behind the bar. They were pursued by the prosecutor and a police-officer, and the prisoner was captured, but his companion got away. Prisoner was remanded for a month, to enable the police to apprehend his companion.”

AND

Stourbridge Observer 5/6/1869

“William Smith was charged with feloniously stealing a decanter and some sherry on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, the property of *James Hudson*.

Prosecutor said he lived at the KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, and was a licensed victualler. The decanter produced was his property. On the above date the prisoner and another man came into his house, and called for some porter. They paid for it. He had occasion to go into the cellar, and on returning missed the decanter produced. Prisoner had left. He went and gave information to Police-constable Hayes, and followed the prisoner, and caught him. The prisoner's companion threw the decanter produced over a wall. Police-constable Hayes proved apprehending prisoner.

Remanded for a month, bail being accepted – himself in £20, and one surety in £20.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/12/1869 - Advert

“Wanted, thorough good General Servant. Good character indispensable.  
Apply or address at the KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/4/1872

“B. Withers of Westbromwich will accept Molineux's challenge, and will shoot him a match at 9 or 11 pigeons each, find and trap for each other, from 25 to 30 yards rise, for £10 or £20 a side. Withers to be tied to shoot with his own gun, at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury. *Bells Life* Rules. Money ready at the KINGS ARMS INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/5/1873 - Advert

“First-Class Spirit Vaults. The KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.  
By Roderick and Son. To be Sold, the Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above Old-established Spirit Vaults and Tavern, admirably situated for business, in the most central and best part of Oldbury, and now doing an extensive counter and in and out door business. In-coming £450.  
Apply, 2, Temple Row West.”

County Advertiser 10/8/1878 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant.  
Apply, *John Smith*, KINGS ARMS, Oldbury.”

1881 Census

59, Birmingham Street – KINGS ARMS SPIRIT VAULTS  
[1] *Joshua Dawson* (26), licensed victualler, born Alston, Cumberland;  
[2] *Christina Sarah Dawson* (22), wife, born Alston, Cumberland;  
[3] *Rupert Percy Dawson* (6 months), son, born Oldbury;  
[4] *George Saunderson Coates* (18), visitor, butcher, born Manchester:

Birmingham Daily Post 1/2/1882

“*Arthur Harvey*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, Oldbury, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of intoxicants during illegal hours on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst.  
Police-constable Williams proved the case, and defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

*John Wortling* = John Wortley

*John Wortling* was also a carpenter. [1884], [1888]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/1/1885

“*John Wortley*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, was charged with permitting gaming on Christmas Day. Mr. Shakespeare defended.  
Police-sergeant Stanton deposed that he visited defendant’s house, and saw two men playing at bagatelle. He watched them till the game was finished, when they were handed two cheques each of the value of 3d, and the men obtained for these some beer. He saw the man who lost the game pay for these cheques.  
The Bench imposed a fine of 10s and costs.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/1/1887 - Advert

“Pony, 12 hands, 3 years old, sound and quiet (broken to teams and harness), business trap and harness, all together or separate.  
KINGS ARMS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Mail 19/4/1887 - Advert

“Mortising Machine for Sale, cheap, or will exchange for light Pony Gig.  
*Wortley*, KINGS ARMS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1889

“At the Oldbury Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. J. E. Wilson and B. T. Sadler – William Butterworth (55), alias Holt, of no fixed abode, commission agent, who formerly was an itinerant minister in the Methodist New Connexion Church, was charged with stealing a black leather bag, of the value of 3s, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, 1885, the property of *Freeman York*.  
*Betsy York*, wife of prosecutor, said that at the time of the theft she resided at the LOCOMOTIVE INN, Trinity Street, Langley, but now kept the KINGS ARMS.  
Thomas Short, manager of a pawnbroker’s business belonging to Mrs. Langman, of Dudley, said that on the



20<sup>th</sup> of April, 1885, prisoner pledged the bag for 1s 3d in the name of John Holt.

Police-sergeant Stanton said he arrested prisoner on the 27<sup>th</sup> February.

In answer to the charge prisoner pleaded not guilty, and alleged that it was a case of mistaken identity. He remarked that there was one gentleman on the Bench that could see a vast difference in him from what he was four or five years ago.

The Bench fined defendant 40s and costs, or in default fourteen days' imprisonment. The total fine amounted to £3 11s 6d. Prisoner went to gaol."

*Freeman York* – see also LOCOMOTIVE.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 30/10/1889

"At Oldbury Police Court yesterday Mr. W. Shakespeare made an application on behalf of the owner of the KINGS ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, for a renewal of the license. The house belonged to the Manchester Brewery Company, and a large sum had been spent on it. About two months ago the tenant made an application to the Bench for a transfer. A certificate of character was produced, and as there was no objection by the police the license was then granted. The license was renewed at the general licensing meeting. The police about three weeks ago discovered that the man ten years ago had been convicted of felony, and the house was ordered to be closed. As the conviction disqualified the licensee, Mr. Shakespeare submitted that his clients ought not to suffer for this. The Magistrates' Clerk said he should like time given him to consider points of law bearing upon the case. The case was adjourned for a month, in order that the matter might come before the same justices."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 27/11/1889

"Yesterday at Oldbury Police Court Mr. W. F. Vernon made an application with reference to the license of the KINGS ARMS INN, Birmingham Street.

It appeared that the premises are the property of the Manchester Brewery Company, and a month ago an application was made to the Bench for a transfer of the license, but it transpired that the person whose name was mentioned had been convicted of felony some years ago, and it was contended that consequently the license had lapsed, as the man who had been in the house was disqualified under the Act, and the application for the transfer of the license to another person was not made at the proper time. In support of the application now made for the license to be transferred to a man named *Bailey* it was urged that the Act had been complied with, inasmuch as the application was made at the first sessions after the fact of the man's disqualification became known to the owner.

The Bench granted a temporary authority, on the understanding that enquiries would be made before the special licensing sessions, when the justices would consider any information laid before them as to the character of the proposed holder of the license."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/11/1890

"Yesterday, at Oldbury Police Court, *John Turton Taylor*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, was convicted of supplying drink to a man whilst in an intoxicated condition, and ordered to pay £1 2s 6d, including costs."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1890

"On Sunday the body of Mary Ann Matthews (26), wife of William Matthews, of Canal Side, Low Town, Oldbury, was found in the Birmingham Canal, near her residence.

Deceased visited her mother's house on Saturday night, and left there about 11.30. As she did not reach home, the canal was searched, and her body was found. It is supposed that owing to the dense fog which prevailed at the time she missed her way, and fell into the water.

Last night Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest on the body.

The husband (who identified the body), a man named Bryan, Bridget Carroll (mother of the deceased), and Hannah Clews gave evidence to the effect that deceased left her mother's house about 11.30 on Saturday night, and that she was sober.

Police-constable Avern was called, and deposed that on Saturday night he ejected deceased from the KINGS

ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, and she was then drunk.

At the request of the jury, the coroner censured the whole of the witnesses, with the exception of Police-constable Avern, for the unsatisfactory manner in which they had given their evidence.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

#### 1891 Census

Birmingham Street

[1] *John T. Taylor* (32), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Ann Taylor* (27), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *John Fisher* (20), brother-in-law, mechanic, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Harriet Norton* (19), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

*John Turton Taylor* – see also MALT SHOVEL, Low Town.

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 23/11/1895

“Worcester Assizes.....

*George Thomas Batty* (26), formerly a doctor’s assistant, Albert Street, Oldbury, was indicted for supplying *Ellen McQueenie* with a noxious drug for the purpose of procuring abortion. Mr. Shakespeare prosecuted, and Mr. Vachell defended.

The prosecutrix is a single woman, and at the time of the alleged offence was in service at the KINGS ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. On October 24<sup>th</sup> she went to the prisoner, who told her she was pregnant and said he would give her something ‘to take it away.’ The girl did not admit that her condition was as suggested by prisoner. She took three doses of the medicine, and as it made her unwell, she placed the bottle and medicine in the back kitchen, where her mistress found it, and thereupon instituted inquiries. Mr. Shakespeare explained that the section of the Act under which the proceedings were taken provided that the prosecution had only to prove that the medicine was supplied with the intention of causing a miscarriage, irrespective of whether the woman was actually pregnant.

The prosecutrix was called, and said after the medicine was discovered by her mistress she saw the prisoner, who told her to say the medicine was supplied for diarrhoea and poorness of blood. In cross-examination, he admitted that at the first interview with the prisoner she said she was suffering from diarrhoea; and the medicine did actually cure this. In reply to His Lordship, prosecutrix said she did not believe she was pregnant, and she took the medicine for diarrhoea. The girl told Mrs. *Warner*, on October 29 that she was pregnant, and prisoner made a similar statement to Mr. *Warner*, on October 28. *Warner* took the bottle to the police on November 2, because he said rumours were getting about concerning him.

Mr. *Warner* was uncertain of dates and conversation with the prisoner, and His Lordship expressed himself as dissatisfied with the evidence. He said there had been too much hurry in getting up the case, and added that had the prisoner been committed to the Sessions instead of the Assizes it would have enabled the prosecution to complete their case, and it would also, by that time, have enabled them to decide as to the girl’s condition. He thought the evidence was insufficient on which to convict the prisoner. He had read through the depositions, and it appeared that unless the girl was pregnant the medicine was harmless. The girl herself said she did not believe she was pregnant, and the medicine actually cured her of a complaint from which she was suffering.

Mr. Shakespeare intimated that he would not proceed further with the case.

His Lordship directed the Jury to return a verdict of not guilty, and prisoner was discharged.

The Judge again commented on the practice of sending cases to the Assizes which ought to be tried at Quarter Sessions.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/12/1895

“Yesterday, at Oldbury Police Court, *William Frederick Hughes*, described as a tipster, of Dudley, was charged with doing wilful damage at the KINGS ARMS INN, Birmingham Street. Defendant said the customers in the bar asked him to sing a song, but the manager refused to let him. During a scuffle which ensued he struck at the landlord, and his fist went through the glass. He was ordered to pay 19s 6d.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1900

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

Mr. Jeffries opposed the renewal of the license of the **KINGS ARMS INN**, Birmingham Street, kept by the Manchester Brewery Company Limited; the **TRAVELLERS REST INN**, Hales Owen Street, kept by Samuel Sherwood; the **JOLLY COLLIER INN**; Albert Street, kept by Alice Baker, on the ground that they continued to give the long pull. The objection set forth that it was an unfair system of trading, that it was opposed to the wishes of the licensed trade generally, that it was contrary to public order and morality and calculated to increase drunkenness, that the license in each case was not necessary, and that the holder was not a fit and proper person to hold such license.

Mr. R. J. Lawrence appeared on behalf of the Manchester Brewery Company, and Mr. J. Clark represented the other two.

Mr. Jefferies, who opposed the licenses on behalf of the Oldbury Licensed Trade Association, gave evidence to the effect that the three publicans in question were giving more than 25% over measure agreed upon by resolution of the trade. Witness was subjected to a severe cross-examination by Mr. Lawrence, in the course of which he acknowledged that trade combinations did sometimes fail, and that in the event of this particular one failing all the publicans would go back to the old plan of giving excessive over-measure.

The Bench retired to consider their decision, after which the chairman remarked that the justices did not consider there was any reasonable ground of objection in the arguments laid before them why the licenses should not be renewed. The licenses would therefore be renewed.”

1901 Census

25, Birmingham Street

[1] *Henry A. Booth* (28), public house manager, born Hanley, Staffordshire;

[2] *Alice M. Booth* (20), wife, born Manchester;

[3] *Alice M. Booth* (1), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] *Rose Rushton* (17), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/12/1902

“Staffordshire Autumn Assizes.....

*John Windmill* (47), labourer, was indicted for the manslaughter of *Edward Matthews* at West Bromwich, on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Wilkinson prosecuted and Mr. Lawrence defended.

It appeared that previous to the commission of the alleged offence the deceased had an altercation with the prisoner in the **KINGS ARMS**, Oldbury, while they were drinking together. They were put out of the house, and left by different ways. Afterwards Matthews went to prisoner, who was working as a uth on the tramway, and struck him in the face, knocking out a tooth. Prisoner struck deceased with his shovel, but without hurting him. Deceased followed up his attack and knocked prisoner down, and in a struggle that followed Matthews fell over a tram line, and sustained a compound fracture of the leg, from which blood poisoning set in, causing death.

The defence set up was that prisoner was acting in self-defence.

The medical evidence brought for the prosecution did not show that there was any sign of a blow on the head, such as might have been given with a shovel.

The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and prisoner was discharged.”

South Yorkshire Times 1/1/1910

“A very interesting wedding was solemnised at All Saints’ Church, the contracting parties being Annie, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Mangham, of Wath, and Mr. *Harry Benton*, who was recently the recipient of the Miners’ Victoria Cross for bravery in the Cadeby mine.

The bride was neatly attired in a costume of amethyst cloth, with hat to match, and was attended by two bridesmaids – Miss *Nellie Benton*, daughter of the bridegroom, attired in a pale heliotrope costume, with hat to match; and Miss *E. A. Mangham*, cousin of the bride, dressed in brown cloth, and hat to match; and two children, Miss *Sissy Mangham*, cousin of the bride, and Miss *Carmen Sylvia*, daughter of the bride, both wearing fashionable Empire gowns, and carrying bouquets of white chrysanthemums, narcissus, and special ferns, gifts of the bridegroom.....

Mr. and Mrs. *H. Benton* were the recipients of many useful and costly presents, and they will shortly leave Denaby to take up their residence at the **KINGS ARMS HOTEL**, Oldbury.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/2/1910

“Joseph James (24), a collier, and son of the caretaker of the Abbey Road Schools, Warley, was committed for trial to the Worcester Assizes at a special court at Oldbury yesterday on charges of larceny and attempted larceny.

From the evidence it appeared that the prisoner entered the **BIRD IN HAND INN**, Simpson Street, Oldbury, on January 31, and called for some ale. He was afterwards left alone for a minute or two, and then went to the **KINGS ARMS INN**, Birmingham Street, where he said that he had had some money from the other public house, and proceeded to treat all the customers, spending 4s 6d. Subsequently he went to the **DOG AND PHEASANT INN**, Flash Road, and while there was seen by a servant from the scullery window to lean over the counter and interfere with the till. When the landlady spoke to him he said he was choking, and went away. It was ascertained later that 6s 5d had been taken from a glass at the back of the bar in the **BIRD IN HAND** public house.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/2/1910

“Worcestershire Assizes.....

Joseph James (24), miner, was charged with stealing some money belonging to *Emmanuel Love*, licensee of the **BIRD IN HAND**, Simpson Street, Oldbury.

Prosecutor said he put 7s 4d in a jug on a shelf at 9.30. Later he missed 6s 5d.

Other witnesses stated that prisoner was at the inn, and afterwards spent 4s 6d at another house.

Prisoner now said he had never drunk any beer in his life and he was not in Oldbury that night.

The jury found the prisoner guilty. Superintendent Hill said prisoner had respectable parents, who tried to keep him from a life of crime, which he commenced in 1903. Prisoner had been charged at Oldbury Police Court several times for offences similar to this, whilst he had also been convicted for burglary.

Prisoner said that if the Commissioner gave him three years it would be the making of him.

The Commissioner: Very well, I will. Three years’ penal servitude.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1911.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1911

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday.....

An objection was made by Superintendent Hill to the renewal of the licence of the **KINGS ARMS**, Birmingham Street, on the ground of redundancy ..... Objection was also made to the renewal of the **SAVING HAND INN**, Causeway Green, also on the ground of redundancy .....The Bench referred both houses for compensation.”

#### 1911 Census

25, Birmingham Street – **KINGS ARMS**

[1] *Frederick R. Sturges* (42), foreman in garden tool works, born Brades Village;

[2] Jane Sturges (30), wife, married 3 years, managing a public house business, born Langley;

[3] Ted Theodore Sturges (11), son, born Brades Village;

[4] Frederick John Sturges (9), son, born Brades Village;

[5] Phil Sturges (2), son, born Langley:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1912

“At Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday Superintendent Davis presented his report.....

The licenses of the **KINGS ARMS INN** and the **SAVING HAND INN** were referred to compensation last year, but the compensation authority had not yet dealt with them.....

Mr. Albright said that there seemed little doubt that all the arrears of compensation would be cleared off in the present year, and the houses closed, although the amount of money available now would be considerably decreased by the absorption of a large portion of the county in Greater Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/7/1913

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee met at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday to consider the cases of several houses referred for compensation.....

Mr. Lawrence objected to the reference of the KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, a fully licensed house referred for compensation on the grounds of redundancy. Mr. Lawrence contended that either the WHITE LION or the CROWN AND ANCHOR, houses in the same neighbourhood, should have been referred (if there was only the question of redundancy) before the KINGS ARMS.

It was stated by both sides that the trade of the house had increased fourfold since the property was bought by Mr. F. Myatt from Messrs. S. Allsopp and Sons Ltd., the explanation being good management by a popular licensee.

The committee deferred giving their decision until 30 July, when they meet again.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/10/1913

“At the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, the Worcester Licensing Committee held a meeting to consider the claims for compensation in respect of eleven houses.....

The claim of the KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, for £2,320 was adjourned for further evidence.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/2/1914

“Oldbury Sessions yesterday.....

Superintendent Rudnick stated ..... The licenses of ..... the KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street, which were referred for compensation, were still in force, the compensation money not having been paid.”

Evening Despatch 19/3/1914

“Worcestershire Licensing Committee.....

When the committee sat last October to consider claims ..... the parties interested in the KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, were not ready with a specific claim, and the case was adjourned. The parties are now claiming £2,320.”

Evesham Standard 28/3/1914

“A meeting of the County Licensing Committee was held at the Shirehall on Monday.....

The Committee considered the claims of the persons interested in the license of the KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, in which £2,320 was claimed. The parties claiming to be interested were Henry Benton as licensee, S. Allsop and Sons Ltd, as registered owners, the Manchester Brewery Company as freeholders, and the Royal Exchange Assurance Company as mortgagees. Another claim was made by Frederick Ralph Sturgis, 63, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, and the Chairman asked why he did not appear when the case was before the Committee previously.

When the question of the Committee approving the amount of compensation claimed was considered, the Chairman said the claim was made in an ingenious way. It was based upon figures for two payments for two years. He asked Mr. Jeffries to prove those figures, and Mr. Jeffries said he could not carry them any further. The Chairman said the Committee could not accept the figures, and Mr. Jeffries suggested that the Committee should refer the matter to the Inland Revenue.

The Chairman said the Committee had no power to do that, and said that the claim would come up at each meeting until proof of the figures was offered. He thought that the Committee would have to make some representation to the Justices as to whether they ought not to refuse to allow any further transfer of the license. The costs would be reserved, and would come out of the compensation when it was awarded.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1914

“At a meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee on Saturday, the Chairman (Mr. Willis Bund) said they had had before them on many occasions the case of the KINGS ARMS, Oldbury. It was a peculiar case, in which the claimants gave particulars as to trading in two periods of a few months, and, by a process of ingenuity, constructed a claim for no less a sum than £2,320. The committee asked for evidence as to

how the claim was made up, but, for some reason or another, best known to the claimants themselves, they never produced any evidence except as regards two bits of trading. The result was that the committee were wholly unable to approve the sum of £2,320, and the claimants went to the Inland Revenue. The Commissioners had now given their certificate, and, instead of £2,320, the claimants were entitled to the sum of £1,240. Further consideration of the matter would have to stand over until the next meeting, and he expected that there would be some controversy as to the division of the money.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1915

“At a meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee yesterday, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, consideration was given to the settlement of shares in the amount of compensation money in respect of the following houses.....

KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury; the amount of compensation determined by the Inland Revenue Commissioners being £1,340.....

Mr. Bund, alluding to the case of the KINGS ARMS, Oldbury, said it was an extraordinary one, and they had to be careful what they did. The claim was one of the worst the committee had had before them. It was made out in a most extraordinary way, and the sum asked for was £2,320. They refused to assent to this, and the parties went to the Inland Revenue. It was proved to the committee that this was one of the houses where the long-pull had been in use, and thus the amount of liquor consumed was by no means a fair representation of the trade done. The Inland Revenue Commissioners awarded a sum of £1,240. This was the amount which they deliberately decided was the right amount to be paid. The Commissioners, however, were told that the ‘decision’ would be appealed against, and then they had a bargain with the claimants and agreed to give another £100, making the amount £1,340. All he had to say was that in these things the committee endeavoured to do their best. They had an inflated claim before them – one of the worst claims – and it ought never to have been put forward in the way it was. They were trustees of the fund, and if this were the way things were to be done the sooner there was some legislation providing some better procedure than the Inland Revenue hearing appeals the better.”

*David Round* – see also BEEHIVE and BRITISH QUEEN.

Compensation was paid on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1915.

The license was extinguished on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1915.

### KINGS HIGHWAY

Hagley Road West / Kingsway, Quinton, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Inn Catering [1970], [1971]

Toby Inns [1986], [1994]

Six Continents

#### LICENSEES

Harvey ‘Harry’ Lee (1940 – 1942)

Percival Thomas Gordon ‘Percy’ Humpage (1942 – [1962])

Ron Wagstaff [ ] manager

Terry Watkins [1981] manager

Peter Childs [2002]  
Dawn Cleaver (2003 – [ ]

## NOTES

It was built on the site of Quinton Farm (aka Tinker's Farm, Quinton Green and Moncton House).

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1936

“Oldbury justices yesterday refused application for.....

A provisional order for the removal of the licence of the GOLDEN BALL, Parsonage Street, Oldbury, to premises proposed to be erected on land in Hagley Road West, at the corner of Monckton Road.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/3/1937

“The Rowley Regis licensing justices refused an application made on behalf of Mitchells and Butlers for the removal of the licence of the GOLDEN BALL, Parsonage Street, to premises which it was proposed to erect at the junction of Hagley Road and Monckton Road, Warley.”

### Smethwick Telephone 5/3/1938

“Mr. Harold Eaden appeared on behalf of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers Ltd, to apply for the removal of the license of the EAGLE INN, Park Lane, Oldbury, to premises proposed to be erected at the corner of Kingsway (formerly Monckton Road) and Hagley Road West, Quinton. The application was supported by a number of residents of the district, who were represented by Mr. H. H. Willison; whilst opposition was forthcoming from the Rev. W. C. Russell (Minister of College Road Methodist Church) and other residents, who were represented by Mr. R. K. Brown.

Mr. Eaden said with regard to the EAGLE INN, this was in no sense a redundant house in which the trade fully justified itself. He had been privileged for some few years to make the present application, which was a progressive one in the sense that the increase of houses built and being built in the area of the site during the past three years would indicate that what he had said year after year had come true: the district had developed and was still developing. There had now been reached a point when they might reasonably come to the Justices and ask for the removal of that license. In 1936, there were 597 houses nearer to this site than to any other full license. In 1937, there were 696 houses built and 92 being built – a total of 788 houses. This year, developments had been such that there were now 816 houses built and occupied, and 86 houses being built – a total of 902 houses nearer to this site than to any other full license. Taking the generally accepted figure of four persons to a house, Mr. Eaden said this gave a population of 3,680 persons. The two nearest full licenses to these people were the STAG AND THREE HORSE SHOES (three-quarters of a mile away) and the HOLLY BUSH, also three-quarters of a mile away in the other direction. Both were built to serve a purely local population and not the new district which had sprung up between them. Mr. Eaden gave particulars of a petition which had been prepared. Of the 816 householders approached, 571 had signed in favour of the proposed licensed premises – a total of 70 per cent. Those against numbered 87 (10.66 per cent), and neutral, 83 (10.17 per cent). A few persons did not sign either way.

In evidence, Mr. Edwin F. Reynolds (architect) said the new house was intended to serve the needs of the neighbourhood, and not to cater for passing motorists. In reply to Mr. R. K. Brown, he said the car park would be used on the occasion of evening functions in the clubroom.

After a lengthy hearing, the Justices decided to grant the application, conditional upon the surrender of the NEW INNS, Ridgacre Lane.”

### Birmingham Mail 9/12/1940 - Advert

“Oddman mornings only suit pensioner, com. Dec. 16.

KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Quinton.

App. With refs. the Kings Standing, Kingstanding.”

### Birmingham Mail 11/12/1940 - Advert

“Barman for new house com. Dec 16. App. Before that date the Kings Standing, Kingstanding; after the KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road, West Quinton.”

Birmingham Mail 16/12/1940 - Advert

“Bar Staff Waiters or Waitresses nights week-end regular shifts.  
Manager, KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road, West Quinton. Phone Woo.2980.”

It opened on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1940.

Regular dances were held in the upstairs ballroom.

Birmingham Mail 24/12/1940 - Advert

“The KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Quinton.

What pictures that name conjures up! What visions of coach and chaise, postilion and post boy! And what thoughts of comfortable inns and hearty welcomes. This new M&B house, with every modern comfort in addition to the traditional M&B hospitality, offers rest, recreation and ‘Good Honest Beer’ to all who pass on foot or wheel, along the Kings Highway.

Now Open.

Mitchells & Butlers. Good Honest Beer. There’s an M&B House Quite Near to You.”

Birmingham Mail 29/1/1941 - Adverts

“Barman immed. used to good class trade top wages.  
KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road, West Quinton.”

AND

“Bar-Potman oppor. for willing learner.  
KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road, West Quinton.”

AND

“Cook-General immed. good refs.  
KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road, West Quinton.”

Birmingham Mail 28/5/1942 - Advert

“Barmaid live out also Night Helps good refs. 1<sup>st</sup>-class trade and top wages.  
Manager, KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road, West Quinton. Phone Woodgate 2980.”

Birmingham Mail 11/8/1942 - Deaths

“On August 9 at the KINGS HIGHWAY, Quinton, *Harry*, dearly-loved husband of Myril *Lee*, passed away after short illness, aged 44 years. Funeral, Quinton Cemetery, Thursday, 3pm.”

Birmingham Mail 1/8/1944 - Advert

“Cook good wages and extra pay for functions. Live in.  
KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road, West Quinton. Woo.2980.”

Birmingham Mail 16/9/1944 - Advert

“A Grand Dance. Tuesday next, September 19.  
KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, Quinton.  
7.30 to 10.30. Tickets 3/6.  
Paramount Ballroom Orchestra.  
Proceeds to RAF Benevolent Fund.”

Birmingham Mail 27/10/1944 - Advert

“Bar-Helps and Charwoman.  
KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road, West Quinton. Woo.2980.”



Birmingham Mail 3/4/1945

“Having raised £1,000 in just under three years, the customers of the KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL at Quinton are to endow a cot at Birmingham Children’s Hospital. This handsome total has inspired them to raise enough money for a second cot, and they intend to cut the time limit very considerably.....”

Birmingham Mail 25/4/1945 - Advert

“Bar-General, Bar-Helps and Cleaners.  
KINGS HIGHWAY, Quinton. Phone Woo.2980.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/11/1952

“More than 30,000 people – mostly children – lined four miles of Birmingham roads and streets last night to welcome father Christmas and his cargo of presents for 1952. From the KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, Hagley Road West, Quinton, to Mitchells and Butlers Sports Ground, Portland Road, crowds lined the pavements and swept across the roads as he passed.....

Father Christmas waves a cheery greeting – and hundreds of children, many of them held up in their mothers’ arms, wave in reply – as two carefully groomed horses step out smartly and draw his lamp-bedecked golden coach away from the KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, Quinton, last night at the start of his drive to Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/1/1954

“Today’s events.....  
Quinton. Halesowen Rotary Club, KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, 12.45.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/4/1954

“Today’s events.....  
Halesowen. Civic Heads Association, tour of the works of Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds Coombs Wood, preceded by a civic luncheon at the KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, Quinton, 1.0.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/11/1954

“Today’s events.....  
Quinton. Halesowen and Hagley Farmers’ and Young Farmers’ Club annual dinner and concert, KINGS HIGHWAY MOTEL, 7.0.”

Plans were approved for alterations to the servery in the mixed lounge on the ground floor, on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1954.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/12/1955

“Detectives last night visited the KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, Quinton, during opening hours investigating a robbery from the manager’s office. They interviewed members of the staff about the raid in which money, insurance policies and securities were stolen. Twenty-year-old Miss Shirley *Humpage*, the manager’s daughter, discovered the robbery on Monday night.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/6/1956

“The instinct to make the most out of a rise in the value of commodities is not limited to the stock market; it goes all the way down to the increased deposit on beer bottles. For a week after the recent increase in the deposit on beer bottles, from twopence to threepence, was introduced publicans in Birmingham were paying out pocketfuls of threepences to bottle-laden children who were cashing in on the extra penny. At the KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, in Hagley Road West, during the weekend, I was told, ‘Children were bringing all kinds of bottles back, hoping to get threepence on them. We paid for the genuine beer bottles irrespective of whether the full threepence deposit had been paid.’”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/3/1957

“Safe Driving awards gained during 1954 and 1955 were presented to 213 drivers from three Midland Red

garages in the Birmingham area by the chairman, of the West Midlands Area Traffic Commissioners, Mr. W. P. James, at the KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, Quinton, last night.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1957 - Engagements

“The engagement is announced between Walter Donald, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Adams, of ‘Westfield,’ West Park Road, Smethwick, and Margaret Roberta (Bobby), younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *P. T. G. Humpage*, of the KINGS HIGHWAY, Quinton, and Rectory Cottage, Maxstoke.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/5/1958

“Today’s events.....

Quinton. Blackheath Benevolent Society, annual dinner and dance, KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, 7.30.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1959

“The biggest threat to the Conservatives winning the next election is indifference, Mr. E. J. Warren, president of Bearwood Conservative and Unionist Club, said last night at the club’s Ladies’ Evening at the KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, Quinton.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/8/1963

“‘Resuscitation Annie,’ a life-size model of a girl to be used for giving instruction in the ‘kiss of life’ artificial respiration method, was presented yesterday by Halesowen Rotary Club and 16 local industrialists to Halesowen St. John Ambulance Division. The cost of £40 has been shared by the club and the industrialists, who recognise the value of this method of respiration in works accidents. The presentation was made by the club president, Mr. John Leach, to the area staff officer of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Mr. B. Roper, at a ceremony after the Rotary Club’s weekly luncheon meeting at the KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, Quinton.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/10/1964

“Today’s events.....

Quinton. Halesowen Rotary Club, KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL, 12.45pm.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/11/1968 - Advert

“Assistant Manager, following recent alterations the KINGS HIGHWAY, Quinton, now wish to appoint a young Married Couple to train as Assistant Managers. The position is non-resident and carries future prospects of management.

Applications stating full details of education and positions to date, to the Manager, KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Quinton, Birmingham 32.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/10/1969

“Halesowen. The district farmers’ club is holding its annual dinner and prize distribution at the KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL on November 11.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/2/1970

“Halesowen. The Inner Wheel Club is holding its 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday fellowship meeting at the KINGS HIGHWAY HOTEL this afternoon.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/6/1970 - Advert

“There’s a warm welcome at the New Galleon Grill, KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Quinton. Parties catered for – luncheons or dinners. Telephone Mrs. Ryan for your booking.

Or relax in the Kingsway Lounge and Spanish Lounge – large variety of sandwiches available.

Quinton Suite available for banquets and functions of all kinds for up to 150 people.

Plus superb restaurant for luncheons only.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/5/1971 - Advert

“Auction – Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1971

Dudley. Freehold Central Shop with Possession. Frontage 12ft. Floor Area 1,142 Sq. Ft. Investments. In 6 Lots at Halesowen, Worcs. Freehold Residential Ground Rents. Combined Income £6,631pa.

To be held at the KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Quinton, starting at 6.30pm.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/9/1971 - Advert

“Sunday Lunch.

Forget washing up this Sunday – treat yourself to a superb meal at one of these Inn Catering Houses. Choice of traditional Sunday Roasts, faultlessly prepared and served with a smile. 12-2pm.

Don’t forget out weekday Lunchtime Buffet Table or Grills – Lunch and Evening.....

KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Quinton, Birmingham 32. Tel.422 2980.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/10/1977

“Mrs. Rene Harris was surprised when she heard yesterday that she had won the *Birmingham Post* Baton Wine Contest – she had forgotten that she had entered. Mrs. Harris, aged 62, of Russell Road, Moseley, Birmingham, said, ‘I don’t know much about wine. I just like the odd glass with a meal occasionally. I only entered for fun. This is the first time I have ever won anything.’

Mrs. Harris and her husband, Vivian, aged 64, will go on a trip to Paris to the value of £170 with £50 spending money. The winning sequence in the competition on wine knowledge was D G H A B J E.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris and four runners-up will receive their prizes at a reception at the KINGS HIGHWAY INN, Hagley Road, Quinton, on October 24. Presentations will be made by Mr. Frank Crowton, managing director of Mitchells and Butlers Central.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/3/1979 - Advert

“By Direction of the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell.

Six Freehold Residential Building Sites.....

To be Sold by Public Auction at the KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Quinton, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands, at 7.30 on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1979.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1979 - Advert

“Quinton Antiques Fair.

Thursday, May 31. KINGS HIGHWAY INN, Hagley Road West.

Eve 5-10. Adults 20p.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/11/1979

“A man was kicked and robbed of £8 in cash and a leather jacket in an attack in Hagley Road West, Oldbury, early yesterday. Three youths grabbed the man and dragged him into the car park of the KINGS HIGHWAY public house. He was not seriously injured.”

News Telephone 30/4/1981

“Smethwick brewers M&B have scotched rumours that the giant KINGS HIGHWAY pub in Quinton is to be demolished to make way for a motel.

The huge Hagley Road pub – one of the few large scale social venues left in the area for dinner dances and other major functions – has been the subject of speculation about a new motel near the M5 motorway.....

A member of the pub’s 40-strong staff said, ‘There have been a lot of rumours that M&B are selling the pub off because of a drop in trade, and that it will be knocked down to make way for a motel or turned into one.

We’ve heard that several people have already put in offers for it.’

But M&B press officer Mr. Mike Taylor said, ‘There is no way that M&B are selling off the KINGS HIGHWAY, or knocking it down to make way for a motel.

‘These rumours may have come about because we are intending to develop the KINGS HIGHWAY as a Toby Inn.....’

*Terry Watkins* was married to Andrea.

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/9/1986 - Advert

“A Wedding Fayre will be held at the KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Quinton, on Thursday, September 18, between 7.00pm and 10.00pm.

Come along to see our displays featuring Bridal Wear, Flowers, Stationery, Beautician, Cakes, Cars, Video Photography, Trousseau, Disco, Travel Agent, TV and Video Rentals and Mortgages.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/10/1986 - Advert

“A Free Bottle of Wine On Us!

Order any two adult main courses and we will give you a free bottle (70cl) of either red or white Alexis Lichine wine Free!

Toby Carving Rooms offer particularly good value for money with an inclusive price of around £6.00 for the roast of your choice and a mouth watering dessert. You can complement your meal with a section of starters and speciality coffees.

Toby Grills serve fresh steaks, fish and vegetarian dishes and are ideal for a relaxed business lunch, celebration or just a meal for two.

Where to get your Free Wine.....

KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Oldbury Warley.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/10/1986 - Advert

“The KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Oldbury, Warley.

Requires Trainee for Management Duties in a very busy restaurant function house, with busy public bar trade. As part of a National Restaurant chain the right person will attend Management development courses and in-house training in return for hard work, good career prospects and benefits befitting a large company will be offered.

Apply in writing to the Manager at the above address.

Also Commis Chef required, five day week with split shifts. Good prospects for career in catering.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 22/5/1990

“About 100 jobs will be created by a plan to demolish a well-known pub and build a hotel and restaurant in its place. Toby Restaurants has submitted detailed plans to Sandwell Council for a multi-million pound scheme to pull down KINGS HIGHWAY pub in Hagley Road West, Quinton, and build a 91-bedroom four-storey hotel. It also wants to build a 90-seat pub/restaurant and provide car parking.

A spokesman for Toby Restaurants, which owns the site, said today, ‘This is a significant project which will run into millions of pounds, but we would not be contemplating building a 91-bedroom hotel if there wasn’t a demand. This area is beginning to be a boom town because of the undoubted business which the new Convention Centre in Birmingham will generate. There is already increased accommodation in the city and we see this as an ideal opportunity to add to it.’

Sandwell planning officer Mr. Roger Lemon said, ‘This is a full planning application to demolish the existing pub and build a new hotel and pub/restaurant. We have already begun the process of consultation with local residents and there is substantial interest in this proposal.’

Work on the hotel is expected to start later this year if planning permission is granted.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/7/1990

“One of Sandwell’s best known pubs is to be demolished and replaced with a new one and a hotel creating about 100 jobs. Toby Restaurants will replace the KINGS HIGHWAY in Hagley Road West, Oldbury, with a four-storey, 91-bedroom hotel and a separate pub and restaurant.

Sandwell’s development control committee approved the project despite objections from five residents who said their homes would be overlooked.”

[The project did not happen.]

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/5/1991 - Advert

“25 Club Disco at the KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road. Starting Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Admission £2. Smart

dress.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 13/8/1991

“A stolen car was extensively damaged when it smashed into a tree in Halesowen. The MG Metro had been stolen earlier from the KINGS HIGHWAY pub at Quinton before it crashed in Astley Avenue last night.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/10/1991

“A group of women are hoping to raise hundreds of pounds from a fashion show. The show on October 20 at the KINGS HIGHWAY, Quinton, is being organised by Halesowen Ladies Circle. They aim to raise hundreds of pounds for light-weight wheelchairs for Leasowes Physically Handicapped Club. Ladies Circle chairman Mrs. Susan Cooper said dresses and ballgowns would be on show which had been worn by show-business celebrities and were worth £500 or £600. Tickets £3.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/12/1992

“Restaurant bosses John and Pat Dampier had to impress a mystery diner to win a manager of the year award. The Quinton couple were awarded the Toby Restaurant honour after stringent assessment of the quality of their food, service, and hygiene. During their assessment they were spied on by an independent judge who ate at the restaurant in KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West. The Dampiers beat eight other managers for their work over the last couple of years. Their prize is a trip to Monte Carlo.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/1/1993 - Advert

“2 for a Tenner at Toby Restaurants.

For a limited period only you can enjoy two great offers at your local Toby Restaurant.

At Toby Carving Rooms we are offering two Soup and Carvery meals for only £10! A selection of roasts are available, and you can help yourself to a wide variety of freshly cooked seasonal vegetables.

At Toby Grills you can choose two 2 course meals, to include a main course plus a starter or dessert from the menu (see below) for only £10!

There’s never been a better time to visit your local Toby. Simply cut out the vouchers below and make your reservation now!

Offers available at ..... Grills ..... KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Oldbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/5/1993 - Advert

“The KINGS HIGHWAY Toby Restaurant, Quinton, Birmingham, require a Head Chef.

An exciting opportunity exists for an experienced Chef to join the team at the KINGS HIGHWAY, where a major redevelopment is taking place.....

The KINGS HIGHWAY is part of Toby Restaurants and Bass Taverns and therefore we can offer a competitive salary for this important position, together with a bonus scheme based on achieved results and all the benefits that come from working for a large company.

We shall be re-opening in July after refurbishment. If you feel you can fill the above criteria, please send your CV to John Dampier.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/8/1994

“Jazz ..... Sunday.....

Cutty Sark Jazz Band, KINGS HIGHWAY, Quinton, lunchtime.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/8/1994 - Advert

“Family Fun Day at the KINGS HIGHWAY, Toby Restaurant, Hagley Road West, Quinton on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August, 12pm till 5pm.

Disco bounce, bouncy castle, face painting.

Restaurant open all day (last booking 10pm).

Plus pole jousting on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> only.

Kids under 8 Eat Free after 4pm when accompanied by a full paying adult.

Carvery from 12pm to 5pm.”

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.....

KINGS HIGHWAY, Hagley Road West, Oldbury, Warley.”

Halesowen News 35/7/2007

“Confusion reigns over the future of a landmark Quinton building amid rumours it could be demolished to make way for housing. The KINGS HIGHWAY public house, on Hagley Road West, is the subject of speculation after owners Mitchell and Butlers decided to sell the property for redevelopment. Residents believe the 67-year-old building could now be bulldozed and used for housing, though Sandwell Council confirmed no application has yet been lodged to build on the site.

Ron Sargeant, who lives near the pub, said it had become a magnet for anti-social behaviour in recent times. He said, ‘The main problem is you have had people congregating on the large car park. It has become very quiet in the pub itself and I think it will be a good thing if it does close.’

The large pub first opened its doors on December 23 1940 and is situated close to some of the area’s oldest buildings.

Bernard Taylor, chairman of the Quinton History Society, said he would have concerns about the effect a large housing development might have on other buildings near the site. He said, ‘It is disturbing because you don’t actually know what the specific plans are will be. The two Highway cottages sit right next to the pub and they are nearly 200 years old.’

A spokesman for Mitchells and Butlers confirmed the pub will open for the final time next Thursday, August 2. He said, ‘We review our estate on a regular basis and on this occasion we have taken the decision to sell the property. Our staff have been briefed and have been offered redeployment in other outlets nearby.’”

It closed on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2007.

Halesowen News 25/9/2008

“Controversial plans to build another supermarket in Quinton have been given the green light. An application from Netto to demolish the former landmark KINGS HIGHWAY public house on Hagley Road West and replace it with a new store and other retail units were approved by Sandwell planning committee last night. The decision is likely to devastate residents and traders who collected a petition of 1,282 signatures against the scheme.”

Demolished [2009]

Halesowen News 19/9/2011

“ASDA have announced an opening date for a controversial new supermarket which Quinton residents campaigned against for years. The retail giant won a recent planning application to Sandwell Council to extend the proposed store, which was originally going to be a Netto, and have set the opening date as Monday, October 17. The KINGS HIGHWAY pub was bulldozed to make way for the new Hagley Road West retail park and the battle to stop dates back four years.....”

A supermarket was built on the site. [2012]

**LAKESIDE**

Wolverhampton New Road, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Brewers Fayre [1997], [1999]

Table Table [2010]

Cookhouse and Pub [2017], [2020]

## LICENSEES

## NOTES

### Halesowen News 19/8/2010 – Review by Adam Smith

“Why go abroad when you can have a great value staycation in Oldbury?

With money too tight to mention the recent travel phenomenon of the ‘staycation’ has become ever more popular. The idea is that instead of killing the planet by jetting half the way across the world to put money in Johnny Foreigner’s pocket why not stay at home and see all the attractions on your doorstep. Well I live in Quinton with the Mrs. So I decided I’d take her for a romantic break in Oldbury. Never let it be said I don’t know how to show a woman a good time.

With Oldbury fast becoming the Las Vegas of the Black Country with hotels springing up all down the Wolverhampton Road ‘strip’ I thought it wouldn’t be hard to find a cheap place to stay. Well as they say around these parts, ‘If it’s good enough for Lenny Henry, it’s good enough for me’ so we plumped for the Lakeside Premier Inn where you can get a room for under £30 if you book online in advance. Surrounded by trees, which also obscure the view of the lake, the Premier Inn gets its name from the LAKESIDE pub and restaurant, which was a Brewers Fayre but has been rebranded Lakeside Table Table. It has always been a landmark pub due to its imposing position over the Wolverhampton Road and I had that happy feeling of finally going into a pub which I must have driven past a hundred times. Within seconds of walking in there was service with a smile as we were greeted by a cheerful looking assistant manager who showed us to our table over looking majestic West Bromwich. It was a Saturday night and the place was nicely full without being rammed and the diners ranged from a lone salesman staying at the hotel, to couples enjoying a date to families celebrating special occasions. The I makes the pub seem full of nooks and crannies and there are several alcoves where either couples or friends can enjoy their meals without prying eyes.....

And after all it’s not where you are but who you are with, there is no point being on a Caribbean beach with the world’s most moody partner. The cost of a similar staycation at Oldbury’s Table Table and Premier Inn would cost well under £100 for two including room, food and drinks. It was such a success we are thinking about pushing the boat out and maybe going to Blackheath or Rowley Regis for our next staycation.”

It was renamed COOKHOUSE AND PUB in 2017.

### Leaflet 2017

“Get together at your New COOKHOUSE AND PUB.

We believe bringing good things together makes them even better. From fish and chips or brownies and ice cream to a cheeky gin and tonic. Along with freshly prepared dishes and delicious drinks, we offer friendly service and great value.

Come and experience a relaxed and inviting place to eat and drink.

Get together at Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, Sandwell.

Feast and be merry at COOKHOUSE AND PUB this Christmas.

Festive 2 course menu for £10.99 available from 23<sup>rd</sup> November.”

### Dudley Chronicle 8/2/2018

“The décor is stylish.”

[2021]

## LAMP

Hunt Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

W Ashton [1862]

Benjamin Ashton [1862]

Haston [1864]

B Areton [1865]

## NOTES

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/5/1862

“S. Jones of Westbromwich will run J. Marshall of Oldbury 120 yards and give him two yards start, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready any night at *W. Ashton's*, LAMP TAVERN, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 11/10/1862 - Advert

“Valuable Leasehold Property, situate in Hunt Street, leading out of Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Robert H. Jones, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Monday, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1862, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then and there to be produced.

All that Messuage or Tenement, now used as a Public House, and called or known by the sign of the LAMP TAVERN, situate at the corner of Hunt Street, leading out of Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, and now in the occupation of *Benjamin Ashton*.

And also all those Two Messuages or Dwelling Houses adjoining the lastly described Premises, one of which is now in the occupation of Richard Crumpton, and the other void.

The above Premises are held under a lease for ninety-nine years, commencing from the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1861, and the Houses have been erected since that period.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Wm. Shakespeare, Solicitor, West Bromwich and Oldbury; or to the Auctioneer, at his Offices, Church Square, Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/10/1862

“B. Ashton of Oldbury and T. Jones (alias Brushey) of Birmingham have made a match to run six score yards, for £5 a side, Jones giving Ashton four yards start, to come off at Aston Cross Grounds on Monday, Nov 10. £1 a side is down in the hands of Mr. W. Jones of Oldbury, who is final stakeholder and referee; the next deposit was to be made at *B. Ashton's*, LAMP TAVERN, Oldbury, on Saturday evening, Oct 25.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/1/1864

“Ben Haston of Oldbury will run Kirkum or Green (the Tailor) (both of West Bromwich) 100 yards, with a yard start, or will give W. Darby of Oldbury two yards in six score, either match for £10 or £20 a side. Money ready at *Haston's*, LAMP TAVERN, Oldbury; or at Peacock's, NELSON INN, New Street, Westbrom-



wich.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 21/1/1865

“Charles Philpots of Oldbury and John Onions of Rounds Green are matched to run six score yards, for £10 a side, at Aston Cross Grounds, on Feb 14. £1 a side is down, and a further deposit of the same amount is to be made this evening to Mr. *B. Areton*’s, LAMP TAVERN, Oldbury. Mr. B. Gardiner, stakeholder and referee.”

**LAST**

Station Road / Mill Lane, (17, Hobicus Lane), Langley Green, OLDBURY

OWNERS

George Thompson, Langley Green, Oldbury (acquired 1887)

Henry Howard Paine [1894], [1895]

David Bates

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Baker [1845] – [1854]

Daniel Felkin [1858] – [1880]

David Bates [1886] – **1895**);

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1895 – 1897**):

NOTES

17, Hobicus Lane [1873], [1891]

Mill Lane [1895]

Station Road

[1844]

Smethwick Telephone 4/12/1958

‘Smethwick and Round About’ by W. Ellery Jephcott

“.....the LAST INN, situate in Mill Lane, Langley. This is a narrow thoroughfare running at the rear of Hughes Johnson’s forge, close to where the ancient Langley Mill and the mill pool were situate. The boundary line entered the inn at a mark on the wall under a window shutter, then proceeded to an iron pillar of the fireplace in the kitchen, and then along the line of the mantelpiece and out of the house again at another mark on the wall.....”

Birmingham Journal 11/1/1851

“An inquest was held on Saturday last, at the house of Mr. *Baker*, the LAST INN, Langley Green, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of George Grainger, a labourer, who was found drowned in an arm of the Birmingham Canal, leading to Titford. It appears the man was returning from Mr. Dawes’s Ironworks, where he was engaged as stock-taker, late on Wednesday evening, somewhat the worse for liquor, when, from some cause not explained, he either walked or fell into the canal. Suspicion that some one had met

with an accident was caused by a hat having been found near the locks early on Thursday morning, when a drag was procured, and search made for the body, which was not found till two pm. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### 1851 Census

Langley Green

- [1] *William Baker* (41), fitter and victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Baker* (38), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Catherine Baker* (18), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Anthony Baker* (16), son, fitter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Humphry Baker* (14), son, fitter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Ellen Baker* (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Mary Ann Baker* (10), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Harriett Baker* (8), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [9] *Eliza Baker* (6), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [10] *Samuel Baker* (5), son, born Oldbury;
- [11] *Amplias Baker* (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [12] *Emma Baker* (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [13] *Sarah Baker* (7 weeks), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Journal 30/8/1851

“An inquest was held on Tuesday se’nnight, at Mr. *Baker*’s, the sign of the LAST, Langley Green, on the body of Samuel Mole, who was drowned under the following circumstances. On returning from Cat Bank Wake, and being in a merry mood, he and another man named Darby, determined to bathe in the canal, but Mole had not been long in before he was seized with cramp, and being unable to reach the side of the canal, the parties who stood by were so terrified, that no efforts were made to rescue him until it was too late. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The poor man resided at Blake Heath, and was much respected.”

#### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 16/8/1852 - Advert

“Improving and Desirable Small Freehold Estate, Public House, Cottages, and Farm Buildings; also Valuable Wharf and Building Land, with Mines and Minerals, at Langley Green, near Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, and the County of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Clarke (by direction of the Trustees of the late Mr. Thomas Whyley), on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September next, at the TALBOT HOTEL, in Oldbury, at five o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.....

Lot III. All those three well-erected Freehold Cottages, with the Gardens and Out-buildings belonging thereto, in the occupation of William Titley, Widow Skelding, and Henry Reynolds, situated at the back of the LAST Public House, at Langley Green, and adjoining Mr. Titley’s Brick-yard, producing at a very low rents the sum of £17 11s per annum.....”

*William Baker* – see also BRIDGE.

*Daniel Felkin* = Daniel Felkins = Daniel Falkin

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 10/11/1858

“A few days ago, at the petty sessions at Oldbury, a man named William Billington, miner, was charged with a highway robbery with violence. On the previous Wednesday night, Mr. Richard Powell, of the Moat Farm, Warley Wigorn, two miles from Oldbury, was returning home. When he was within a short distance of his house he heard a shuffling by the roadside, and thinking that some dangerous persons were near, he drew a spring pocket knife. Instantly after he was struck on the head with a missile, and was stunned by the blow; but, nevertheless, as one man rushed upon him, he plunged the knife into his side with as much force

as his exhausted strength would permit. Finding that Mr. Powell offered resistance, the first robber held him tightly whilst the second pelted him with stones, chiefly aiming at his head. Having weakened Mr. Powell in this way, the thieves searched his person. One first dipped his hand into one of Mr. Powell's trouser pockets, which contained only 2d. A large sum of money was in Mr. Powell's possession at the time, but the robbers did not find it....."

#### Morning Post 12/11/1858

"On Tuesday the Police Court at Oldbury was crowded, on the examination of William Billington.....

Mr. Powell remained seriously ill for several days, and was attended by Mr. Holland, surgeon, of Oldbury, and he is now in a great measure restored. He appeared in court with his head and neck covered with plaster. He described the circumstances of the attack and robbery, and said that, though Billington concealed his face, he could not be mistaken, for he had known Billington a long time; knew his stature and build, and believed that he was his first assailant.....

Sergeant Simmonds, of the Oldbury police, who apprehended the prisoner, gave evidence as to the stab, as did a surgeon, as a wound likely to be caused by such a knife as that of the prosecutor.

The prisoner alleged that he received the stab at the LAST public house near Langley Green, on the Monday night following that of the robbery, but two or three witnesses disproved this statement.

This being the whole of the evidence, the magistrates considered a prima facie case was established, and committed the prisoner to the next Worcester assizes for trial."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 22/12/1858

"Worcester City and County Assizes.....

William Billington, a miner, was charged with committing an assault on Richard Powell, at Warley Wigorn, on the night of the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, and stealing from his person a handkerchief and a shilling, his property. Mr. Powell prosecuted; Mr. Kenealy defended the prisoner.

There being doubts as to the identity of the prisoner, he was acquitted."

#### 1861 Census

Hobicus Lane

[1] *Daniel Felkin* (40), miner, born Sedgley;

[3] *Mary Felkin* (46), wife, born Madeley, Shropshire;

[3] *Catherine Felkin* (23), daughter, born Bilston;

[4] *Martha Felkin* (18), daughter, born Bilston:

#### County Express 8/8/1868

"The following persons were fined for keeping open their houses for the sale of beer during prohibited hours.....

*Daniel Falkin*, the LAST INN, Langley Green (two offences in one day) fined 40s and costs."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/9/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for Hales Owen division was held yesterday at the Public Office.....

There were 147 applications for renewals, all of which were granted, with the exception of *Daniel Felkins*, the LAST, Langley Green, which was suspended for a fortnight."

#### 1871 Census

Hobicus Lane

[1] *Daniel Felkin* (49), publican, born Bilston;

[2] *Mary Felkin* (54), wife, born Bilston;

[3] *Mary Walker* (9), grand-daughter, born Langley Green:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 20/12/1886

"About ten o'clock on Saturday night a fire broke out at the LAST INN, Mill Lane, Langley, kept by Mr. *David Bates*. It appears a lighted candle was left by one of the inmates upon a chest of drawers in one the

bed rooms, which being accidentally upset lighted the cover. The flames spread rapidly, and in a few minutes the furniture, woodwork, and clothing in the room were ablaze. Information of the outbreak was conveyed to the alkali works, and the brigade turned out, but upon their arrival at the place it was found that the fire had been extinguished by means of buckets, there being a plentiful supply of water at hand. The front window was burnt out, and it is estimated that the damage to the furniture and wearing apparel will amount to about £20, which is not covered by insurance.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1887

“Oldbury Local Board.....

A letter as received from Messrs. Chance Brothers, stating that since an accident which happened on the 18<sup>th</sup> ult, to one of their men who accompanied their engine to a fire at the LAST INN, Langley, they had considered the question of allowing their brigade to attend fires outside their own premises, and had decided that they must henceforth confine the use of their fire engine to their own works, as it was their opinion that it was the duty of the local authorities in each township to provide adequate protection against fire at the expense of the ratepayers generally, and not to depend upon the good nature of private firm. The matter was referred to the Highway Committee.”

#### 1891 Census

17, Hobicus Lane – LAST INN

- [1] *David Bates* (52), widower, publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Daniel Bates* (20), son, general labourer, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Martha Bates* (16), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Richard D. Bates* (14), son, general labourer, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *William H. Bates* (12), son, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Marian Bates* (7), daughter, born Langley;
- [7] *Frederick Jakeways* (7), grand-son, born West Bromwich:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday, at the Court-house.....

Mr. A. Young made an application on behalf of Henry Howard Paine for the removal of the license attached to the LAST INN, Langley, to an out-door beerhouse in Vicarage Road which it was proposed to name the Duke of York Inn. He explained that both licenses belonged to Showell’s Brewery Company. Mr. Waldron opposed for residents ..... Refused.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 31/8/1895

“The annual Licensing Session for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held on Tuesday. Superintendent Chare in his report said there were 147 persons licensed for the sale of intoxicants. One house had been closed since the last annual licensing meeting. During the year three license-holders had been proceeded against for offences under the Licensing Acts. The number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness was 210, a decrease of 38 males and 10 females compared with 1894. He had received notices of three new applications.....

Mr. W. Waldron (Brierley Hill) applied on behalf of Mr. Harry Howard Paine for the removal of the license from the LAST INN, Mill Lane, Langley, to premises situated in Vicarage Road, Langley, which he asked to be made into a full-licensed house. A similar application was made last year, and no doubt the Bench would wonder why it was again made. The answer was of a twofold character; first, because there was a great necessity for the granting of the license in that particular district; and secondly, because there was a change of circumstances from last year. The house was suitably adapted to carry on a full-licensed trade. There were four rooms downstairs, five bedrooms, four cellars, a capital yard, and a coach-house for the accommodation of three horses. If the Bench decided to grant the application it was proposed to call the house the Duke of York Inn. The situation of the house was on the main way from Warley to Smethwick and Birmingham, and there was a great deal of traffic passing the house. The immediate neighbourhood was an increasing one, and within a mile of this house there were only six licensed houses, the nearest fully-licensed house being

about 600 yards away. The police had not made any objection to the application, but he believed an objection had been made by a Mr. Hill, who kept the post office in Vicarage Road. A memorial had been signed by 130 persons residing in the neighbourhood in favour of the alteration.

Evidence was then called. Messrs. J. S. Sharpe and J. Clarke opposed the granting of the license on behalf of several residents at Langley ..... Refused.”

The license was not applied for in 1897 and was dropped.

Closed

It was demolished c.1900s.

The site was later part of Hughes Johnson’s offices.

## LOCOMOTIVE

6, (Lower) Trinity Street, Tat Bank, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Abraham Lee

Oldbury Railway Co.

Great Western Railway Co.

Messrs. Chance, chemical works, Oldbury

## LICENSEES

Abraham Lee [1854] – [1855]

James Ballard [1858] – [1873]

Enoch Smallbun [1878]

Richard Merriss [1880] – [1881]

Freeman York [1884] – **1885**;

Sarah Fletcher (**1885 – 1886**);

Enoch Jones Jnr. (**1886 – 1887**);

George Gardner (**1887 – 1888**):

## NOTES

County Advertiser 18/4/1857 - Advert

“Tat Bank, Oldbury, Worcestershire.

Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, Dwelling House and Land.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, at the house of Mr. William Brooks, the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury, on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at Six o’clock in the Evening, and subject to Conditions then to be produced.

Lot 1. All that Newly-erected and Substantially Built, Old Licensed Public House, known as the LOCOMOTIVE INN, situate opposite the Oxford Works, in Trinity Street, at Tat Bank aforesaid, having Front Tap Room, Parlour, Bar, Back Kitchen, Four Chambers, Club Room, Three Cellars, good Yard, Hay Shed, Stabling, and Piggeries, well supplied with Hard and Soft Water.

Lot 2. All those Twelve Excellent Dwelling Houses and Land, together with the House and Premises now occupied as a Grocer’s Shop, adjoining the same, having Shop, Parlour, Cooking Kitchen, Four Chambers, Stable, Piggeries, and enclosed Yard, with a good supply of Water, situate in Parson’s Lane, Tat Bank.

The Mines and Minerals, if any, underneath the above Properties will be Sold with the same.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to Messrs. Hayes and Wright, Solicitors, Oldbury, or to the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

#### Birmingham Journal 20/6/1857 - Advert

“Sale at the LOCOMOTIVE INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday, June the 29<sup>th</sup>, 1857.

Part of the Public House Fixtures, Household Furniture, and Effects, belonging to the Executors of the late Mr. *Abraham Lee*.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock in the morning.”

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/12/1858

“A special sitting of the Magistrates was held on Friday last, in the Big House, Church Street, Oldbury, to inquire into the truth of the statement of Joseph Baker, a steel worker, at Langley Green, near that town, to the effect that he was acquainted with the circumstances attending the death of a woman, named Catherine Moore, aged thirty-six, a hawker of drapery goods, who was found drowned in the canal near the Seven Stars Bridge, on the Oldbury and Birmingham turnpike-road, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 1854.

An inquest was held upon the body of the woman Moore at the time, and a verdict of Found Drowned was returned.

During last week the man Baker, whilst intoxicated in a public house, avowed that he knew the two men who murdered her. The police were informed of this statement, and Serjeant Simmonds went to the house of Baker’s parents, with whom he lived, and who said that he had made similar assertions to them.

A search was made for Henry Webb, one of Baker’s companions, and he was brought up as a witness, at the private offices of the Clerks to the Justices.

Mr. *James Ballard*, licensed victualler, of the LOCOMOTIVE INN, Oldbury, the only accused person now living, attended to defend himself from the aspersions cast upon his character by Baker.

Henry Webb, the person who overheard the prisoner’s observations in the SEVEN STARS, was examined. He stated that her was in the room of the public house when Baker, who was sitting as if in a reflective mood, said, ‘Yes; I saw it all with my own eyes; they are the murderers.’ One of the company present, astonished by this remark, said, ‘What did you see?’ and Baker replied, ‘Oh, I saw the body in the water; I wanted to pull it out, but *Ballard* got hold of me and wouldn’t let me, whilst Markwick stood watching on the bridge.’ On being asked how it was that he saw the men, Baker said he encountered them on his road home.

Serjeant Simmonds stated that Baker had made similar statements when he was sober as well as when he was intoxicated. Baker had also said that he intended never to ‘spilt,’ but that he could not keep the secret, for his conscience would not let him be quiet.

Mr. *Ballard* stated that he was altogether innocent of the extraordinary charge now brought against him. He could prove an alibi, as he was in business in London at the time named by Baker.

In reply to the Magistrates, Baker said, ‘I have no remembrance of having made such statements; and if I have, I must have been out of my senses.’

The Magistrates expressed their astonishment at Baker’s conduct, and severely reprimanded him. They also expressed a hope that, for the sake of surviving family and friends of Mr. Markwick, and in justice to Mr. *Ballard*, full publicity would be given to the issue of the inquiry. Mr. *Ballard* left the Court without a stain on his character. They did not believe a sentence of what Baker had said; they thought he was insane.”

#### 1861 Census

Trinity Street – LOCOMOTIVE INN

[1] *James Ballard* (36), engine fitter and victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Ellen Ballard (30), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] John Ballard (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] James Ballard (4), son, born Oldbury;

[5] Elizabeth Ballard (3), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Elizabeth Plant (15), general servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Journal 22/12/1866

“At the Birmingham County Court, on Thursday, the case of Powell v Chance was heard.....

The action was brought to recover damages for a nuisance occasioned by Mr. Chance and his partners, who are large manufacturers of alkali and other substances, at Oldbury.....

*James Ballard* was an engine fitter and publican, at Oldbury. His house was about twelve yards from the works of Messrs. Chance. Since last May he had frequently observed a kind of mist coming from Messrs.

Chance's works. It had got into his house and discoloured the ironwork....."  
[Verdict for the plaintiff for the amount claimed, £4.]

#### 1871 Census

Trinity Street

- [1] *James Ballard* (46), engine fitter, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Ellen Ballard* (46), wife, born Maidstone, Kent;
- [3] *John Ballard* (18), son, engine fitter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *James Ballard* (14), son, engine fitter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth Ballard* (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Alfred Ballard* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Mary Ann Cowley* (16), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*James Ballard* issued tokens from here, bearing 'Tat Bank, Trinity Street.'  
He was also a machinist. [1873]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 3/4/1878 - Advert

"I, *Enoch Smallbun*, of the LOCOMOTIVE INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury, will Not be Answerable for any Debt or Debts my Wife may Contract from this date.  
April 2, 1878. *Enoch Smallbun*."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1878 - Advert

"General Servant (good) Wanted.  
Apply, Mrs. *Smallbun*, LOCOMOTIVE INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury."

*Richard Merriss* = Richard Merris

#### 1881 Census

6, Lower Trinity Street – LOCOMOTIVE INN

- [1] *Richard Merris* (58), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary A. Merris* (58), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Thomas Merris* (20), son, carpenter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Sarah A. Leighton* (29), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/5/1882 - Advert

"LOCOMOTIVE INN, Trinity Street, Oldbury, to be Let; full-licensed. Rent £35; in-coming £180.  
Well-situated House.  
Apply to W. H. Pass, Public-house Valuer, Oldbury Road, Smethwick."

*Freeman York* = Freeman Yorke

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1889

"At the Oldbury Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. J. E. Wilson and B. T. Sadler – William Butterworth (55), alias Holt, of no fixed abode, commission agent, who formerly was an itinerant minister in the Methodist New Connexion Church, was charged with stealing a black leather bag, of the value of 3s, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, 1885, the property of *Freeman York*.  
*Betsy York*, wife of prosecutor, said that at the time of the theft she resided at the LOCOMOTIVE INN, Trinity Street, Langley, but now kept the KINGS ARMS.  
*Thomas Short*, manager of a pawnbroker's business belonging to Mrs. Langman, of Dudley, said that on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, 1885, prisoner pledged the bag for 1s 3d in the name of John Holt.  
Police-sergeant Stanton said he arrested prisoner on the 27<sup>th</sup> February.  
In answer to the charge prisoner pleaded not guilty, and alleged that it was a case of mistaken identity. He remarked that there was one gentleman on the Bench that could see a vast difference in him from what he

was four or five years ago.

The Bench fined defendant 40s and costs, or in default fourteen days' imprisonment. The total fine amounted to £3 11s 6d. Prisoner went to uth."

*Freeman York* – see also KINGS ARMS.

West Bromwich Weekly News 5/2/1887 - Advert

“To Let, LOCOMOTIVE INN, Trinity Street, Oldbury.

Old-Licensed, Good Stabling, and Yard. Rent and ingoing low.

Apply on the premises.”

No application for renewal was made on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1888.

Closed

It was demolished as part of the construction of the railway line linking Oldbury with Langley c.1888.

## MALT SHOVEL

25, (21), (19), (15), Low Town, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

George Thompson, Langley, Oldbury [1881]

Samuel Barnett

George Thompson, Langley, Oldbury

J. A. and A. Thompson, maltsters, Orchard Street, Langley, Oldbury (acquired in 1896) [1899]

Thomas Oliver Ltd.

Isache and Clarke, 82, New Street, Birmingham (acquired c.1911)

## LICENSEES

Frederick Harrison [1845] – [1846]

Thomas Lane [1850]

Timothy Thompson [1851] – [1867]

Thomas Summers [1870]

George Summers [1870] – [1873]

Joseph Tomlinson [1880] – [1881]

Mary Ann Morris [1884] – **1885**;

William Holden (**1885 – 1887**);

John Knight (**1887**);

Noah Parkes Jnr. (**1887**);

Samuel Barnett (**1887 – 1888**);

David Willetts (**1888 – 1892**);

Thomas Robinson (**1892 – 1894**);

John Turton Taylor (**1894 – 1895**);

George Albert White (**1895**);

Tom Smith (**1895 – 1896**);

Samuel Downing (**1896 – 1897**);

John Pugh (**1897 – 1901**);

Richard Tildesley (**1901 – 1902**);



Richard Clarke (1902 – 1904);  
Benjamin Thomas Williams (1904 – 1920);  
Mrs. Williams [ ] ?  
John Crowley (1920 – 1921);  
Henry Joseph Higgins (1921 – 1932);  
Thomas Cartwright (1932 – 1937);  
James Edward Taylor (1937 – [1962])

## NOTES

15, Low Town [1873]  
19, Low Town [1881]  
21, Low Town [1891], [1896], [1901], [1912], [1916]  
25, Low Town [1911], [1921], [1939]

It had a malting kiln at the rear.

Boxing training sessions run by Chegan Grainger were held here.

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/10/1846 - Advert

“Public House and Malthouse, at Oldbury.

To be Let, and immediate possession had, a desirable old-licensed Public House, Malthouse, Stabling, Garden, &c, in the occupation of *Frederick Harrison*.

Fixtures to be taken to at valuation.

For rent and particulars apply to Joseph Collins, or on the premises.”

### Birmingham Journal 1/5/1847

“On the morning of Monday last, another of those distressing accidents which are of weekly occurrence in the district, happened in Mr. Chance's coal-pit, at Titford, near this place. About six o'clock, a lad named William Smith, eighteen years of age, was working along with others in the pit, when a quantity of coal fell on the poor fellow and crushed him beneath its weight. He was instantly relieved from the ponderous load, and taken to the pit-head, but his injuries were of so severe a nature that he died shortly afterwards. An inquest was held the same day before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, at the MALT SHOVEL, Oldbury, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

### 1851 Census

West side of Low Town

[1] *Timothy Thompson* (27), maltster and publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Thompson* (25), wife, born Cheltenham;

[3] *Elizabeth Day* (16), house servant, born Oldbury:

### Worcester Journal 11/3/1852

“Yesterday (Tuesday) se'nnight, an inquest was held at the MALT SHOVEL public house, Oldbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of Eliza Harris, who died on the Friday night previous, under the following circumstances.

Her husband, who is in regular work, had for some time deprived her of the common necessaries of life, besides having beaten and ill-used her in a most brutal and unmanly manner. It was proved that on the morning of her death, he compelled her to get up from bed, and in attempting to obey his request she fell upon the floor, when his language and treatment was most disgraceful.

The fellow was brought before the Jury in custody, and was most severely reprimanded by the Coroner and Jury, who told him they were only sorry they could not give him what he so richly deserved. The verdict was to the effect that death was caused by disease of the heart, brought on by excitement from the intemper-

ate language and treatment of Levison Harris, her husband.

A post mortem examination had been made by Mr. T. R. Cooper, surgeon.

When the unfortunate deceased was buried, the churchyard was thronged to excess, and with great difficulty the fellow escaped being forced into the grave.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 24/3/1852 - Died

“March 11<sup>th</sup>, Mary, wife of Mr. *Timothy Thompson*, of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oldbury, near Dudley.”

*Timothy Thompson* married Harriet Jane Hawley in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1853.

*Timothy Thompson* was also a maltster. [1855]

Birmingham Journal 26/12/1857

“On Thursday evening last, an inquest was held at the MALT SHOVEL public house, Oldbury, by R. Docker, Esq, on the body of John Casey, aged about forty-five, who died on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst, from injuries he received on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, while at work at a stone-pit at the Lyttelton Hall Colliery, belonging to Mr. Dawes, in the parish of West Bromwich. The deceased was at work with other men, and while the latter were at dinner, he went with a naked candle into a part of the mine where he had been at work, and shortly afterwards the men, by a sudden gust of wind, became aware that an explosion had taken place. On proceeding to the spot, they found Casey lying in the road very much burnt. He was taken up the pit and carried home, but died in about a fortnight from the effect of the burns. It was said that very little sulphur had accumulated; and that the explosion was right in the current of air. But the witnesses stated that the ventilation was sufficient, and it was supposed that the sulphur accumulated near a sudden slip of the mine. This being a stone-pit, the Government Inspector was not present. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1861 Census

Low Town – MALT SHOVEL INN

- [1] *Timothy Thompson* (35), maltster and victualler, born Rood End;
- [2] Harriet Jane Thompson (30), wife, born Wood Gate, Worcestershire;
- [3] Mary Maud Thompson (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Elizabeth Thompson (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Ann Element (14), general servant, born Langley Green;
- [6] Phoebe Franks (14), general servant, born Oldbury:

*Timothy Thompson* – see also MODEL.

Birmingham Daily Post 6/4/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a clean, active Servant Girl, 16 to 20. Good character required.  
Apply at the MALT SHOVEL, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1866

“A melancholy accident, by which three lives were lost, occurred on Thursday, at the pit known as the New Workings, at West Bromwich, belonging to Mr. Dawes. At dinner time on the day named three persons, named Samuel Turner (12), William Bates (13), and Joseph Chambers (21), who had been at work in the pit all the day, left their work to come up the shaft. In seeking the mouth of the shaft, however, they took a wrong turning, and got into some old workings, which contained sulphur. As they did not come up at the proper time, men were sent down in search of them, and they were not discovered until seven o’clock at night, when they were all quite dead. An inquest will be held today at the ANCHOR INN.”

[A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.]

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/7/1866

“Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, held an inquest yesterday afternoon, at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Low Town, Oldbury, concerning the death of Joseph Chambers, a miner, 21 years of age, who was killed with two others

in a coal pit in West Bromwich, the property of Mr. Davies. The evidence adduced was precisely similar to that given at the former inquest, and which was recorded in the *Gazette* of Tuesday last. The Coroner having summed up the facts, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, but they considered that the persons in charge of the pit were to blame for not having it fenced off.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/8/1867 - Advert

“Oldbury. To be Let, an Old-licensed Public House and Premises, the MALT SHOVEL INN, with Malt-house adjoining, in the occupation of *Timothy Thompson*. Also, an Old-licensed Public House and Premises, the NEW INN, on the Birmingham Road, in the occupation of John Jordan.  
Apply to J. Collins, Church Street, Oldbury.”

*George Summers* = George Somers

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/7/1870

“*George Summers*, of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Lowtown, Oldbury, was fined £1 and costs for selling ale during prohibited hours. The case was proved by Police-constable Hayes, who produced 7s 6d, with which he said the defendant had attempted to bribe him.  
The Clerk to the Magistrates: You had better keep it.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/8/1870 - Advert

“To Let (immediate possession to be had) that Old-licensed Public House, the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oldbury.  
Apply to *George Somers*, upon the Premises.”

1871 Census

Low Town – MALT SHOVEL

- [1] *George Summers* (52), publican, born Ireland;
- [2] Jane Summers (47), wife, born Ireland;
- [3] Martin Summers (24), son, coach builder, born France;
- [4] George Summers (20), son, coach builder, born Scotland;
- [5] Mary Summers (17), daughter, born Manchester;
- [6] Ellen Summers (14), daughter, born Ireland;
- [7] John Summers (12), son, born Ireland;
- [8] Jane Summers (10), daughter, born Ireland;
- [9] James Summers (4), son, born Oldbury;
- [10] Michael Flarty (26), boarder, labourer, born Ireland;
- [11] Mary Hawkins (17), general servant, born Oldbury:

1881 Census

19, Low Town

- [1] *Joseph Tomlinson* (54), licensed victualler, born Gornal;
- [2] Eliza Tomlinson (66), wife, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Mail 21/5/1881 - Advert

“Oldbury (MALT SHOVEL). Full-licensed Premises, excellent Brewing Plant for Barrel Trade; everything in good condition and must be taken belonging to the business; retiring.  
Further particulars, apply on the Premises.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 6/8/1881

“On Tuesday an inquest was held before Mr. R. Docker, at the MALT SHOVEL INN, on the body of John Cannon (19), 19, Perrott Street, who met with an accident whilst at work at the Carriage Works, on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> ult, which resulted in his death on the following day.

Benjamin Astle, Talbot Street, said about 3 o'clock on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult, he saw the deceased in the act of ascend-

ing a ladder, which he had placed against a beam to put a strap on a pulley. The ladder being rather short was almost in a perpendicular position. The bottom of the ladder gave way, and it fell, the deceased falling with it. He saw the deceased get up and walk a short distance, holding his left side.

Joseph Plant, Halesowen Street, blacksmith, said he was in the shop when the accident occurred. He did not see the deceased fall but he went to him immediately afterwards, and saw him walk a short distance to a box. He appeared to be in great pain, and put his hand to his side. Deceased walked home about fifteen minutes after the accident occurred.

Charles Turbitt, surgeon, of Church Square, said he was fetched to deceased about 6 o'clock on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> ult. He complained of great pain in the bowels. There were no external injuries, with the exception of a bruise and abrasions of the skin, on the right arm, such as would be occasioned by the fall. The deceased gradually became worse, and died at 4 o'clock the following day.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

West Bromwich Weekly News 24/9/1881 - Advert

"Full-Licensed House To Let, from September 29<sup>th</sup>, MALT SHOVEL INN, Oldbury, in the occupation of *J. Tomlinson*; Brewing Plant, Fixtures, Gas Fittings, Stock in Trade, &c, to be taken to at Valuation. Apply George Thompson, The Elms, Langley Green,"

Birmingham Daily Post 10/11/1882 - Advert

"MALT SHOVEL, Low Town, Oldbury. Full-licensed. Low rented, to Let, upon very easy terms. W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Public-house Valuer, 491, Oldbury Road, Smethwick."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1884

"*Mary Ann Morris*, landlady of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Low Town, Oldbury, was charged with keeping her house open during illegal hours on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst.

Police-constable Peart stated that at seventeen minutes past eleven o'clock on the night in question he visited the defendant's premises, and found a man named Michael Welch there.

Mr. Shakespeare, who defended, admitted that Welch was there, but pleaded that he was courting the landlady.

Defendant was fined 10s and costs.

Michael Welch was then charged with being on the above-named premises during prohibited hours. The magistrates imposed a fine of 1s and costs, and advised him in future to do his courting before eleven o'clock."

AND

Smethwick Telephone 31/5/1884

"Oldbury Police Court. *Mary Ann Morris*, landlady of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Low Town, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, and Michael Welch, an ironworker, was charged with being drunk on the premises.

The landlady, it appeared, was a widow with four children, and for the defence Mr. Shakespeare argued that her only defence was that she allowed this young gentleman (Welch) to remain rather too long courting her. The landlady was fined 10s and costs and Welch was fined 1s and costs, the parties being told that if they wished to do their courting on licensed premises they must do it before 11 o'clock."

*William Holden* – see also HOPE AND ANCHOR.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/6/1887 - Advert

"Capital old-established full-licensed House, the MALT SHOVEL, Low Town, Oldbury. Rent £30. Splendid brewing plant. In-coming £150.

Apply on the Premises; or W. J. Seal, Auctioneer and Valuer, 5, Union Street."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/6/1887 - Advert

"To Publicans, Brewers, and Parties Seeking a Good Old-Licensed Inn.

Unreserved Sale of the Goodwill, Licenses, Possession, Fixtures, Trade Furniture, the Superior Cooper-made

Brewing Plant, two extra-strong 200-gallon copper and wrought-iron Boilers, best oak Half-hogsheads, and numerous other Effects, at the MALT SHOVEL, Low Town, Oldbury.

By W. J. Seal, Tomorrow (Tuesday), June 28, unless previously disposed of by Private Treaty, and for which any reasonable offer will be accepted.

Sale to commence at half-past 10 o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices, 5, Union Street, Birmingham."

*David Willetts* = David Willets

#### Birmingham Daily Post 15/9/1890 - Advert

"To be Sold, by private treaty, an old-established Fitting and Blacksmith's Shop, in the centre of Oldbury; rare opportunity.

Apply, *David Willets*, MALT SHOVEL, Oldbury."

#### 1891 Census

21, Low Town – MALT SHOVEL INN

[1] *David Willetts* (37), engine fitter, born Whiteheath;

[2] Elizabeth Willetts (34), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Sarah Willetts (16), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Frederick Willetts (14), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Joseph Willetts (12), son, scholar, born Blackheath;

[6] David Willetts (10), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] Thomas Willetts (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[8] William Willetts (5), son, scholar, born Whiteheath;

[9] George Willetts (3), son, scholar, born Whiteheath;

[10] Elizabeth Willetts (2), daughter, born Oldbury:

*David Willetts* – see also FOUNTAIN, Stone Street.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/1/1894

"London Gazette, January 12 ..... Deeds of Assignment.....

*Thomas Robinson*, the MALT SHOVEL INN, Low Town, Oldbury, victualler. Deed of assignment for the benefit of creditors, dated 3<sup>rd</sup>, and filed 8<sup>th</sup> inst, under which Mr. William Hackett, of Oldbury, auctioneer and valuer, is trustee. Liabilities, £138 16s 10d; assets, £31 10s; secured creditors, £30."

#### Smethwick Telephone 20/1/1894 - Advert

"To Brewers, Publicans, and others.

MALT SHOVEL INN, Low Town, Oldbury.

Mr. William Hackett will sell by Auction, on the premises as above, on Monday Next, January 22, at Six for Seven o'clock in the evening (unless Disposed of by Private Treaty in the mean time, of which due notice will be given).

The Valuable Lease, Licenses, Goodwill, Possession, Public House Fixtures, Fittings, Trade Effects, and the whole of the Modern Brewing Plant and Effects of the above well-known and old-established Full-licensed House.

For further particulars, and to inspect inventory, apply to J. S. Sharpe, Esq, Solicitor, West Bromwich; or to the Auctioneer, Midland Chambers, Birmingham Street, Oldbury; and Oldbury Road, West Smethwick."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/6/1894

"At the Police Court, yesterday, *John Fenton* [sic] *Taylor*, of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Low Town, Oldbury, applied for a temporary authority to be converted into a permanent license. Mr. J. S. Sharpe supported and Superintendent Chare objected to the application.

The Superintendent said he had received complaints of betting on horse-racing going on in applicant's house.

Mr. Sharpe said those complaints should have been made in the shape of a summons, then the applicant could have defended himself.

Mr. Heaton said the Bench considered Superintendent Chare had acted strictly within his duty. They should grant a further temporary authority; but on the distinct understanding that it would not be made a permanent license, to give the owners of the house an opportunity of finding another tenant to whom the magistrates might grant the license.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday, at the Court-house. ....

The following cases, in which Superintendent Chare objected to the renewals, were also considered. ....

*J. T. Taylor*, MALT SHOVEL INN.”

AND

Smethwick Telephone 29/9/1894

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions. ....

The licenses of ..... MALT SHOVEL ..... were renewed.”

*John Turton Taylor* – see also KINGS ARMS.

*Samuel Downing* – see also CROSS GUNS.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1899

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Division were held at the Court House, Oldbury yesterday. ....

Superintendent Chare submitted his annual report ..... He had given notice to the following persons of his intention to oppose the renewal of their licenses on various grounds. ....

*John Pugh*, MALT SHOVEL INN, Low Town, Oldbury, because the house and premises are so constructed as to facilitate the commission of offences against the licensing laws, and also prevent proper police supervision being exercised over the house. ....

Several other applications for alteration of premises were made .... The whole of the applications for approval of alterations were postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, to enable the magistrates to inspect the houses.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1899

“Yesterday, the adjourned licensing sessions for the Oldbury Division were held at the Court House, the magistrates present being Messrs. G. Heaton, A. M. Chance, T. Lavender, and H. Heaton. A long time was occupied in the consideration of applications for sanction to make alterations in licensed premises. ....

Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared on behalf of Messrs. J. A. and A. Thompson, the owners and licensees of the WHITE HORSE INN and the MALT SHOVEL INN. ....

Mr. Heaton, referring to the MALT SHOVEL INN, said that the Bench had consented to the renewal of that license on the understanding that a doorway into another property should be blocked up within fourteen days. He asked if that had been done. Mr. Sharpe said it had been fenced off. ....

After deliberating in private, Mr. Heaton said the license of the WHITE HORSE would be granted ..... and the Bench wished it to be understood that in future alterations of licensed premises should not be made without plans being submitted and proper sanction of the justices being obtained. The other licenses were renewed, and the applications for alterations were approved, with the exception of the case of the WHY NOT INN, which was refused.”

Smethwick Weekly News 5/1/1901

“Joseph Slater, Causeway Green, was charged with being drunk on the 15<sup>th</sup> ult, on the licensed premises of the MALT SHOVEL, Low Town.

PC Lane proved the case.

Defendant was fined 7s 6d including costs.”

*Richard Tildesley* = Richard Tyldesley

Worcestershire Chronicle 9/2/1901

“Worcester Assizes. ....

William Edwards (18), labourer, was indicted for breaking into the dwelling house of William Spittle, at Oldbury, on January 19, and stealing a sovereign and three three-penny pieces. Mr. E. G. M. Carmichael prosecuted.

Florence Spittle, wife of the prosecutor, who is a dairyman, said that on the evening of January 19 she locked the premises up securely before leaving, but on returning she found the trap door leading into the cellar open, a cash box broken open, and the money abstracted. Prisoner used to work at the house, and sometimes slept there.

Thomas Aston, a lad of 11, spoke to having a conversation with prisoner on the same evening, in the course of which prisoner asked him when Mrs. Spittle would be back, and who had got the key.

Elizabeth *Tyldesley*, daughter of the landlord of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oldbury, said that on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> she served prisoner with two small bottles of stout, for each of which he paid with a three-penny piece.

PS Male went to prisoner’s house the same evening. Prisoner was in bed, and in his pocket were found a sovereign, a three-penny piece, and other coins. The point of the blade of a knife fitted a broken blade of a knife in prisoner’s possession. After denying the offence for some time, prisoner admitted that he had done it.

The Jury found prisoner guilty, but in consideration of his youth and that being his first conviction, they recommended him to mercy.

PS Male said that although prisoner had not been previously convicted, he was suspected of having broken into his master’s house, and stolen £4, a watch, and a pair of gold earrings.

He was sentenced to three months in the second division, and as he was being removed, shouted out that he hoped the officer would ‘drop a corpse.’”

Birmingham Mail 1/3/1901 - Advert

“Outdoor and General Stores; two shops, taking £19 to £20 weekly; paying brewers £45 to £50 monthly (proof), let off 4s 6d weekly; £135 everything.

MALT SHOVEL, Low Town, Oldbury.”

1901 Census

21, Low Town

- [1] *Richard Tildesley* (42), publican, born Australia;
- [2] Emma Tildesley (41), wife, born New Village, Wolverhampton;
- [3] Jennie Tildesley (21), daughter, born New Village, Wolverhampton;
- [4] Lizzie Tildesley (14), daughter, born New Village, Wolverhampton;
- [5] Nellie Tildesley (12), daughter, born New Village, Wolverhampton;
- [6] Richard Tildesley (4), son, born New Village, Wolverhampton;
- [7] Richard Westwood (1), grand-son, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/10/1901

“Mr. C. H. Darby made an application to the Oldbury magistrates yesterday for the transfer of the license of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Low Town, to Mrs. Rogers. The magistrates refused the application.”

Evesham Standard 23/6/1906

“Worcestershire Quarter Sessions. ....

Joseph Brown (29), and Anthony Walker (23) were charged with stealing a hundred and twenty-four pennies, a brass lock, and a tin money box, the moneys and property of the Oldbury Urban District Council, on March 29, at Langley.

The prisoners were seen by several witnesses in the vicinity of a void house in Junction Street, Langley, to

which an entrance was forced, and the money and box taken from a penny in the slot gas meter. The same night Walker, in the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oldbury, gave 12 coppers in change for a shilling. Brown on the way to the police station dropped a skeleton key, which it was found would open the door of the house from which the money was taken, and he also had upon him a filed down latch key and a file.

Brown, on oath, denied all knowledge of the offence. He was not at the scene of the theft at the time named. Walker alleged that he and Brown were together at Langley, and Brown left him to go to these premises. Brown gave him a shilling's worth of coppers and some other money he had earned. He admitted that Brown, at the NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath, had earlier in the day given change in copper for a two-shilling piece.

The jury found both prisoners guilty, and recommended Walker to mercy.....

Mr. Bund passed the following sentences.....

Anthony Walker, recommended to mercy for theft at Oldbury, 12 months' hard labour.

Joseph Brown, for burglary at Oldbury, 12 months.”

### 1911 Census

25, Low Town – MALT SHOVEL

[1] *Benjamin Thomas Williams* (35), publican, born Aston, Birmingham;

[2] *Margaret Mary Williams* (33), wife, married 9 years, assisting in business, born Glascote, Tamworth;

[3] *Edith Jane Williams* (8), daughter, school, born Aston, Birmingham;

[4] *Margaret Ethel Williams* (5), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] *Violet Dorothy Williams* (6 months), daughter, born Oldbury:

### Blackcountryman (Summer 2020)

‘Recovering First World War Theatre’ by Linda Cooke

“.....It’s a Long Way to Tipperary.....

The lyrics and music originated in Oldbury, the work of Henry James ‘Harry’ Williams, and Jack Judge. Jack lived in Low Town next door to the MALT SHOVEL public house run by Harry Williams’ brother *Benjamin*. Harry, though disabled and a wheel-chair user, was a brilliant pianist. Jack and his sister Jane Anne were well-known music hall regulars at the Gaiety Music Hall in the centre of Oldbury. This, however, was a side-line to his regular occupation of fishmonger in Low Town in Oldbury. Jack’s link to Ireland came via his Irish parentage settling in Oldbury in 1870. Jack’s grand-parents originated from Tipperary. Oldbury, at this time, appeared a magnet for Irish emigrants coming into the Black Country to work as navvies.

Jack and Harry became good friends, writing numerous songs. However, it was the night of 30<sup>th</sup> January 1912 when the two collaborated on It’s a Long Way to Tipperary, allegedly for a 5 shilling bet at the Stalybridge Grand, that changed their lives. The song was performed the next night by Jack at a music hall, being well-received by the audience. The song came to be played and sung throughout the First World War, becoming an anthem for working class soldiers.....

Publishing the song ensured a wider audience and lead to the conversion of song into a full-length theatrical drama ..... Such was the success of the play that by February 1915 three professional companies were touring the country.....”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/5/1933

“There are many people buried in Westminster Abbey who did less for their country than the composer of ‘Tipperary,’ that rollicking marching song which stimulated our lads during those touch-and-go moments when the Germans were almost at the Channel ports. Apparently someone in London is disputing the authorship of it, and suggesting that a certain deceased Mr. Harry Williams was responsible for the words, but Jack Judge, of Tipperary Gardens, Oldbury, is taking up the cudgels in his own defence, and proving that he and he alone concocted the famous song.

I can substantiate this to some extent, for I remember well a certain day in 1914 when Jack Judge walked into the old *Gazette* office in Corporation Street with the original script of the song and told us the story of his life – how he had been a fish hawker in Smethwick, and how he had turned to account his natural gift for putting catchy words to lively music.

On Monday evening I happened to be the guest of Captain C. Crosland and Sergt-Major Wilson at an Old



Grenadiers' social evening, and, much to my surprise, there was the veteran Jack Judge on the platform entertaining the ex-campaigners with some of his old-time compositions. He was in splendid voice, and pirouetting round the stage like a juvenile lead. For fully an hour he amused us with a sort of song recital and, strange to say, I could have listened to more, for there is something gaily infectious about his nimble-footed old gentleman. He told me over his tankard afterwards that the late Harry Williams, whose name appeared with his as a joint composer of 'Tipperary' on the song sheets, did not write a single word or note of the song.

Harry Williams and his brother, Thomas Williams, were proprietors of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oldbury, next door to which Mr. Judge lived at the time he was in the fish trade. 'One day,' said Mr. Judge, 'I publicly declared that if I ever wrote and published a song I would put Williams' name on the copies and share the proceeds with him. Not only did I generously fulfil that promise, but I placed his name on many more of my own published compositions, thereby presenting him with a small fortune.'

A curious feature of the 'Tipperary' business is that a brass tablet is actually to be seen on the wall of the Plough Inn, Mere End, near Kenilworth, where Harry Williams lived for some time, associating him with the famous song.

Answering my query as to what he was doing nowadays, Mr. Judge said he was quite comfortably situated, and enjoyed a sort of pension of £5 a week for life from his publishers, Messrs, Feldman and Co. At the same time, he still evolves popular songs, his latest being 'Snooze the Blues Away,' and 'I Go to Monte Carlo,' with syncopated melodies."

#### Yorkshire Post 29/7/1938

"Mr. Jack Judge, who wrote the words and music of 'Tipperary,' has died....."

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 7/11/1987

".....Tipperary Inn, Meer End, four miles north-west of Kenilworth.

At the Tipperary Inn you can read the following over the fireplace 'In remembrance of Harry Williams of Tipperary Fame World Famous Song which Helped to Save Old England.

Jack Judge of Oldbury in the Black Country wrote the words of Tipperary and his friend Harry Williams is credited with the tune. Harry played piano at the MALT SHOVEL, Oldbury, run by his parents, before they moved to Meer End."

#### Black Country Bugle 8/10/1998

##### Who Really Wrote 'Tipperary'?

".....He (Jack Judge) would sing and sell his fish from a small cart and horse which he used to keep in the big opening at the MALT SHOVEL in Low Town – a place where they ought to make a shrine to the writer of the greatest song ever. Harry Williams, always a delicate child with a spinal deformity had been trained as a pianist ..... Entertaining customers on the pub piano and helping with chores when necessary suited Harry and his parents very well and they were popular licensees of the MALT SHOVEL....."

*John Crowley* = John Crowler

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Central Darts League. [1939]

#### 1939 Register

25, Low Town

[1] *James E. Taylor*, date of birth 20/11/1892, manager, licensee, married;

[2] *Ethel Taylor*, dob 10/3/1893, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *David A. Taylor*, dob 20/10/1920, coach trimmer, single;

[4] *Marjorie (Taylor) Blewitt*, dob 20/4/1922, shop assistant, single;

[5] *James Taylor*, dob 1/11/1924, shop assistant, single:

[Marjorie married Blewitt in 1945.]

Closed

Demolished [1975]

## MALT SHOVEL

73, Tat Bank Road, Tat Bank, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

William Parker [1845] – [1865]

Charles Darby [1866] – [1875]

## NOTES

OLD MALT SHOVEL [1871], [1873], [1875]

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/4/1844 - Advert

“To be Let, and old-established Public House, known by the sign of the MALTSHOVEL, Tat Bank, in the vicinity of Oldbury; it stands well for business. Immediate possession can be given. Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation. Rent moderate.

Apply at the MALTSHOVEL, or at Mr. Parker's, Tat Bank Cottage, near Oldbury.”

### 1851 Census

Tat Bank

[1] *William Parker* (66), victualler, born Black Burlow, Yorkshire;

[2] *Mary Ann Parker* (45), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Mary Ann Lodger* (13), house servant, born Stratford, Lancashire:

### Birmingham Journal 22/12/1855 - Married

“On the 17<sup>th</sup> inst, at Edgbaston Old Church, Christopher Poller Poulton, to *Mary Ann Ledger*, niece of Mr. *Parker*, MALT SHOVEL, Tat Bank, near Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 9/1/1856

“On Saturday last, the Coroner, R. Docker, Esq, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *William Parker*, the MALT SHOVEL INN, Oldbury, on the body of *Samuel Joiner*, aged 36, who was employed as a filler at *Captain Bennitt's* furnaces, and who died on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult from injuries he sustained by an explosion at the ‘tweer’ of the furnace on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Two other men were injured by the explosion. They were engaged in assisting other men in casting pig iron, the metal for which was flowing through the ‘tweer’ in question from the furnace. It seemed that the nose of the ‘tweer’ got burnt off, and the water which was kept within it for the purpose of preserving it from being burnt consequently escaped. A loud explosion was the result, and the molten iron was scattered to a distance of fifty yards. It was stated that the manager had examined the ‘tweer’ previous to the explosion.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/10/1857

“*B. Bates* of West Bromwich will run *H. Parkes* of Oldbury 120 yards, for £5 or £10 a side, in one month from the first deposit. Money ready any night next week at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Cat [sic] Bank, Old-

bury.”

### 1861 Census

Tat Bank – MALT SHOVEL INN

[1] *William Parker* (75), victualler, born Lonsdale, Yorkshire;

[2] *Mary Ann Parker* (64), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Betsy Williams* (24), servant, born Birmingham:

*Charles Darby* was born in 1841, at Bosoms End, Smethwick.

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/6/1866

“T. Adams and J. Weston (both of Tat Bank, Oldbury) are matched to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, at Aston Cross Grounds, on Monday, July 9. Mr. *Darby*, MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, stakeholder. A further deposit for the same has to be made at Green’s, BRITISH QUEEN, Oldbury Road, on Monday.”

AND

“Howells of Oldbury is surprised at Simms of Birmingham classing him with Sim Webb, but if Simms means business Howells will run 120 yards if he will give four yards start, for £10 or £15 a side. To run at Britannia Grounds, Tipton, or any enclosed grounds in the district. Money ready at *C. Darby*’s, MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/7/1866 - Advert

“Tat Bank and Langley Green, near Oldbury. Unreserved Sale.

11¾ Acres of fine growing Wheat and Rye, six capital powerful Wagon and Half-bred Horses, fresh up from work, seven sets of Thiller Tackle, four sets of Fore Tackle, set of Gig Harness, six Narrow and Broad-wheel Carts, two Spring Traps, nearly new. Seven and a half Acres of the Wheat is growing on two fields of Land opposite the MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, and will be Sold at the MALT SHOVEL INN. Four and a quarter Acres of Wheat and Rye is growing on a field of Land near the CROSS INN, Langley Green, and with a portion of Household Furniture, will be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. S. Parkes, on Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of July inst, the above valuable Growing Crops, Wagon, half-bred and other Horses, broad and narrow-wheel Carts, Spring Traps, nearly new; Thiller and Fore Tackle, Gig Harness, Seven-and-a-half Acres of Wheat, now growing on Two Fields of Land opposite the MALT SHOVEL, will be Sold at the MALT SHOVEL INN; and Four-and-a-quarter Acres of Wheat and Rye, now growing on a Field of Land near the CROSS INN, Langley Green, with the Six Horses, Carts, Spring Traps, and the Furniture, will be Sold at the house of Mr. Thomas Gould, the CROSS INN, Langley Green, for convenience of Sale.

Sale to commence at Three o’clock in the Afternoon.

The Auctioneer claims particular attention to the Horses, as they are young and powerful, fresh from work, and are in excellent condition. The Wheat and Rye promises for an abundant cast.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/12/1866

“Mr. Wilkinson of Oldbury wishes to inform Mr. Lloyd of Smethwick that if he is not satisfied with his dog Sam’s defeat he (Wilkinson) will match Mr. Standley’s Gipsy, or the fishmonger’s one-eyed dog Venter of Oldbury to run Sam at rabbits, the best of 21 courses, 60 yards law, for £25 or £50 a side, to come off in a month on any enclosed ground. A match can be made at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/6/1867

“J. Dickens of Rood End will match his black bitch Fanny to run Mr. Adams’s red and white dog Spot of Great Bridge 200 yards, at 22lb weight, for £5 a side; or she will run on handicap terms. J. Dickens will be at *C. Darby*’s, MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, this (Saturday) night, prepared to make a match, between the hours of seven and ten o’clock.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/8/1867

“On Monday afternoon an inquest was held at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, before Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, on the body of Amples Barratt (23). It appears that the deceased, who was a married woman

with one child, rose about two o'clock on the morning of Saturday last, and, as she alleged to her mother, was about to proceed into the yard. Instead of going there, however, she went out at the front door, across to the canal only a few yards distant from the house, and deliberately threw herself in. The mother of the deceased thinking her daughter a long time absent, commenced to seek for her, and fearing that something serious might have happened, called in the assistance of two neighbours, who at once began to seek for the deceased. After some time had elapsed the unfortunate woman was found dead upon the top of the water. Evidence being adduced that the deceased had of late been somewhat peculiar in her manner, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased committed Suicide while in a state of Insanity."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/1/1868

"E. Wilkinson of Oldbury will match his blue bitch Quick to run Aston's dog Dick of Bloomfield 21 courses at rabbits, 60 yards law, for from £10 to £25 a side, to run in four or five weeks; or will match her against Nock Bell's dog Massey, the best of 11 courses, for the like amount. Money ready at Mr. *Darby's* MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank Oldbury."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/9/1868

"Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, near Dudley.

J. Wilson of Birmingham has matched his red and white bitch Polly against Mr. Bull's red and white bitch Orange Girl, at 13¼lb weight, to run 200 yards, for £10, on Monday, Oct 5, between two and four o'clock. Mr. *C. Darby*, MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, has £1 a side down. Mr. Gibbons, of the RED COW, Oldbury final stakeholder and referee."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/8/1870

"Albion Grounds, Dudley Road, Wolverhampton.

E. Wilkinson of Oldbury, hearing that Mr. Jubb wishes to match his red bitch Beck against his old blue bitch Quick, E. W. will match her to run the best of 21 courses at rabbits, 60 yards law, at these grounds. Mr. H. Clule to be stakeholder, and Mr. Cartwright of Lower Gornal, referee. Money ready at Mr. *Darby's*, MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury."

Liverpool Courier 11/10/1870

"A woman named Matilda Ledger, the wife of William Ledger, residing at Tat Bank, Oldbury, has been arrested by Police-sergeant Simmonds, under the following circumstances. Mr. *William Parker*, a man advanced in life, and nearly blind, since giving up the MALT SHOVEL INN, at Tat Bank, has lived in a private house, with his wife – an invalid – a few doors away. In Matilda Ledger, their niece, the greatest confidence had been placed, and she had been in the habit of attending upon them daily, superintending and managing their household affairs. In a Birmingham bank Mr. *Parker* had deposited about £500, and whenever it was deemed requisite to draw any money out, Matilda Ledger was sent to the bank for that purpose. The amounts withdrawn, however, appear to have been considerably in excess of what it is alleged she was directed by her uncle to obtain, having varied from £5 to £12 per fortnight. A few days ago it was discovered that only about £110 remained in the bank, £400, or thereabouts, having been drawn in something like two years. At the prisoner's house a numerous collection of expensive articles of wearing apparel have been found, many of which are not made up. Upon making a search, on Friday night, of the premises occupied by the prisoner, Sergeant Simmonds found £100 hidden in a nail shop at the back of the house. Since her arrest, the prisoner has complained of being ill, and has been allowed to keep her bed, a police-constable being in charge. Dr. Dempsey has been attending her, and the case will probably come before the magistrates today (Tuesday). The prisoner's husband, it is stated, has been in entire ignorance of his wife's transactions."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/10/1870

"At the Petty Sessions, yesterday, before Messrs. W. H. Dawes and W. James, Matilda Ledger, Tat Bank, was brought up on remand, charged with fraud. Mr. Motteram (instructed by Mr. Cottrell) again appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Shakespeare for the defence. In consequence of the inability of Mr. *Parker*, the prosecutor, to attend, through illness, the case was adjourned for a fortnight, the prisoner being admitted to bail."

[Nothing further has been found.]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 29/10/1870

“E. Wilkinson of Oldbury will match his bitch Luckout against any of the following dogs, viz, Mile’s Quick of Tipton to run the best of 21 courses, 60 yards law, if he will allow two dead rabbits; or will take the same of Mr. Hale’s black bitch Rose of Rood End; or take one dead rabbit of Mitchell’s Fly of Dudley in 21 courses. Either match for £10 or £15 a side. Money ready at Mr. *C. Darby*’s, MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/3/1871

“John Taylor, of the OLD CROWN INN, Green Street, was summoned at the Petty Sessions, yesterday, for getting up in his house, at Christmas last, a ‘Sweep’ for ten sucking pigs, several fowls, quantities of meat, and ale and porter. Several witnesses were called, who deposed to purchasing tickets, and afterwards, being successful, receiving prizes. The magistrates remarked that as a similar case had been previously before them, of which they had taken a lenient view, they would look upon the present case in the same light. The case would be dismissed on payment of costs; but if the defendant was brought before them again on such a charge, he would be convicted.

*Charles Darby*, of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, was summoned for similarly offending at Christmas last, and was dealt with in the same way as the other offender.”

1871 Census

Tat Bank – OLD MALT SHOVEL

- [1] *Charles Darby* (29), publican, born Smethwick;
- [2] Elizabeth Darby (28), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Joseph Darby (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] Daniel Darby (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] Charles Darby (3), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Elizabeth Darby (4 months), daughter, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1872 - Advert

“Found, at Smethwick, a brown Greyhound, 30lbs weight.  
Apply MALT SHOVEL, Tatbank, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1872

“On Wednesday evening, an inquest was held by Mr. E. Docker (Coroner), at the MALT SHOVEL, Tat Bank, Oldbury, upon the body of Henry Jacques, 61 years of age, who lived in Mill Lane. Mr. France appeared as the representative of Messrs. Chance, at whose chemical works the deceased was employed. A fresh-water culvert passing underneath the works, but in no other way connected with them, having become choked, and caused the works to be flooded, the deceased and another man, named Thomas Nolan, were directed on Saturday night to clean it out. About two o’clock on Sunday morning Jacques became very ill, and appeared to be suffering from diarrhoea, in consequence of which he was compelled to desist work, and was taken home about seven o’clock. He died during the afternoon of Sunday.

Mr. Sainsbury, surgeon, stated at the inquest that he saw the deceased about half-past seven o’clock on Sunday morning, and found him in a state of collapse. The surface of the body was quite cold, and breathing was scarcely perceptible, although there must have been pulsation. The brain was undoubtedly the seat of the injury, and he treated him accordingly. He saw him again about eleven o’clock, by which time he had somewhat rallied, and was in a semi-conscious state. He saw him again in the evening, and found that deceased had had a collapse, and was gradually sinking. He did not see him again. His opinion was that the deceased’s condition when he (witness) saw him was due to blood poisoning from the inhalation of some of the noxious gases.

The Coroner: Is blood poisoning brought about so quickly? – Witness: Under certain circumstances.

The Coroner: Deceased must have been a man peculiarly susceptible? – Mr. Sainsbury: He was. I have known him some years, and he was not what you might call a strong, healthy man. Where several men are

employed, one man might be affected to that extent, and the others not perceptibly affected. Mr. France said he had been requested by Mr. Chance to state that an opportunity would be afforded to the Jury to inspect the culvert if they wished to do so. The jury thought it was unnecessary. The Coroner: The gases arising from decayed vegetable matter are among the most injurious to health, are they not? – Mr. Sainsbury replied in the affirmative. The Coroner, in summing up, said the deceased appeared to have been at work with another man in cleaning out a culvert, which they understood had not been cleaned out for many years. At least, a man who had been employed at the works for twenty-six years said that within his memory it had not been cleaned out. They heard also that there was a considerable deposit of mud, so much so that it was found necessary to take steps to remove it. They could very easily understand that water which was not perfectly pure would invariably leave a deposit along its track, unless there was a considerable decline in the course it took; and it was not surprising that there was a great deposit of mud, seeing that the culvert had not been cleaned out for so many years. Mr. Sainsbury was no doubt correct in his theory. Vegetable matter collected together was subject to decay, and after the lapse of time there must have been a considerable amount of decayed vegetable matter, which, being disturbed, would evolve some of those injurious gases which resulted from the process of decay. He (Mr. Docker) did not think the question of responsibility arose in any way. There was nothing in the atmosphere to cause inconvenience, and the deceased might have left his occupation at any time he liked. The Jury, after a brief consultation, returned a verdict to the effect that death was brought about by the inhalation of noxious gases arising from dirt in the culvert in which the deceased was at work.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/1/1873

“Found, at Tat Bank, Oldbury, January 1, a Liver-coloured Spaniel Dog. If not owned in 3 days will be sold to defray expenses.  
Apply, MALT SHOVEL, Tat Bank.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/3/1873

“G. Hadley of Aldbury informs Timmins that he will take three yards in 120, or one yard in the same distance of J. Rhodes of Langley Green. Either match for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *Darby's*, MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1875 - Advert

“Sale of Properties. March 3, 1875, by Roderick and Son.  
To be Sold by Auction at the Acorn Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Wednesday, March 3, 1875, at 6 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read.  
Lot 1. Oldbury. The Freehold Licensed Victualler's Tavern, known as the OLD MALT SHOVEL INN, situate in Tat Bank Road, near Oldbury, and within a short walk of Rood End Railway Station, with Brew-house, Stable, and Premises, let to Mr. *Charles Darby*, as annual tenant, at a rent of £20; the roomy Cottage Residence, No. 72; and Four other Front Houses, Nos. 74, 75, 76, and 77, in Tat Bank Road, adjoining, with Gardens and Out-buildings, let to good tenants at rents amounting to £37 14s.  
The total rental of this Lot is £57 14s, and it is Freehold, and contains 925 square yards.....”

Dudley Guardian 29/5/1875

“An adjourned inquest was held by Mr. R. Docker, on Friday, at the MALT SHOVEL Public House, Tat Bank, Oldbury, on the body of Jane Farrington (26), domestic servant, in the employ of the Rev. G. L. Whitehouse, curate at Langley Church. The inquest had been adjourned for a post mortem examination, which was made by Mr. Haywood, assisted by Mr. Sainsbury.  
The jury now returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased had Died from Natural Causes.”

*Charles Darby* – see also GILBERTS FARM, West Bromwich.

Closed

## MANCHESTER STORES

Park Street, (70, (72), (34), Churchbridge) / Birchfield Lane OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Miss Sarah Danks, Great Bridge, West Bromwich  
John Jordan and Co., brewers, Oldbury [1909]  
T. A. Sadler, Windsor Castle Brewery (acquired in 1919)  
Grigg and Brettell Ltd. (acquired c.1927)  
Ansells Ltd.  
InnSpired Pubs PLC [2001]

### LICENSEES

George Cooper [1884] – 1892);  
Mrs. Martha Cooper (1892 – 1896);  
George Henry Cooper (1896 – 1904);  
Joseph Henry Lowe (1904 – 1905);  
Henry Bonell (1905 – 1906);  
Benjamin Webb (1906 – 1907);  
Jane Webb (1907 – 1909);  
Thomas Smith (1909 – 1913);  
Samuel Lowe (1913 – 1932);  
Mrs. Emily Lowe (1932 – 1934);  
William ‘Bill’ Carroll (1934 – 1941);  
Rachel Carroll (1941 – 1942);  
George Sibley (1942 – 1945);  
John Edward Bloxham (1945 – 1948);  
Roger John Jefferies (1948 – 1950);  
Albert Cooper (1950 – 1957);  
Donald Bailey Gregory (1957 – 1961);  
Horace Quinton (1961 – [1962])  
Roy/Harry Habgood (1974 – [1988])  
Sean Foley [1993]  
Louise Susan Whittall (1996 – [ ])  
Yvonne Gray (2000 – [2001])

### NOTES

It was known locally as ‘The Stores.’

It had a beerhouse license.

*George Cooper*, beer retailer, Park Street. [1884], [1888]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/9/1885

“At Oldbury Court, today, John Lowe and George Perry, both of Churchbridge, were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the MANCHESTER STORES, in the

same locality, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. The two men went into the house the worse for beer, and on being requested to leave they refused. Perry became violent and picked up a poker, which was taken from him by Police-constable Clarke. Perry was ordered to pay £1 and Lowe 15s, including costs.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/10/1888

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday, William Thornton, alias Lalley, and Thomas Averill, both of Birmingham, were charged with stealing an overcoat, valued at 5s, the property of *George Cooper*, landlord of the MANCHESTER STORES, Church Bridge, on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst.

Prosecutor said that on the date in question a coat was taken from his trap whilst standing at the COCK AND MAGPIE INN, Beech Lanes, Warley.

Thomas Joseph Brown said that he saw the coat taken from the cart belonging to prosecutor. One of the prisoners attracted the attention of a boy who was in charge of the horse and trap whilst his confederate abstracted the coat from the trap.

The Bench sentenced Thornton to three months’ imprisonment, and Averill to two months.”

#### 1891 Census

34, Churchbridge – MANCHESTER STORES

[1] *George Cooper* (69), grocer and publican, born Halesowen;

[2] *Martha Cooper* (46), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] *George Harry Cooper* (26), son, dairy man, born Oldbury;

[4] Elizabeth Cooper (23), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Annie Cooper (20), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1892

“The transfer of the license of the MANCHESTER STORES, Church Bridge, from *George Cooper*, deceased, to *Martha Cooper*, his widow was granted.”

Mrs. *Martha Cooper*, beer retailer and shopkeeper, 72, Church Bridge. [1896]

#### 1901 Census

70, Church Bridge

[1] *George H. Cooper* (36), unmarried, beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;

[2] Stephen Little (35), brother-in-law, pikesman at colliery, born Oldbury;

[3] Elizabeth Little (33), sister, born Oldbury;

[4] Stephen Little (2), relative, born Oldbury;

[5] Benjamin Little (6 months), relative, born Oldbury:

*Joseph Henry Lowe* – see also BARREL.

*Henry Bonell* was fined 20s and 50s 6d costs, on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1905, for permitting drunkenness.

#### Birmingham Mail 20/2/1906

“Today the adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Oldbury division were held at the Police Court.....

The license of the MANCHESTER STORES, Churchbridge, which was deferred from the annual licensing meeting, was renewed. Superintendent Hill explained that the license had been transferred since.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....



The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

MANCHESTER STORES.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation.....

MANCHESTER STORES, alehouse, Churchbridge, owner Messrs. Jordan and Co.....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee’s investigations.....”

#### 1911 Census

70, Churchbridge – MANCHESTER STORES

- [1] *Thomas Smith* (52), beerhouse keeper, born Pittsburg, USA;
- [2] *Fanny Smith* (54), wife, married 33 years, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Thomas Edward Smith* (32), son, railway porter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Lizzie Smith* (20), daughter, servant at home, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/2/1920

“At the Oldbury Licensing sessions yesterday, the Superintendent’s report showed there were 114 licences (69 fully licensed), representing one to every 283 persons. During the year on licensed holder was proceeded against for an infringement, and 17 persons were convicted for drunkenness.

Objection was taken by the Superintendent to the renewal of 16 licenses on the ground of redundancy, and, after private consideration, the Bench reduced these to four, to be referred for compensation. These are: BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green; FOUNTAIN INN, Stone Street; OLD BOAT, Canal-side: and MANCHESTER STORES, Church Bridge.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1920

“Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

The licenses of the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green; the MANCHESTER STORES, Park Street; and the FOUNTAIN INN, Stone Street, were renewed.

The license of the OLD BOAT INN, Canalside, was referred for compensation.

The Chairman explained that the Bench were influenced by the limited amount of money at the disposal of the Compensation Authority.”

It was rebuilt in 1937.

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Central Darts League. [1939]

#### 1939 Register

70, Birchfield Lane (2 of 3)

- [1] *William Carroll*, date of birth 12/6/1905, manager, public house, married;
- [2] *Rachel Carroll*, dob 5/12/1907, unpaid domestic duties, married;

#### Evening Despatch 20/3/1943 - Notice

“War Charities Act 1940.

Notice is Hereby Given that it is proposed to apply to the Oldbury Borough Council for the registration under the above-mentioned Act of the MANCHESTER STORES Services Fund, the objects of which are shortly as follows: To provide donations for customers serving with HM Forces, and the administrative centre of which is situate at MANCHESTER STORES, Church Bridge, Oldbury.

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.

J. Pearson, Hon. Sec.

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1943.”

*George Sibley* – see also FOX AND GOOSE, West Bromwich.

*John Edward Bloxham* – see also HAWTHORN, West Bromwich.

At the Adjourned Annual Licensing Meeting, on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1950, an application was made by *Roger John Jefferies* for a full license, which was granted.

*Albert Cooper* – see also VILLAGE TAVERN.

A team from here took part in the Ocker Hill Darts League. [1970]

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Charity Darts League. [1970]

*Roy Habgood* was married to Jenny.

They were both born in Handsworth.

It was the headquarters of Causeway United FC. [1981]

Sandwell Cycle Speedway Club met here every week. [1981]

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/8/1987

“An Oldbury pub licensee has been fined £75 for selling short-measure pints of beer. The drinks were served to a trading standards officer at the MANCHESTER STORES pub in Park Street, by an experienced barmaid, Old Hill Magistrates were told. *Harry Habgood*, aged 45, pleaded guilty to three charges of causing short-measure beer to be served.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/10/1988

“The arts spotlight will fall on Sandwell over the next three weeks when the borough’s biggest and best ever Arts Festival takes centre stage.....

October 9: 12 noon Folk music at the MANCHESTER STORES, Park Street, Oldbury.”

It was renamed THE HARDY and reopened on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1996.

[1997]

*Yvonne Gray* – see also SPRING MEADOW, Old Hill.

It was renamed MANCHESTER STORES [2001]

[2012]

It was renamed STORES Bar and Grill. [2013]

It was renamed MS Bar and Grill. [2021]

[2021]

## **MERRIVALE**

Vicarage Road / Dog Kennel Lane, Langley, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

### LICENSEES

Nelson Symons (1938 – 1949);  
Richard Paice (1949 – 1950);  
Francis Charles New (1950 – 1951);  
Frederick Arthur Maullins (1951 – 1958);  
Harold Cyril Bates (1958 – 1960);  
Charles Stych (1960 – [1962]  
David Gregory [1991]

### NOTES

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1936

“Oldbury justices yesterday refused application for.....

A provisional order for the removal of the licence of the SYCAMORE, Clay Lane, Oldbury, to premises to be erected at the corner of Vicarage Road and Dog Kennel Road.”

It opened at 10am on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1938.

#### Smethwick Telephone 17/12/1938

“Another architectural feature has been added to the district by Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers. It is the hostelry at the corner of Vicarage Road and Dog Kennel Lane, Langley, to be known as the MERRIVALE which opened yesterday. Occupying the site of a fine old residence and served by many important thoroughfares, which connect Smethwick, Oldbury and Warley, the hotel is one of the best in the Oldbury Division. The design ..... is unique. The owners have been able to follow their rule of fewer and better in connection with this important scheme. The license of the SYCAMORE INN, Langley, was transferred to the new premises, and three beer ‘off’ licenses will be surrendered.”

B. I. P. held their New Year Dance here in 1939.

#### Birmingham Mail 6/1/1939 - Advert

“Bar-Generals (2), references; live in; new house.  
MERRIVALE, Vicarage Road, Langley.”

#### Birmingham Mail 13/1/1939 - Adverts

“Barmaids (two), live in; references; M and B new house.  
MERRIVALE, Vicarage Road, Langley. Bro.1320.”

AND

“Domestic, young, live in, M and B.  
MERRIVALE, Vicarage Road, Langley.”

Birmingham Mail 20/1/1939 - Advert

“Piano, black, modern, good condition, cheap.  
MERRIVALE, Vicarage Road, Langley. Bro.1320.”

Birmingham Mail 26/7/1939 - Advert

“Waiters and Night Helps; M and B.  
MERRIVALE, Vicarage Road, Langley, near Birmingham.”

1939 Register

Vicarage Road – MERRIVALE INN

[1] *Nelson Symons*, date of birth 3/6/1892, licensed victualler, manager, married;

[2] Gladys Symons, dob 31/1/1900, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Iris M. G. Symons, dob 6/4/1922, junior counter hand, shop assistant, hosiery department, single:

Birmingham Mail 28/4/1943 - Advert

“Cleaners good wages public parts only.  
MERRIVALE, Vicarage Road. Langley.”

Birmingham Mail 27/3/1944 - Advert

“Bar-Help mornings and evenings.  
MERRIVALE HOTEL, Vicarage Road, Langley.”

Birmingham Mail 5/1/1945 - Advert

“Lady’s Cycle as new £9.  
MERRIVALE, Vicarage Road. Langley.”

Birmingham Mail 21/3/1945 - Advert

“Cleaners 2 good wages.  
MERRIVALE, Vicarage Road. Langley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1959 - Advert

“Sale by Auction of the Personal Jewellery (belonging to the late Mrs. Beatrice Dutton, Jeweller of Oldbury).....

To be Sold on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1959, at the MERRIVALE HOTEL, Langley, Oldbury, at 7pm prompt.

Admission to Sale only by Catalogue – Price 1/- from the Auctioneers’ Offices: 33, Freeth Street, Oldbury, near Birmingham, and 1292, Bristol Road South, Northfield, Birmingham.”

Smethwick Telephone 31/1/1964

“Soroptimist Club Formed In Oldbury ..... The first meeting of the club was held at the MERRIVALE HOTEL, Langley, where it is expected future meetings will be held.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/4/1969

“Certificates are to be presented on April 16 at the MERRIVALE HOTEL, Langley, to students who have successfully completed the National Examination Board’s supervisory studies’ course at Warley College of Technology.”

Warley News Telephone 1/10/1970

“A total of £27 was raised at a harvest festival at the MERRIVALE HOTEL, Langley. Gifts given by customers were sold after a service, conducted by the Salvation Army ..... give to the Old Folks Fund.”

Warley News Telephone 29/10/1970

“Almost 100 people attended Langley Green and District Allotment Holders’ and Gardeners’ Association’s annual prize presentation at the MERRIVALE HOTEL, Langley.....

Mr. Tom Giles, president of the Langley association, praised the high standard of produce at this year’s show, held for the first time at the British Legion Club in Windsor Road, Langley.....

The prize presentations were made by Councillor Tom Sharpe.....”

The GEORGE (Warley) Bowling Club held their annual prize presentation here in 1970.

Warley News Telephone 16/11/1970

“Women from all over the world were guests of Oldbury Soroptimists at an international evening at the MERRIVALE HOTEL.

Guest speaker, Mrs. A. Iquaili, from Iraq, addressed about 60 members and friends.....”

Sports Argos 9/11/1974

“The Inn-Quiz trail to find the 1975 champions starts a week on Monday (November 18) with a qualifying round of nine matches. There is a long road to the finals night, but it will be fun all of the way ..... The draw for the qualifying round is.....

MERRIVALE INN, Vicarage Road, Langley, Oldbury, Warley v SOHO FOUNDRY TAVERN, Foundry Lane, Smethwick.”

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.....

MERRIVALE, Vicarage Road, Langley.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 13/3/1989

“Oldbury Rotary Club president Mr. Kevin Blackwell presented a cheque for £500 to Dr. David Mackay, on behalf of Sandwell District Hospital asthma clinic, at a luncheon meeting of the club at the MERRIVALE INN, Langley.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/8/1989

“Oldbury Soroptimists raised £400 for local charities through a sale of items donated by club members at the MERRIVALE INN, Langley, on August 15.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/1/1991

“Police, students and an MP have helped to make a video at Smethwick aimed at cutting crime in the West Midlands. A 16-minute film called Crimebeat is to be shown for the first time to crime prevention campaigners, police and businessmen at the MERRIVALE pub, Langley, on January 23.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/3/1991 - Advert

“Paul Jackson (ARICS) Chartered Surveyor and Estate Agent.

Our next collective Public Auction Sale will be held at MERRIVALE Public House, Vicarage Road/Dog Kennel Lane, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands.

Commencing 6.30pm Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1991.

A selection of mainly terraced houses, all offered with vacant possession and the majority requiring improvement and modernisation.....”

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.....

MERRIVALE, Vicarage Road, Oldbury, Warley.”

[Birmingham Weekly Mercury 11/4/1999 - Advert](#)

“Elaine did it, so can You!

Elaine found it hard to slim on her own so she finally went along to one of our slimming classes for help. Elaine found the friendly atmosphere and individual attention was just what she needed to concentrate on losing weight.

Lose Your Weight with Super Slim. We give you a choice of 3 successful diets on which you will Never be hungry, individual attention, recommended only normal family foods and No Calorie Counting.....

MERRIVALE Function Room, Vicarage Road, Langley, Wed 7.00pm.”

It closed in 2016.

[Express & Star 21/12/2018](#)

“A former Oldbury pub could be transformed into a Hindu temple under plans lodged with Sandwell Council. The vacant MERRIVALE pub, in Vicarage Road, will be given a new lease of life under the proposals. The pub has sat empty for nearly five years and is described as an ‘eyesore’ in planning papers. Now applicant, Mr Anand, wants to keep the building and use its historic features as part of a planned renovation. The report, submitted to the council, said, ‘The building was formerly utilised as a public house but has been left vacant and derelict for the past four to five years and is becoming an increasing eye sore for local residents and location for vandalism and other non-socially acceptable behaviour. The building is in reasonable condition, however is in need of a second lease of life, the Hindu committee are seeking change of use application with possible future proposals to renovate the building taking into account its architectural style and maintain as many of the original features as possible.’

The pub was formerly used by the community and also held live events. Under the new proposals, the temple would cater for up to 250 people at peak gatherings, the report said. But these numbers would only gather at the spot once a month. It is also expected the temple would attract crowds of 100 to 120 worshippers every Sunday.

Warley MP John Spellar said Sandwell Council would need to consider factors like parking when deciding on the plans. He said, ‘This pub has been a local eyesore for some time. Obviously the planning committee would need to look at parking in the area. But the pub has been an eyesore for the past five years and it is causing a lot of complaints from local residents.’

The application will be decided by Sandwell’s planning committee at an upcoming meeting.”

[Express & Star 7/5/2019](#)

“A derelict Oldbury pub has been damaged in a fire overnight. The fire started on the first floor of the former MERRIVALE pub, off Vicarage Road and Dog Kennel Lane, shortly after 2am on Tuesday morning. Ten firefighters were sent to the scene and investigations are underway into the cause of the fire. West Midlands Police also attended the scene.

A spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service said, ‘The fire involved the first floor of the three-storey derelict former public house. Twenty per cent of the building has been affected but the fire was contained to the first floor. Smoke and heat damage has been caused throughout the property. We returned to the scene to check for any hotspots.’

Karl Renar posted on Twitter, ‘Had a bit of a shock this morning when I saw what had happened to my former local pub the MERRIVALE. Fire in the early hours of this morning. Such a shame as it’s a really nice building.’

Plans were lodged with Sandwell Council last year to turn the former pub into a Hindu temple. The plans

said it would give the pub a ‘new lease of life’ after being sat empty for nearly five years. It was also described as an ‘eyesore’ in the proposals. But the applicants withdrew the proposals earlier this year.”

#### Stourbridge News 14/5/2019

“Another fire ripped through derelict pub the MERRIVALE in Oldbury last night. The blaze at the former MERRIVALE pub in Vicarage Road started at around 11pm yesterday (Monday) – and is the second fire there in just a week. Just last Tuesday (May 7) the building was gutted by what was believed to be an arson attack. Last night saw four fire engines attend the scene, with firefighters using a hydraulic platform to fight the flames, which were on the first floor and in the roof space of the building. West Midlands Fire tweeted at around 11.12pm, ‘We currently have 4 pumps and 1 aerial appliance in attendance at a fire at the MERRIVALE PH on Crosswells Road, Oldbury. Fire involves 1<sup>st</sup> floor and roof space of the building. Currently we have 2 breathing apparatus, 1 hose reel and 1 main jet in use.....”

#### Express & Star 27/11/2023

“An ‘eyesore’ pub left empty for more than a decade looks finally set to be demolished to make way for new shops and flats. The fire-damaged remains of the former MERRIVALE pub in Oldbury, which has lay empty since 2013, would be knocked down and the site given a new lease of life under new plans by ‘upmarket’ grocery shop Simply Fresh. A four-storey building with space for two ground-floor shops and 12 one, two, and three-bed flats would then be built on the site of the former pub in Dog Kennel Lane and Vicarage Road in Oldbury. The plans also include 15 parking spaces.

A planning application was submitted to Sandwell Council in early 2019 looking to convert the former pub into a Hindu temple but that move was eventually scrapped. The pub was then badly damaged by two arson attacks in a week later that year.”

## **MINERS ARMS**

Halesowen Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Mrs. Sarah A Nightingale [1861] – [1870]

### LICENSEES

### NOTES

#### 1861 Census

Halesowen Street – MINERS ARMS

[1] *Sarah A. Nightingale* (50), widow, victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *John Nightingale* (17), son, born Tipton:

Mrs. *Sarah Nightingale*, beer retailer, Halesowen Street. [1862], [1870]

Closed

## **MINERS ARMS**

94, (44), (49), Dudley Road, TIVIDALE

### OWNERS

Eliza Hadley, Oldbury

Thomas Alexander Sadler, Rounds Green, Oldbury (acquired 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1927)

Grigg and Brettell Ltd.

### LICENSEES

William Baker [1848] – **1861**;

Edmund Nickless (**1861** – [1862])

Francis Garbett [1862] – **1867**;

Thomas Mullender (**1867** – **1871**);

Charles Lees (**1871** – **1873**);

Charles Smerthwaite (**1873** – **1874**);

Joseph Brown (**1874** – [1883])

Elijah Swain [1889] – [1891]

Mrs. Mary Jane (Swain) McDermott [1893] – [1896]

Wallace Laight [1898]

Thomas William Hadley [1900] – **1906**);

William Jeavons (**1906** – **1907**);

Jesse Charles Brown (**1907** – [ ])

James Cheall [1908] – **1921**);

Edwin Richard Hall (**1921** – **1922**);

George Henry Short (**1922** – **1938**):

### NOTES

49, Dudley Road [1881], [1891], [1900], [1901], [1904]

44, Dudley Road [1916]

94, Dudley Road [1911], [1908], [1912], [1921], [1932], [1940]

*William Baker* = William Barker

### Worcester Journal 23/11/1848

“On the evening of Wednesday last, an adjourned inquest was held at Tividale, on the body of an infant child, which was found on Friday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, lying in a hole of water about six inches deep, with no covering but a bandage round it.

At a previous stage of the inquiry, Mr. Cooper, surgeon, of Oldbury, gave it as his opinion that death had been produced by suffocation; and from the evidence of the daughter of Mr. *Baker*, of the MINERS ARMS INN, it was suspected that the child belonged to a woman who had been at that house two days before the discovery of the deceased. The police were accordingly instructed to look after the woman in question, and a notice was inserted into the *Police Gazette*. In consequence of this, a woman was taken into custody at Alstey, near Coventry, who was supposed to be the mother of the deceased; but Captain Roberts, Superintendent of Police, discovered that she was not the mother of the child. As no other information could be obtained, the Jury, at the adjourned inquest, returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against some person or persons unknown.”



Birmingham Journal 24/11/1849 - Died

“On the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, after a short illness, aged 29, Mr. Thomas Baker, Son of Mr. *Baker*, MINERS ARMS, Tividale.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/12/1849

“Philip Harrison of Westbromwich will fight Dafferns of Wolverhampton, staking £10 to £7. Man and money ready at Mr. *William Baker*'s, MINERS ARMS, Tividale.”

1851 Census

Tividale

- [1] *William Baker* (57), brewer, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Baker* (57), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] *William Baker* (26), son, millman at iron works, born Tipton;
- [4] *Jabez Baker* (23), son, land surveyor, born Tipton;
- [5] *Sarah Baker* (21), daughter, domestic, born Tipton;
- [6] *Patience Baker* (19), daughter, dressmaker, born Tipton;
- [7] *Jonathan Baker* (18), grand-son, millman at iron works, born Tipton:

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Marriages

5<sup>th</sup> June 1855 - *Jabez Baker*, bachelor, land surveyor, Tividale - father, *William Baker*, victualler. *Elizabeth Emma Mallin*, spinster, Tividale - father, *Isaac Mallin*, grocer.

County Advertiser 4/6/1859

“*William Baker*, landlord of the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, was charged with keeping his house open during the hours of divine service on Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. Police-constable Teafley found about a dozen men in the house in an excited state, as though they had been fighting. Defendant admitted the charge, and a fine of 20s and costs was inflicted.

The defendant was then further charged with cruelty to a dog by inciting it to fight. *Baker* appears to be the owner of a ferocious dog, which he set upon another dog belonging to Mr. Gilbert, while with the watchman, a man named Whitehouse. The dog was severely injured by the treatment it received. Defendant contended that it was Whitehouse's fault that the dogs came together, but the evidence was conclusive as to his inciting the animals, and he was fined 10s and costs, in default a month's imprisonment. The money was paid.”

County Advertiser 5/11/1859

“On Monday, the 17<sup>th</sup> ult, the attention of the police was directed to certain disturbances at Tividale, caused by the holding of foot races, at which a large number of disorderly characters – extending along the turnpike road upwards of a mile – assembled from the entire district for many miles around. These ‘races,’ which appear to have been the occasion for drinking and its accompanying evils, led to various excesses, which resulted in the interference of the police, and the bringing of summonses against *William Baker*, landlord of the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, for ‘unlawfully, wilfully, and knowingly allowing disorderly conduct in his house,’ and also against him and seventeen others, answering to the names of Charles Higginson, James Hales, Timothy Thomas, Henry Thomas, Joseph Thomas, *William Baker*, *William Kendrick*, *Richard Ford*, *John Walker*, *George Jones*, *John Smith*, *William Smith*, *Joseph Wall*, and *George Morgan*, and three others who did not appear, for assembling on the Dudley and Oldbury turnpike road, and ‘wilfully preventing certain persons passing along the said road, contrary to the statute in that case made and provided.’ Seven of the defendants pleaded guilty. Mr. Burbury prosecuted, and Mr. Lowe appeared for *Baker*, the landlord. The information was laid under the 4<sup>th</sup> of George IV, chap 95, sec.72, which empowers a penalty not exceeding 40s for the latter offence. The witness called to prove the charge was Police-constable Lees, stationed at Horseley Heath, who stated that from information he received on the day in question, he went to the turnpike road in front of *Baker*'s house, which leads from Oldbury to Dudley. He saw the whole of the prisoners there, engaged in a race. A great many vehicles were obliged to stop while the race was going on, and one man, a waggoner named Roberts, came up to him after the race was over and complained that he had been assaulted and his horse turned aside. The man who assaulted him he ascertained to be *John Smith*, one of

the defendants. Kendrick was carrying a flag.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lowe: He saw *Baker* there among the crowd talking to the runners – Higginson and Hales. These two defendants pleaded guilty.

Police-constable Torr gave corroborative evidence.

The evidence against defendants was so clear in proof of the charge that Mr. Lowe here withdrew his plea of not guilty on behalf of *Baker*, and this example was subsequently followed by the rest of the defendants, who were each fined 6d and costs, in default of distress, one month's imprisonment.

The charge against *Baker* of allowing disorderly conduct in his house was proved by Police-constable Denholme, and he was fined 5s and costs."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/12/1860 - Advert

"To be Let, the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, at a fair valuation, and may be entered upon immediately, in consequence of the present proprietor, Mr. *William Baker*, taking to the VINE INN, Swan Village."

*Edmund Nickless* = Edward Nicholas

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/9/1861

"Two publicans, named *Edward Nicholas*, of the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, and Charles James, of the TRAVELLERS REST, Brierley Hill, whose licenses were suspended at the last annual meeting in consequence of their non appearance, had their licenses renewed, accompanied with a reprimand from the Bench for their negligence."

*Francis Garbett* = Francis Garbut

#### Stourbridge Observer 27/10/1866

"On Wednesday last, *Francis Garbett*, landlord of the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, was charged by Superintendent Mills with keeping his house open for the sale of beer before half past 12 o'clock, on Sunday last. Police-constable Hill proved visiting the house on the above date. He found two men in the brewhouse with a pint jug of ale. As soon as they saw him they threw it away in an ash hole. Fined 2s 6d and costs."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/11/1866 - Advert

"MINERS ARMS INN, Tividale, on the main road leading from Oldbury to Dudley, surrounded with Ironworks, Foundries, Brickworks, &c. An old-licensed Inn, now doing, and for years past, a good and genuine business. The Premises are low rented and roomy. In-coming about £140. Apply upon the Premises; or to A. Aintree, Auctioneer, Church Square, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/1/1867 - Advert

"MINERS ARMS INN, Tividale.

To be Disposed Of, the above noted old-licensed house, situated among Ironworks, Brick-kilns, and adjacent to an extensive Manufactory. The present proprietor declining the trade. In-coming about £160.

Apply, A. Aintree, Auctioneer, Oldbury, or the Premises."

#### County Advertiser 2/2/1867

"Mr. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest on Thursday, at the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, on the body of Robert Russell, a labourer, aged 42, who was killed on Saturday morning, at the New Horsley Company's Ironworks. It appears that at about half-past seven o'clock in the morning the deceased was engaged in assisting to lift a girder on to two cross girders. The apparatus for lifting, which had previously carried up to 6 cwt of girders, gave way, and a bolt pin fell upon Russell, and inflicted such serious injuries as to prove fatal. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

#### County Advertiser 31/8/1867

"Annual Licensing Meeting.....

Hercules Hazlehurst, of the WAGGON AND HORSES, Tividale, and *Francis Garbett*, of the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, were censured for having been convicted of having their houses open on the Sunday.”

County Advertiser 14/9/1867 - Advert

“To Parties in Search of a Good Old-Licensed Inn.

To be Let, that well-known Old-licensed Public House, the MINERS ARMS INN, Tividale, comprising Front Tap Room, Bar, Parlour, Cooking Kitchen, Brewhouse, Four Chambers, Cellars, Piggeries, Skittle Alley, and large Yard. Rent and Coming-in low.

Apply on the Premises, or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Public-house Valuer, &c, Brierley Hill.”

*Thomas Mullender* = Thomas Millender.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/7/1869

“On Wednesday, Mr. Hooper held an inquest at the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, upon the death of a child named William Henry Stevens, who was killed through falling into boiling water, which ran from Mr. Gilbert's brick-yard down an open culvert.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. An inquiry was ordered to be made with the view of ascertaining the ownership of the culvert.”

County Express 26/11/1870

“The Eagle Hope Lodge of the Loyal and Independent Order of Odd Fellows was duly opened by GM, DGM, and CS of the Tipton District, at the house of Host *Thomas Mullender*, MINERS ARMS, Tividale, on Tuesday evening last. Brother Thomas Emery was appointed NG, and William Emery was elected VG for the ensuing six months. Messrs. Horton and Tanner were appointed surgeons to the lodge. After the initiation of the members a very pleasant evening was spent.”

1871 Census

Dudley Road

[1] *Thomas Mullender* (30), licensed victualler, born Warwick;

[2] Mary A. Mullender (29), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Thomas Mullender (2), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Henry Mullender (6 months), son, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Selina Cooper (19), visitor, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 24/3/1876 - Advert

“Lost, from Tividale, on Saturday last, a brown-and-white Bull Terrier Dog, having white leg and face, with brown patch on forehead. Answers to Charlie.

Finder, on bringing him to MINERS ARMS, Tividale, will be rewarded. Anyone found detaining him after this notice will be prosecuted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/2/1878 - Advert

“Lost, Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup>, from Tividale, young black Retriever Dog; Carlo. Handsome reward given. MINERS ARMS, Tividale.”

1881 Census

49, Dudley Road – MINERS ARMS

[1] *Joseph Brown* (51), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth Brown (51), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Arthur Brown (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] Phoebe White (15), visitor, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Sarah Pepper (53), visitor, needle woman, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 7/10/1882

“*Joseph Brown*, landlord of the MINERS ARMS INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, was charged with being drunk on his own premises. On the afternoon of the 19<sup>th</sup> ult Police-constable Winfield found the defendant drunk in his own house. When the officer mentioned that he should report the defendant’s conduct, defendant invited him to have something to drink, and said he would go to Oldbury and see a doctor. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

#### Dudley and District News 1/9/1883

“Old Hill Annual Licensing Sessions.

Inspector Walters, in his annual report, stated that there were in the division 93 full-licensed houses, 49 beer-houses, 19 off-licenses, four wine and spirit licenses, and 10 houses licensed to sell refreshments. Since last licensing meeting there had been 16 transfers, and two licensed victuallers had been proceeded against for offences against the Licensing Act. One was fined 10s and costs for permitting drunkenness, and the other was ordered to pay costs for being drunk on his own premises. During the year, 157 males and five females had been proceeded against for drunkenness. Of these 159 were convicted, being a decrease of 36 compared with the previous year.

*Joseph Brown*, landlord of the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, and *Joseph Foley*, of the TWO FURNACES INN, Old Hill, whose names appeared in the black list, were called before the Bench and cautioned, and their licenses were renewed. There were no applications for fresh licenses or transfers.”

*Elijah Swain* = *Elijah Swayne*

#### Dudley Mercury 2/3/1889

“*Ralph Jenkins*, a native of Dudley, was charged with stealing 3s 6d and 38 cigars, of the value of 12s, the property of *Elijah Swayne*, MINERS ARMS, Tividale.

The evidence showed that at half-past two the prisoner went into prosecutor’s bar, and remained there four hours. *Mrs. Swayne* left the bar for a minute, and upon returning saw prisoner hurrying through the door. She afterwards missed the money from the till and the cigars from a shelf. At the time prisoner left the house Police-constable Winfield was standing near the door, and *Mrs. Swayne* came out and said, ‘He has taken the money out of the bar.’ The officer then took prisoner back to the house, and asked him what money he had. Prisoner took from his pocket some money, including a bent threepenny-bit, which *Mrs. Swayne* at once identified. Prisoner was at once arrested, and at the Police Station 38 cigars were found loose in his overcoat pocket. When asked how he came in possession of them, he replied that a lady, whom he previously lived with at Birmingham, gave him them that morning. The cigars were found to correspond with the cigars in the boxes at prosecutor’s house.

When charged, prisoner said he knew nothing about the money or cigars, but on the way to Old Hill Police Station admitted stealing the cigars, but denied taking the money.

Prisoner now pleaded guilty to stealing the cigars, but said the money was his own.

Prisoner was committed to three months’ hard labour.”

#### 1891 Census

49, Dudley Road – MINERS ARMS

- [1] *Elijah Swain* (57), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary J. Swain* (35), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Bertha G. Swain* (11), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;
- [4] *Edith E. G. Swain* (10), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;
- [5] *Alick E. L. Swain* (6), son, scholar, born Tipton;
- [6] *Nellie B. Swain* (4), daughter, born Tipton;
- [7] *Hannah Case* (16), domestic servant, born Tipton:

*Mary Jane Swain* (36), widow, MINERS ARMS, Tividale, married *Cormick McDermott* (40), bachelor, policeman, Tividale, in March 1892, at St. Michael’s Church, Tividale.

#### County Advertiser 28/1/1893

“Thomas Hollick, Rounds Green, Oldbury, was charged with stealing 8s, the moneys of Sarah [sic] *Jane McDermott*, landlady of the MINERS ARMS INN, Tividale, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. Mr. John Wright, of Dudley, appeared to prosecute, and the prisoner pleaded guilty to the charge.

It seemed that in the afternoon of the day in question, prisoner, accompanied by a companion, went into the MINERS ARMS. They asked for something to drink, and sat down near the bar. When tea time was approaching Samuel Bowen, the barman, looked into the till at the back of the bar, and to the best of his knowledge there was about 12s in it at the time. He then went away to his tea, and shortly afterwards prisoner was seen by prosecutrix’s daughter leaning suspiciously over to the till. When he saw her he drew his hand back quickly, and pretended to be drinking out of the jug before him. The theft was discovered by the barman when he returned, and information was at once given to the police. Police-constable Winfield arrested the prisoner at his residence, and in answer to the charge he said, ‘I was drunk; I did take 2s 6d out of the till, but not 8s.’

Prisoner said he had never been in trouble before, and Inspector Bishop gave him a good character. The Bench, in consideration of this, only fined defendant 20s and costs.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1893

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, Gillah Whitehouse (17), domestic servant, was charged with stealing wearing apparel belonging to her mistress, Mrs. *McDermott*, of the MINERS ARMS, Tividale. Inspector Bishop said prisoner had been in prosecutrix’s employ for a fortnight, and during that time several articles of clothing had been missed. Police-constable Winfield arrested the prisoner, and upon searching her home found a quantity of the missing clothing between the bed and mattress. Some other clothing was also found at the house of a relative at Tipton. Prisoner was remanded for a week for enquiries.”

Mrs. Cormack *McDermott* was also a brewer. [1895]

#### County Advertiser 23/4/1898

“Frederick Emery, of Tividale, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the MINERS ARMS INN, Tividale, and also with damaging windows, to the extent of 2s, belonging to the landlord, *Wallace Laight*, on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst.

Prosecutor stated that defendant visited his house whilst in a drunken condition. He declined to serve him, and requested him to leave, but he refused to do so, and broke the two windows by throwing bricks through them.

He was fined 5s and costs in the first, and 12s, including costs, in the second charge.”

#### 1901 Census

49, Dudley Road – JOLLY COLLIER INN

[1] *Thomas William Hadley* (27), brewer (ales), born Rounds Green;

[2] Selina Hadley (26), wife, born Chasetown, Staffordshire;

[3] Florence Eliza Hadley (2), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] William James B. Hadley (10 months), son, born Tividale;

[5] Sarah Elizabeth Hadley (20), domestic servant, born Rounds Green:

#### County Express 20/4/1901

“Extenuating circumstances were pleaded in a case in which *Thomas William Hadley*, landlord of the MINERS ARMS INN, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Clulow prosecuted and Mr. Vernon defended. The former said his friend had decided not to contest the allegation, but said there were extenuating circumstances, which he (the speaker) was not prepared to deny. Police-constables Heatherly and Edwards found a man named Street sitting in the tap room with a glass of whisky in front of him, and he was obviously in a drunken condition. They called the landlady’s attention to him, and her excuse was that she had told him to go some half-hour before, and she thought he had gone out. It was urged for the defence the defendant had kept a licensed house for many years without complaint, and this was the first offence. Defendant was fined 20s, and costs, including solicitor’s fee.”

AND

County Advertiser 20/4/1901

“.....Street was subsequently fined 10s for being drunk on the premises.”

*James Cheall* = James Cheal

County Express 12/2/1910

“On Wednesday the annual general licensing sessions for the Old Hill petty sessional division were held at the Police Court, Old Hill.....

Supt. Johnson had served notices of objection to the renewal of the licenses in cases where convictions were recorded.....

The Bench renewed the license of the MINERS ARMS INN, Tividale, to *James Cheal*, upon whom a notice of objection had been served.”

1911 Census

94, Dudley Road

[1] *James Cheall* (52), bolter down in iron rolling mill forge, born Dudley;

[2] Jane Cheall (42), wife, married 22 years, born Bilston;

[3] Ernest Cheall (15), son, steel tube drawer, born Tipton;

[4] Gertrude Alice Cheall (8), daughter, school, born Oldbury;

[5] James Cheall (2), son, born Tipton;

[6] Sarah Cheall (9 months), daughter, born Tipton:

Dudley Chronicle 16/10/1920

“Hospital Helping. The Tipton and district friendly societies’ propaganda campaign was resumed at Tividale on Friday night. The propaganda since it was started last January has already resulted in the allocation to the several hospitals and kindred institutions in Dudley, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, and Birmingham of over £550, or £300 more than has ever been collected by the committee’s efforts during the last 30 years. It is a continuation of the public house ‘stunt.’ The men are approached in their social moments, their sympathies appealed to and their efforts invited to help the cause from which they – when occasion offers – are the very first to receive the benefit. At Tividale on Friday night the project of putting a collection box into the houses was received with acclamation. The meetings were held at the BRITANNIA and the MINERS ARMS, Mr. Burns (the landlord of the former) and Mr. *Cheall* (the landlord of the latter) – with the help of Mr. E. Hall – making every arrangement for the holding of the meetings. Both the audiences were enthusiastic, and declared that every effort would be made to win the shield from the present holders, the PRINCE REGENT. At each meeting, which was well attended, the speakers were Messrs. T. J. Stinson (chairman), L. Lawrence (secretary), J. H. Wright (originator) and Councillor T. Rogers, JP, all of the Propaganda Committee.

At the BRITANNIA there was a decided feeling to ear-mark all subscriptions for the Guest Hospital – which each house has a perfect right to do. Mr. Webb, a three weeks’ inmate of the Guest Hospital, made a good plea for it, based on the excellent treatment he had received there. So did Mr. John Godfrey, basing his observations on the fact that the hospital was ‘our own’ and deserved support. Eventually Mr. Godfrey and Mr. J. Workman were appointed to represent the house on the committee.

At the MINERS ARMS Messrs. W. Richards and Arthur Jones were appointed as delegates, Mr. Hall (the acting landlord) warmly supporting and promising assistance to the movement on the ground that the Guest Hospital was the ‘only institution the workers could call their own.’ The landlord (Mr. *Cheall*) also promised every assistance.

At both houses the propagandists were warmly thanked, the spokesman at the BRITANNIA saying the company felt a bit aggrieved that though boxes had been sent to other houses near, they had not had a look in. This it was explained was due to no fault on the part of the committee, the intention being to take every house in its turn. Judging from what was done at both meetings, and the enthusiasm displayed, the hospitals have got another couple of bands of men who are determined not to be left.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/1/1921

“A complicated case, arising out of the matrimonial troubles of a Tividale publican, came before the Oldbury magistrates yesterday, when William Frederick Norris, aged 45, of 7, Bridge Street, and Mrs. Jane *Cheal*, were jointly charged with stealing £135, the property of the woman’s husband, *James Cheal*, of the MINERS ARMS, Tividale.

It was stated Mr. and Mrs. *Cheal* had lived together for some years at the MINERS ARMS. This money was put away in a drawer in their bedroom. It was alleged Mr. *Cheal* had occasion to forbid Norris to come to the house and also to forbid his wife to see him.

On 15 July the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *Cheal* came home for tea and found that her mother had left the house, and subsequent investigations revealed that the money had been removed from the drawer.

It was claimed in defence that the money actually belonged to the wife.

The magistrates ultimately held that the evidence was insufficient to convict, and dismissed the case.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 27/8/1925

“Tividale Parade. For the Help of the Hospitals.

Although it has been in existence for only eight months, the efforts of those who are responsible for the activities of the Tividale Hospital and Friendly Societies’ Committee for the hospitals, are most praiseworthy. During the eight months there has been collected at the WONDER HOTEL £5 9s, MINERS ARMS £4 15s 9d, Tividale EMS £1 9s, ASH TREE INN 3s, a total of £11 16s 9d. From this amount there has been sent to the Dudley Guest Hospital £3, Dudley Dispensary £1 10s, Birmingham Orthopaedic 7s.....”

#### Smethwick Telephone 12/9/1925 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold, Free, Fully-Licensed House, Freehold, Free, Off-Licensed Premises and Dwelling House Properties, situate at Tividale (near Dudley), and Langley and Rounds Green, Oldbury, by Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon, on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1925, at the TALBOT HOTEL, at 7pm sharp, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then produced and read.

Estate of William Hadley, deceased.....

Lot 8. The Freehold, Free, Fully-Licensed House and Premises, known as the MINERS ARMS, Dudley Road, Tividale, near Dudley.

This house is doing a large and profitable trade under management.....”

#### Smethwick Telephone 17/10/1925

“Mr. F. H. Jones (Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon) conducted a very successful property sale last week at the TALBOT Hotel, Oldbury. There were nine lots submitted, all of which changed hands at satisfactory prices.....

Freehold, free, fully-licensed house and premises, known as the MINERS ARMS, Dudley Road, Tividale, £1,580.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/11/1926

“Mr. Gibbins, an Edgbaston resident with business interests at Tividale, Rowley Regis, recently offered a shield to the society, club, or public house in the district raising the most money for hospitals. It was won by the MINERS ARMS INN, Tividale, where £13 7s was collected, and at a concert in the local Council schools on Saturday night the donor presented the trophy to the licensee. It was announced that the proceeds of the concert would go towards a fund to provide spectacles for the poor people of the neighbourhood whose eyesight had become impaired.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 10/1/1935

“The Coroner (Mr. F. Cooper) held an inquest at the MINERS ARMS, Dudley Road, Tividale, on Saturday week, concerning the death of Sidney Clements (32), of 74, Dudley Road, Tividale, who was found dead with a gunshot wound in his head in a bedroom at his home earlier in the same day.

Dr. T. D. Brettell, assistant to Dr. McPherson, of Dudley, stated that deceased had been attended for some time past by Dr. McPherson. He was suffering from a severely damaged rheumatic heart. In response to an urgent call, witness had attended deceased that morning at about 5.25am. The man was then in the living room, and was fully dressed. He was breathless, and was obviously suffering great pain. Witness exam-

ined deceased, and gave him a sedative. He then advised that he should be got to bed. Whilst he was there deceased spoke rationally, and did not threaten to take his own life. He did not hear of the tragedy until later in the morning, when Dr. McPherson informed him of it. He had not seen the body, but from the position of the wound as described to him he should think that death was due to shock.

Thomas Nathan Clements, of 74, Dudley Road, Tividale, identified the body as that of his son, who was 32 years of age. His son was an electrical assembler by trade, but owing to his heart he had been unable to work for over twelve months. During the whole of that time he had been attended by Dr. McPherson, of Dudley. His son suffered from heart trouble, brought on by scarlet fever and rheumatism.

On Friday evening his son complained of being in worse pain than previously. He went to bed about eleven o'clock, but later got up again. He returned to bed shortly afterwards, but later became so ill that the doctor was sent for. After the doctor had seen him they got him to bed, but he continued to complain of the pain he was suffering. He kept saying that he felt he could not stand it much longer, and wished the doctor could give him something to relieve it. Witness sat by deceased's bed for some time, until his place was taken by his other son (Roland). After a while Roland came out for some water, and whilst he was getting it they heard a report. Witness and his son rushed into the bedroom, and they found the deceased sitting in a chair beside the bed with a rifle between his legs. He spoke to deceased, but the latter (although then still alive) was unable to reply. Witness sent for the doctor and the police.

Mr. Clements identified the gun as the property of deceased, who had bought it for shooting sparrows. It had not been used for over two years, and witness had not been aware that his son had any bullets for it.

The Coroner, in giving his verdict, stated that the young man had obviously been suffering tremendous agony because of his heart trouble. He (the Coroner) thought that the turn had come that morning when the deceased thought he could stand it no longer, and accordingly took his own life whilst he was not of sound mind in consequence of the great pain he was experiencing. His verdict would, therefore, be Suicide by shooting himself with a rifle whilst not of sound mind.

The Coroner expressed sympathy with the relatives of the dead man."

*George Henry Short* – see also SEVEN STARS, Tividale.

#### Staffordshire Advertiser 21/5/1938

"Sixteen applications, granted earlier in the year by local justices, remained to be dealt with when an adjourned meeting of the Staffordshire County Licensing Confirmation Committee was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Tuesday.....

The justices confirmed the removal of the full license of the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, to the PEAR TREE INN, Rowley Regis, which at present has only a beer and wine license. On behalf of the applicant, Garnet Wesley Cornwell, Mr. Bergendorff said the MINERS ARMS was in a district which was well served by other houses. The PEAR TREE was in the heart of what was open country ten years ago, but which now contained 1,700 new houses."

The removal of this license to the PEAR TREE, Rowley, was granted on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1938, and confirmed on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1938.

It closed on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1938.

It became a fish and chip shop.

#### **MODEL**

2, (1), Titford Road, Langley Green, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Timothy Thompson



Harriet Jane Thompson  
Frederick Smith Ltd., Aston [1899], [1911]  
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1959)  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.  
Enterprise Inns [1990s]  
Paul Archer

## LICENSEES

Benjamin Slim [1845] – [1851]  
James Jones [1851] – [1862]  
Charles Jones [1855]  
Samuel Jesson [ ] – **1863**);  
Robert Lenius Mould (**1863** – [1864]  
James Mills [1865]  
Timothy Thompson [1869] – **1886**);  
Mrs. Harriet Jane Thompson (**1886** – **1896**);  
William Charles Cashmore (**1896**);  
Frederick Smith Ltd. (**1896** – **1907**);  
James Mills [1900] – [1901] manager  
James Mills (**1907** – **1909**);  
Christopher Evans (**1909** – **1922**);  
Alfred Bill (**1922** – **1939**);  
John Henry Phipps (**1939** – **1940**);  
Florence Phipps (**1940** – **1946**);  
John Henry Phipps (**1946** – **1950**);  
Wilfred Briggs (**1950** – **1957**);  
Frank George Thomas Rogers (**1957**);  
Sydney Percival Brazier (**1957** – **1959**);  
Edward Alfred Bate (**1959** – **1961**);  
Victor James Taylor (**1961** – **1963**);  
Colin Graham Birch (**1963** – [ ]  
Edward Gillies [1966]  
Kath Brundle [1960s]  
Halima Theresa Archer [1993] – [2008]  
Paul Archer [2013]

## NOTES

- 1, Titford Road [1873], [1881]
- 2, Titford Road [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916]

It was originally the QUEENS HEAD.

It was nicknamed “The Model”, because of its Frederick Smith’s Aston Model Brewery windows.

*Benjamin Slim*, retailer of beer, Langley Green. [1850]

### 1851 Census

Langley Green

[1] *Benjamin Slim* (72), victualler, born Langley;

- [2] Margaret Slim (55), wife, born Ireland;  
[3] Benjamin Jackson (51), nephew, bricklayer, born Langley;  
[4] Sarah Unitt (14), house servant, born Netherton:

Birmingham Journal 6/11/1852 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Houses and Building Land, situated in Park House Lane, leading from Oldbury to Langley Green.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Hawkins, at Mr. *James Jones*'s, the QUEENS HEAD, near to Trinity Church, Langley Green, on Monday Next, November 8<sup>th</sup>, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be produced.....”

*James Jones* was also a blacksmith. [1854], [1860]

Birmingham Journal 8/12/1860 - Advert

“To be Sold, a Bargain, a Sixteen-horse Power High-Pressure Engine, with Boiler and Grate complete. Apply to Mr. *Jones*, QUEENS HEAD, Langley, near Oldbury.”

1861 Census

Titford Road – QUEENS HEAD

- [1] *James Jones* (43), blacksmith and victualler, born Oldbury;  
[2] Mary Jones (43), wife, born Rowley Regis;  
[3] Hannah Jones (17), daughter, born Rowley Regis;  
[4] Mary Jones (17), daughter, born Rowley Regis;  
[5] Emma Jones (13), daughter, born Titford;  
[6] James Jones (11), son, born Titford;  
[7] Eliza Jones (4), daughter, born Langley;  
[8] Elizabeth Bridgewater (60), mother-in-law, widow, born Tipton:

Worcester Journal 29/3/1862

“Bankrupts (from Friday's *Gazette*, March 28).....

“*James Jones*, Langley, near Oldbury, Worcestershire, licensed victualler.”

Birmingham Journal 19/4/1862 - Advert

“The QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, Oldbury.

To be Let, the above excellently-situated Old-Licensed House. Immediate possession may be had.

For particulars, apply to Mr. William Downing, Maltster, Smethwick, or Mr. George Thompson, Maltster, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 28/6/1862

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *James Jones*, Langley, victualler.

Adjourned meeting for last examination and discharge. The bankrupt's wife, since dead, managed his business, and the bankrupt was too ignorant to give the official assignee any information concerning his debtors. An order was therefore made to employ an accountant, and the meeting was adjourned.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/7/1862

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.....

In re *James Jones*, Langley, victualler. Meeting for last examination and discharge.

The balance-sheet, prepared by Mr. Free, showed amount due, £1,167 14s 9d; assets, £1,883 9s 6d; surplus, £715 14s 9d.

Mr. Knight, for the assignees, intimated there would be no opposition, upon which Mr. East applied for the bankrupt's order of discharge.

The Commissioner said as there was no opposition, and he found that Mr. Whitmore had gone very carefully

through the balance-sheet, the bankrupt would receive his order of discharge.”

Birmingham Journal 18/4/1863 - Advert

“An Opportunity Seldom to be Met With. Langley Green, near Oldbury.

The QUEENS HEAD, Old Licensed Inn, Langley Green.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty.

The Licences and Possession, together with the Brewing Plant, Fixtures, Fittings, and other Effects, in consequence of the present Proprietor having other engagements at a distance.

The House is well situated, fronting the main road in an improving and populous district. There is a Butcher's Business carried on with the House.

The above is a compact and convenient Premises, brewing sixteen bushels of Malt weekly, with a good Spirit Trade and a good supply of Water.

Immediate possession may be had. Rent and Coming-in low.

For further particulars and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, Estate Agent, and Valuer, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/4/1864

“Oldbury County Court. Warranty of a Cow.

*Bridge v Mould*. In this case Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the plaintiff, a butcher, retired from business, and Mr. J. T. Bayley was retained for the defendant, the landlord of the QUEENS HEAD, Langley.

The plaintiff said that on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February he was walking along the road to Langley, with a friend, and met the defendant, who asked him to purchase a cow. They went to the field in which the animal was being depastured, and after some bartering he agreed to purchase her for £8. The defendant stated that the cow was ‘all right, and as sound as a bell.’ The animal was in calf, and did not walk as well as a sound beast should have done. She died on the following Friday, and he (the plaintiff) went to the defendant, who refused to accompany him to the person from whom, in the first instance, he had bought her. The body was subsequently opened by a farrier, who found that her inside was perfectly decomposed, and the disease must have existed for several months.

Mr. Bayley cross-examined the plaintiff at some length, with a view to show that he had bought the animal with his eyes open, and that he had endeavoured to induce the defendant to seek compensation from the person who sold it to him. He, however, persisted in his statement that, had he not received a full warranty, he would not have effected the purchase.

A witness, named Sheldon Cox, corroborated the statement of the plaintiff as to the warranty.

Mr. Colley, farrier, deposed that he had seen the cow, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, and found her in the last stage of consumption. He prescribed some medicine for her, but she died on the following Friday. The animal had died from putrid fever, and she must have been suffering from inflammation for three months previously. The inflammation was chronic and not acute.

Mr. John Turvey, a knacker, said that he had bought the carcase of the cow for 15s, and saw it opened. The inside was in a state of corruption, and the disease must have been in existence for some months.

James Cornwall, another knacker, stated that he had bought the carcase of the cow from the last witness, and opened it. It was much diseased.

After having heard Mr. Bayley, who rested his defence on the ground that it was not customary to warrant cows, and that the plaintiff had acted on his own judgement, and who quoted from ‘Addison on contracts,’ and called evidence to support his statement, the witness Colley was recalled, and in reply to Mr. Skinner, the Judge, said that tubercles might exist in the lungs of a cow without any external symptoms having been displayed. He had no hesitation, however, in affirming that the disease was not the result of an acute inflammation, but was essentially chronic.

Mr. Shakespeare said that Mr. Justice Bailey had ruled that the representation made by the vendor at the time of sale was to be considered in the nature of a warranty.

In the course of the hearing of the case, it transpired that some curious transactions in the way of the sale of diseased meat, alleged to be disposed of for the feeding of pigs, had taken place between the parties, on a former occasion. The defendant, Mr. Shakespeare said, had been fined £5 by the Magistrates for having exposed for sale as good meat, and fit for human consumption, the carcase of a cow which had been disposed

of by the plaintiff to a drover, who had resold it to *Mould*.

Jesse Sheldon deposed that he had sold the cow to the defendant, and could perceive no symptoms of disease about her. In reply to Mr. Shakespeare, the witness admitted having sold the animal at a loss of £1 12s 6d. When the defendant and plaintiff called on him on Sunday, the cow had been paid for.

Baker said he was present when the animal was bought from Sheldon by the defendant, and that she was then in good health. He saw *Mould* pay a sovereign as 'earnest money.'

By Mr. Bayley: I have never been charged with selling diseased meat.

After some other evidence had been taken, his Honour remarked that there was no doubt about the warranty, but the simple question was, whether the animal was diseased at the time of sale.

Mr. Shakespeare said he fully relied on the evidence of the witnesses Colley and Turvey, who had distinctly sworn that disease had existed for a period of three months.

His Honour, in giving judgement for the plaintiff, observed that he did not believe the defendant was aware of the disease when he sold the cow. He accepted Sheldon's account of the transaction, and thought that that witness had given his evidence in a straightforward manner. Judgement would be for the plaintiff for the full amount claimed, but three months would be allowed for the payment."

#### Birmingham Journal 21/5/1864 - Advert

"QUEENS HEAD, Langley, in the Township of Oldbury.

To be Let or Sold, with immediate possession, this excellent old-established Old Licensed Inn, in the midst of a thriving population and surrounded by several important ironworks and collieries, and close to Chance's chemical works, now doing a good counter trade in spirits, brewing twice a week, and with a Butcher's Shop attached to it, and comprises Tap Room and Shop, Bar-parlour, Kitchen, two convenient and dry Cellars, large Club Room three airy Bed Rooms, Brewhouse and Malt Room, Stable, and large Yard, approached by a spacious Gateway Entrance, coming-in under £100. Rent moderate. To a Purchaser two-thirds of the purchase money may remain on mortgage.

Apply to E. Cox, Auctioneer and Public House Valuer, High Street, West Bromwich."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/6/1864 - Advert

"Unreserved Clearing-Out Sale, at the QUEENS HEAD, Langley Green, near Oldbury.

To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 1864.

The whole of the Public House Fittings, Brewing Utensils, Household Furniture, and other Effects; comprising 5-pull Beer Machine, with stop taps and 100 feet Piping, complete; mahogany Centre Table, Drinking Tables and Forms, mahogany horsehair-seated Sofa, large Corner Cupboard, metal top Tap Counter, with folding doors, Pewter Ale and Spirit Measures, Brewing and other Tubs, Ale and other Casks, large cast and wrought-iron Boilers and Settings, Ale Vats and Stays, with lead piping to cellar, Jugs and Cups, Ale and Spirit Glasses, cup and glass Shelving, pair of Gig Lamps, Rollers and Blinds, lead Piping, Malt Crusher, Copper Kitchen, Water Spout, Fenders and Fire-irons, Windsor Chairs, and numerous other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Robert Moulds*, who is leaving the Premises.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock.

Catalogues may be had of Mr. J. S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent.

Offices, Wesley Street, Oldbury."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/9/1865 - Advert

"QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction (Unless previously Disposed Of by Private Treaty), on Wednesday Next, September 27<sup>th</sup>, by Mr. A. Atree.

The Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, Public-house Fixtures and Fittings, capital Ale Machine, Malt Crusher, 25 and 80 Gallon cast iron Boilers, 180 gallon wrought iron Boiler and Settings, pair Wood Vats and Piping, Mash, Gathering and other Tubs, 10 excellent Ale Barrels, other Effects, the property of Mr. *James Mills*, who is retiring.

NB. The Premises to Let."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/4/1867 - Advert

“Sale by Auction. QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, near Oldbury.

To Farmers, Carters, Ironfounders, Smiths, and Others.

By A. Altree. Broad and Narrow-wheel Wagons and Carts, Spring Traps, Harness and Gearing, Plough, Harrows, Land Roll, powerful Legs Snatch-Block Wince and Chains, two large iron Balls, Avery's Weighing Machine, Chaff Engine, Pulley Block and Ropes, Smiths' Tongs, Striking and Sledge Hammers, Taps and Dies, Swages, Nailers' Anvils, Smiths' ditto. Also a portion of Household Furniture, Ale Barrels, Brewing Effects; together with an infinity of other Articles, the Property of Mr. William Hadley, who is leaving the neighbourhood.

Commencing at Eleven.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/10/1868

“At the Hales Owen Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before Major Smith and E. Gem, Esq, Thomas Holland, an unqualified medical practitioner, residing in Birmingham Street, Oldbury, was charged with holding an appointment of surgeon to a Friendly Society, held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, Oldbury, he not being duly qualified. Mr. W. Shakespeare (Oldbury) appeared to prosecute. Mr. Holland was undefended. Mr. Shakespeare said the charge was preferred under the 30<sup>th</sup> section of the Medical Act, and, after making a few opening remarks, called the secretary to the society, Charles Tomlinson, who stated that, until lately, the sick notes for the club were given by Mr. Holland, the defendant, but within the last month or two these had been given by Dr. Dempsey (who had lately taken to most of the clubs in the town of Oldbury). Dr. Dempsey's name was printed at the bottom of the notes, but they were filled up in Mr. Holland's handwriting. Mr. Dempsey had never been elected as surgeon to the society.

Charles Nicholls, of Blackheath, was then called. He said he was a member of the above-named club.

During the month of September last, he had been very ill, and had been attended by Mr. Holland, had had all his medicine from him, had never been attended or examined by Mr. Dempsey. The club paid Mr. Holland for attending him.

Mr. Phillips, surgeon, of Rowley, proved that the defendant had the word ‘surgery’ written on his door.

The Medical Register of 1868 was put in to prove that the defendant was unqualified.

For the defence, Mr. Dempsey was called, and stated that he was surgeon to the club, and that the defendant acted as his assistant, at £100 per annum. He was closely cross-examined by Mr. Shakespeare, in the course of which he stated that he had only engaged Mr. Holland a month ago, had never paid him any salary, and the agreement was in writing. Mr. Holland had paid for all drugs which had been purchased. Mr. Holland attended all patients, received the fees, and kept the books. He (Mr. Dempsey) had never seen the books, or taken from them any extracts. His surgery was about 100 yards from Mr. Holland's, and none of the patients seen by Mr. Holland went to his (Mr. Dempsey's) surgery.

A second case was then gone into against the defendant, who was then charged with acting as a surgeon, he not being qualified. This case was also proved, and the Bench, remarking that they could not close their eyes to the fact that he had been previously convicted upon similar charges, inflicted a fine of £15 and costs in the last case, and £5 and costs in the former case.”

[See also JOLLY COLLIER, Albert Street, and CRYSTAL PALACE.]

County Express 16/10/1869

“Thomas Griffiths and Joseph Brown were charged with a breach of the peace on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, kept by *Timothy Thomson*. Mr. W. Shakespeare appeared for the prosecution. The case was dismissed.”

1871 Census

Titford Road

[1] *Timothy Thompson* (46), farmer and publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Harriet J. Thompson* (41), wife, born Wood Gate, Worcestershire;

[3] Elizabeth Thompson (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] Harriet Louisa Thompson (6), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Alice Webb (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[6] Sarah Hickman (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[7] William Walker (40), boarder, farm labourer, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/2/1871

“On Friday evening an inquest was opened at the QUEENS HEAD, Langley, before Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, upon the body of James Waterhouse (35), collier, Titford Road, Langley, who died on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst, from injuries received whilst at work at the Buffery Colliery, near Dudley, belonging to Messrs. Howl and Mason, from an explosion which occurred in No.3 pit on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. The body having been identified by Police-constable Jones, the inquest was adjourned in order to allow time for an inspection of the colliery by the Mines Inspector.”

[The adjourned inquest was held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Dudley. The Jury returned the following verdict. We are of opinion that the deceased met with his death accidentally, but that the proprietors are to blame for not having provided better ventilation in that part of the workings where the accident occurred.]

County Advertiser 13/5/1871

“Mr. Peter Shaw, deputy of the Buffery Colliery, Bumble-hole, was charged by J. P. Baker, the Inspector of Mines, with neglecting the first General Rule, and with being unprovided with proper ventilation in every part of his pit. Mr. Walker prosecuted, and Mr. Shakespeare defended.

The prosecuting attorney detailed the facts of the explosion at the pit, whereby six men, including the defendant, were seriously burnt, and stated that some weeks after the occurrence one of the men (Waterhouse) died from the effects.

Mr. Shakespeare admitted that there was no defence to the charge, but said his client was only legally guilty, and not morally so, he being under the impression that the place was quite safe, and as proof of this he would mention that the defendant was seriously burnt.

The Bench said the case was a bad one, and called for little or no mitigation of the highest fine. Had the owner been summoned, the maximum amount would have been inflicted, but in the case before them a fine of £10 and costs would meet the justice of the case.”

Dudley Herald 6/12/1879

“A meeting of miners was held on Wednesday night, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, Oldbury, in reference to the wages question. Mr. William Hughes presided.

Mr. T. Griffiths, miners’ agent, said the men did not think that they were properly paid for their labour. They thought the present improved state of trade would fully justify a further advance in the price of coal and colliers’ wages. He urged the men to work harmoniously together, in order to get the sliding scale altered. They were not satisfied with it. The masters were very cautious in giving advances to the men, as they only gave 1½ d and 3d each time. If they could have 4d instead of 3d, and 8d instead of 6d, it would be better for them. (Hear, hear.) That sliding scale was made at a very unfortunate time, and they wanted the opportunity which good trade would afford to get it altered. They should insist upon the advance being at the rate of 4d in the shilling instead of 3d. If this extra 1d in the shilling could be secured, it would mean 10d per day at the top more than they had before. He contended that the colliers were fully entitled to it. If they had 4d to the shilling at the top the masters could afford it – (hear, hear). In order to effect these alterations the men must become thoroughly united – (hear, hear). They wanted to extend the union to every pit in Staffordshire.....”

*Timothy Thompson* was also a farmer. [1880]

West Bromwich Weekly News 29/1/1881 - Advert

“£100 Money Society. (100 Nights). QUEENS HEAD, Langley.

Mr. *Timothy Thompson* has great pleasure in announcing that the above-named Society will Re-commence on Tuesday Evening, the 15<sup>th</sup> February Next. Any person becoming a member will much oblige.

Subscriptions:

£100 – £1 0s 6d per week.

£50 – 10s 6d per week.  
£25 – 5s 6d per week.  
£12 10s – 3s 0d per week.”

#### 1881 Census

1, Titford Road – QUEENS HEAD INN

- [1] *Timothy Thompson* (56), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Harriet J. Thompson* (51), wife, born Northfield, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Maud M. Thompson* (23), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Thompson* (21), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Harriet L. Thompson* (15), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Annie Harris* (16), domestic servant, born Birmingham;
- [7] *William Walker* (46), groom, born Oldbury;

#### Birmingham Daily Post 16/10/1883

“The Fall from a Bed Room Window. Yesterday afternoon Mr. R. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the QUEENS ARMS [sic] INN, Langley, on the body of Anne Grosvenor (31), wife of William Grosvenor, bricklayer, residing at 21, Titford Road, who met with her death on Friday last, under circumstances already reported in the *Post*. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

AND

#### Manchester Times 20/10/1883

“Ann Grosvenor, of Whiteheath, near Rowley, on Friday night fell through a bedroom window. Whilst cleaning it the framework by which she was holding gave way, and she fell into the street and dislocated her neck. Deceased was the mother of six children.”

*Timothy Thompson* – see also MALT SHOVEL, Low Town.

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 12/2/1887

“Pride of the Queen Lodge of the National United Order of Free Gardeners has lately gained a well-merited distinction in the neighbourhood of Langley by its continued prosperity. Presentations to its officials seem to be the order of the day. At its first club night this year the Past Master (Brother E. Field) was presented with a Past Master’s Certificate. On Saturday last another presentation was made, on that occasion to the present Treasurer (Brother J. Nickless), in the shape of a very richly framed Past Master’s Certificate.

Brother J. J. Taylor, in making the presentation, complimented the lodge on the great success it had experienced since the present treasurer had been appointed. He had acted in that capacity for six years, and during that time the lodge had increased from 20 to 108 financial members and from 2 to 17 honorary members; and this was, to a great extent, due to having a good treasurer.

Brother G. Satchwell, DDM, followed, and then Brother J. Fox, secretary.

Brother Fox dwelt on the prosperity the lodge had had since its existence. It was opened at the QUEENS HEAD INN, but a few months afterwards it was removed to its present quarters, NEW INN, Station Road, and they never had cause to regret moving their lodge to the NEW INN. Their landlord and treasurer had always treated them with great respect, and had done his best to make them comfortable. He only hoped their members would be increased more in the future than they had in the past.....”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 26/3/1887

“On Monday evening, Mr. E. Docker held an inquest at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, touching the death of Florence Beatrice Summers, aged two months and three weeks, the daughter of Ann Summers, residing in Titford Road, Langley, who was found dead in bed on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. The mother stated that on Friday last the child seemed all right and in good health when she took it to bed, but the next morning when she woke she found it dead. In reply to the Coroner witness stated that there was only one bedroom in the house, and that she and six children slept in it, their ages varying from 15 down to six years. A man who was not her husband slept down stairs. She also stated that the boards of the floor gave way some time ago while one of the children was walking across them.

Priscilla Harris stated that when the child was found dead she was sent for, but she had not been in the habit of going into the house because of its wretched condition.

Dr. Turbitt was called and stated that he found no marks of violence on the body.

The Coroner remarked that the inquiry had revealed a terrible state of things, and a large number of persons were sleeping in a room that was certainly not fit for occupation. The jury declined to view the body because of the dangerous state of the building, but they returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, adding as a rider that the Coroner be requested to communicate with the Oldbury Local Board of Health, calling their attention to the condition of the house and the overcrowding.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 30/7/1887 - Advert

“To Capitalists, Investors, Grocers, General Dealers, and Others.

Important Sale of a Valuable Compact Freehold Business Premises, opposite to the Park, Langley, near Oldbury.

Mr. Josiah Field has received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, near Oldbury, on Tuesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1887, at 7 o’clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society – all those Valuable well-built and conveniently-arranged Freehold Business Premises, situate and known as No.20, High Street, Langley, comprising Commodious Retail Shop, with Plate-glass Front, in which the business of a General Dealer is now being carried on.....”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 10/12/1887

“An inquest was held on Saturday evening at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, by Mr. Edwin Docker (coroner), touching the death of Jesse Light (64), builder of Arden Grove, who was found dead in bed on Friday morning, the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst.

Susan Light, wife of deceased, stated that her husband had been carrying a plank for a coffin on the Thursday previous to his death, and before going to bed, about a quarter to 11 o’clock, complained of a pain in his arm, but she did not think it anything unusual, as he had it broken some three years ago. He was rather restless in the night, and she dressed it with turpentine, but he continued to complain of the pain. She got up about seven o’clock next morning, and seeing his one hand out of bed she covered it with the clothes, thinking how odd it was. She thought he had fallen into a sound sleep, and she went downstairs.

James Light, son of deceased, gave evidence to the effect that he went to call his father about nine o’clock, and found he was dead.

Dr. Cunningham deposed to examining the body of the deceased, but found no marks of violence about it, and gave it as his opinion that death was due to synope.

Jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 2/8/1890

“Last night Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, concerning the death of Philip Cross (10), whose parents reside in Titford Road, Langley, who was drowned in a marlhole near Park Hall, Langley, on Thursday night.

Thomas Sheldon, a boy, said deceased was sitting on a steep embankment, near the edge of the water, when his foot slipped and he fell in. Witness tried to catch his hand, but deceased sank.

John Owen, who lives near the marlhole, said upon hearing cries that a boy had fallen into the water he ran to the place, and saw deceased go down the last time. He made an effort to save the boy, but failed. Where deceased was sitting before he fell into the water was a very dangerous place. In reply to a juror, witness said the only protection close to the marlhole was a small wire-fence to keep horses and cattle out. He did not consider it was a sufficient protection for the public. There was a foot-road close to the marlhole. One of witness’s children fell into the same marlhole a few days ago, and not long ago a man and a horse were drowned.

A Juror said it was a most dangerous place, and was simply a death-trap.

Another Juror said the marlhole had been in its present dangerous state for years, and it was surprising that scores of people had not been drowned in it.

Witness said some of the people living near the marlhole had walked into it.



The Coroner: It seems to be a very dangerous place. – Witness: If a person gets in it is impossible to get out without assistance.

The Coroner, in summing up, commented upon the extremely dangerous condition of the marlhole, and said it should be either filled up or fenced properly.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned, and recommended the coroner to communicate with the Oldbury Local Board and the owner of the property, calling their attention to the dangerous state of the marlhole, and requesting that it should be either filled up or fenced immediately.”

#### 1891 Census

2, Titford Road – QUEENS HEAD

[1] *Harriet J. Thompson* (58), widow, licensed victualler, born Woodgate, Halesowen;

[2] Maud Thompson (29), daughter, born Oldbury;

[3] Harriet Thompson (23), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Elizabeth White (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 28/10/1891

“Last night Mr. E Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, respecting the death of Joseph Chadwick, aged eleven weeks, whose parents reside in Park Lane, Oldbury, who was reported to have died on Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> inst.

The evidence showed that on the date named Mrs. Chadwick was the worse for liquor, and neighbours deposed to seeing her fall with the child she was carrying in her arms. Upon her husband returning home she gave him the infant to nurse, and he said he noticed it seemed peculiar. The child was cold, and he thought it was asleep. He sent his wife for some medicine, and some hours afterwards neighbours who came in told him the child was dead.

Dr. Cunningham, who had made a post mortem examination, attributed death to syncope, which might have been caused by a fall or from shock. In his opinion death was instantaneous.

The jury returned a verdict ‘that the deceased Joseph Chadwick came to his death through the neglect of his mother,’ and added a rider to the effect that the evidence was not sufficient to send Mrs. Chadwick for trial on a charge of manslaughter. The Coroner severely censured Mrs. Chadwick.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 7/7/1894 - Advert

“QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley, near Oldbury. To Publicans, Brewers and others.

Mr. W. Hackett has received instructions to Sell By Auction, on Monday Next, July 9<sup>th</sup> 1894, the whole of the excellent Brewing Plant, Capital Brown Horse, Two Dog Traps, Harness, Etc, upon the Premises as above, comprising – 300 Gallon Copper Boiler, with Door and Bars, 120 Gallon Cast Iron Boiler, with Door and Bars, Three Wood Vats, 16 Bushel Oval Mash Tub, Wort Spouts, Copper Bottom Wort Sieve, Iron Attenuator, Hop Press on Iron Stand, Five 120 Gallon Barrels, Five 60 Gallon Barrels, Two Small Barrels, Three Collecting Tubs, Six Round Tubs, Wort Ladle, Tunpail, Mash Rule, Sack Weighing Machine and Nine Weights (by Avery), Two Wringing and Mangling Machines, Capital Brown Horse (8 years old, 15 hands high, quiet to Ride and Drive, Fast and Good Worker), Excellent Oak Varnished Dog Trap with Lamps and Cushions (in good condition), Dog Trap suitable for Cob (in good condition), Nearly New Set of Brown Harness.

The Whole on View the Day of Sale.

Sale to commence at 2.30 prompt.

Auctioneer’s Offices: Birmingham Street, Oldbury, and Oldbury Road, West Smethwick.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 29/2/1896 - Advert

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Wine and Spirit Merchants, and others.

Important Sale of the Valuable Freehold Old-Established Full-Licensed House known as the QUEENS HEAD INN, Titford Road, Langley, near Oldbury.

Mr. Wm. Hackett has received instructions to Sell by Auction upon the premises as above, on Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> 1896, at 6.30 for 7 o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions incorporating the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

All that well and substantially-built, Double-Fronted, Full-Licensed Public House and Premises, with front-ages to three good roads, and comprises Tap Room, Smoke Room, Bar Sitting Room, Pantry, Two large Cellars, Wine Cellar, Three Bedrooms, Large Club Room, Two Kitchens, Store Room with Malt Room over, Enclosed Paved Yard and Gateway Entrance from Titford Road, and the usual Outbuildings. Together with the Corner Piece of Land, at the corner of Trinity Street, with Gateway Entrance from New Street. The premises are well supplied with hard and soft water.

The Auctioneer can highly recommend the above House to Brewers, Maltsters, and others as being one of the most genuine lots that has been placed in the market for some time.

It has been in the occupation of the owner for the past 29 years, and being situated near to large works has always commanded a first-class and profitable trade.

For further particulars, and to inspect Plan, apply Messrs. William Shakespeare and Co, Solicitors; Mr. T. Merryfield, Architect and Surveyor, both of Church Street; or to the Auctioneer, Birmingham Street, all of Oldbury.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 7/3/1896

“Last Wednesday evening ..... freehold old-established, full licensed house known as the QUEENS HEAD INN, Titford Road, Langley, sold for £3,900. We understand that an Aston brewer is the purchaser.”

*William Charles Cashmore* – check also DARTMOUTH ARMS, West Bromwich.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1899

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Division were held at the Court House, Oldbury yesterday.....

Mr. Sharpe supported applications by ..... F. Smith, Aston, for alterations at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Titford Road, Langley.....

Several other applications for alteration of premises were made .... The whole of the applications for approval of alterations were postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, to enable the magistrates to inspect the houses.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1899

“Yesterday, the adjourned licensing sessions for the Oldbury Division were held at the Court House, the magistrates present being Messrs. G. Heaton, A. M. Chance, T. Lavender, and H. Heaton. A long time was occupied in the consideration of applications for sanction to make alterations in licensed premises.....

After deliberating in private, Mr. Heaton said the license of the WHITE HORSE would be granted ..... and the Bench wished it to be understood that in future alterations of licensed premises should not be made without plans being submitted and proper sanction of the justices being obtained. The other licenses were renewed, and the applications for alterations were approved, with the exception of the case of the WHY NOT INN, which was refused.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 6/1/1900

“On Saturday evening, about fifty workpeople and friends of the firm of Messrs. George Jackson and Company sat down to a capital spread at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Langley (host Mr. *James Mills*), at the invitation of Mr. Arthur Jackson, who is leaving the works at Langley, to start a new concern some distance away.....”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 2/3/1901

“A capital dinner was given on Tuesday last at Mr. *James Mills*’ QUEENS HEAD, Langley, to Messrs. R. and J. Dempster’s employees now at work at Messrs. Albright and Wilson’s, on the occasion of the coming of age of Miss Dempster. After the inner man had been bountifully supplied, a good programme of music was capitally given by the workmen.....”

#### 1901 Census

2, Titford Road

[1] *James Mills* (30), public house manager, born Walsall;

[2] *Emma Mills* (30), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Mary L. Hipkiss* (20), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 15/6/1901

“General – Good Honest Girl wanted. No family.

Apply, QUEENS HEAD, Langley.”

Frederick Smith Ltd. were fined 40s and 56s costs, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1902, for selling to a drunken person.

#### Smethwick Weekly News 2/8/1902

“A farewell supper was given to Mr. Edward Jones, of Langley, who is leaving for South Africa, at the QUEENS HEAD, Langley, on Wednesday evening last, when nearly 30 guests assembled to honour the occasion. The menu left nothing to be desired, and was served up in splendid style by the host and hostess. After the repast, the chair was taken by Mr. Swain Robinson, supported by Mr. Ben Smith.....”

A team from here took part in the Langley and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

#### 1911 Census

2, Titford Road

[1] *Christopher Evans* (45), publican, born Bristol;

[2] *Maria Evans* (43), wife, married 17 years, born Aston, Birmingham;

[3] *Lily Evans* (12), daughter, school, born Sparkbrook, Birmingham;

[4] *Leslie Evans* (14), son, school, born Sparkbrook, Birmingham;

[5] *Cissie Freeman* (22), domestic servant, born Aston, Birmingham:

#### Birmingham Mail 28/8/1911 - Advert

“General (good), about 20 to 22; must be willing; good home.

QUEENS HEAD, Tetford Road, Langley.”

*Alfred Bill* – check also ALBION, Tividale.

#### 1939 Register

Titford Road – QUEENS HEAD

[1] *John H. Phipps*, date of birth 25/11/1910, glass packer and public house keeper, married;

[2] *Florence Phipps*, dob 15/11/1908, unpaid domestic duties, married;

It had a pigeon club. [1950s]

*Sydney Brazier* was married to Eileen.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1966

“A Warley public house was open again for business last night after a two-hour ‘strike’ by the licensee. Today, the publican – 35-year-old Mr. *Edward Gillies* – is to meet a brewery representative to discuss his action. Mr. *Gillies* locked the doors and sat alone in the bar of the QUEENS HEAD, in Titford Road, Langley, for two hours on Saturday night. He said he was protesting because the brewery – Mitchells & Butlers – had not redecorated the public house for six years. He claimed the plaster was flaking off the walls and that the rain was dripping through the roof into the bedroom.

A brewery spokesman said last night that a director of Bass, Mitchells & Butlers (Midlands) would be seeing Mr. *Gillies*. ‘In our opinion we do not think that the decoration at this public house is in any way below standard,’ he said. ‘Some damage was caused by the high winds recently, but this has been put right.’”

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 8/4/1988

“Regulars at the QUEENS HEAD in Titford Road, Langley, are to present a £500 cheque to Birmingham Childrens’ Hospital following a series of raffles held over Christmas.”

It was renamed MODEL. [1998]

It was the headquarters of the Langley Homing Society (founded 1954). [1999], [2001]

*Halima (“Tina”) Archer* married Paul Archer (see CROSSWELLS).

Following refurbishment it reopened as COAL SHED in April 2018.

[2021]

## NAGS HEAD

6, (2), Flash Road, (Flash Street), (Flash Terrace), The Green, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

George Sambrook

John Thompson, maltster, Oldbury

J. A. and A. Thompson, maltster, Oldbury [1910]

Isacke and Clark, 82, New Street, Birmingham (acquired c.1911)

## LICENSEES

George Sambrook [1851] – [1855]

Thomas Whyman [1861] – [1866]

Thomas Keyes [1870] – [1880]

Joseph Round [1881] – [1883]

James Lines Snr. [1884] – **1888**;

James Lines Jr. (**1888 – 1912**):

## NOTES

2, Flash Road [1881]

6, Flash Road [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911]

It had a beerhouse license.

*George Sambrook*, retailer of beer, Flash Terrace. [1851]

## Birmingham Journal 25/8/1855 - Advert

“To be Let, an excellent Retail Public House, situated in Flash Street, Oldbury, and known by the sign of the NAGS HEAD, close to the Oldbury Railway Carriage Works. The House is fitted up with every convenience for carrying on the Public Business. Coming-in can be reduced to £25. Immediate possession can be had if required.

For to view the same, and to treat, apply to *G. Sambrook*, upon the Premises.”

### 1861 Census

#### Flash Road – NAGS HEAD

- [1] *Thomas Whyman* (40), blacksmith and retail brewer, born Loughborough;
- [2] Elizabeth Whyman (41), wife, born Sheepshead, Leicestershire;
- [3] Mary Whyman (19), daughter, born Sheepshead, Leicestershire;
- [4] John Whyman (14), son, carpenter, born Sheepshead, Leicestershire;
- [5] Elizabeth Whyman (13), daughter, scholar, born Sheepshead, Leicestershire;
- [6] Ann Whyman (11), daughter, scholar, born Sheepshead, Leicestershire;
- [7] Thomas Whyman (2), son, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Journal 27/10/1866 - Advert

“Flash Road, Oldbury Green, Oldbury, in the County of Worcester.

Excellent New Licensed Inn, Two Front Shops, and Four Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, situated and fronting the Flash Road, Oldbury Green, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Monday, November 5, 1866, at Mr. John Green’s, the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury, at Six o’clock in the evening (by order of the Trustees of the late *George Sambrook*), in one or more Lots, as may be determined upon at the time of Sale.

All those Freehold New Licensed Inn, Two Front Shops, Four Dwelling Houses and Premises, in the respective occupations of *Thomas Whyman*, James Willis, John Heyward, William Gilbert, Thomas Keyo, George Parrott, and Arthur Newman, and produces at the very low rental in the whole £76 8s per annum.

The New Licensed Inn contains Front Tap Room, Sitting Room, Cooking and Servants’ Kitchen and Brew-house, large Club Room, Three Bed Rooms, Malt and Hop Room, Two Cellars, Stabling and Gig House, and large Yard.

The whole are newly and most substantially built, with soft water Cisterns, and Pumps of beautiful and never-failing supply of hard and soft water.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Hayes and Wright, Solicitors; or the Auctioneer and Surveyor, all of Oldbury.”

*Thomas Keyes* = Thomas Keys

*Thomas Keyes*, beer retailer, Flash Road. [1870]

### 1871 Census

#### Flash Road – NAGS HEAD

- [1] *Thomas Keys* (38), carpenter and publican, born Tewkesbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Keys (31), wife, born Clay Cross, Derbyshire;
- [3] George W. Keys (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] Thomas Keys (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] William Keys (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Albert Keys (1 month), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] William Keys (29), brother, carpenter, born Worcestershire:

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/11/1871 - Advert

“Public Apology.

I, Jane Arrowsmith, of the Flash Road, Oldbury, Widow, having, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November instant, made certain Slanderous and Defamatory Charges affecting the character of Mrs. *Thomas Keyes*, of the Flash Road, Oldbury aforesaid, I hereby beg to retract all such imputations, which I acknowledge to be entirely false; and in consideration of Mrs. *Keyes* kindly foregoing legal proceedings against me, I agree to pay the costs of my making this Apology, and promise not to annoy Mrs. *Keyes* in future.

As witness my hand, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1871.

X The mark of Jane Arrowsmith.

Witness – E. Hollins, Clerk with Mr. Wright, Solicitor, Oldbury.”

County Express 13/11/1880 - Advert

“Freehold Excellent Inn and Dwelling Houses. The Flash, Oldbury.

Mr. S. Insull will Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1880, by the direction of the Mortgagee, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at Six o’clock in the evening, in one lot.

All that Retail Tavern called the NAGS HEAD, situate in Flash Road, Oldbury, now occupied by Mr. *Thomas Keys*, jun., together with six Houses adjoining thereto, in the occupation of Messrs. Bagnal, Cooper, Hayward, Lancaster, Keys, and Jukes, and producing an annual rental of £75.

The area of the property is 734 yards or thereabouts.

The Mines are not reserved.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or to Messrs. Homfray and Holberton, Solicitors, Brierley Hill; or to Mr. W. Shakespeare, Solicitor, Oldbury.”

1881 Census

2, Flash Road

[1] *Joseph Round* (39), fitter and beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;

[2] *Maria Round* (25), wife, born Netherton;

[3] *Philis S. Turner* (14), servant, born Walsall:

West Bromwich Weekly News 3/9/1881

“*Mary Heath* was charged with using threats towards Mrs. *Round*, landlady of the NAGS HEAD INN, Flash Road, on the 10<sup>th</sup> ult.

Defendant: I have not spoke to her.

The Clerk: Will you keep your tongue quiet?

Defendant: Yes sir; give me an order to go to the Workhouse.

Mr. Avery: You will be bound over to keep the peace, or one month in default.

Defendant: I can do with the month. Give me six months; I have no money.

Mr. Avery: Take the silly old woman away.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1883

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday.....

*John Harvey*, coach-trimmer, was fined £2 0s 6d, including costs, for being drunk on the licensed premises of *Joseph Round*, of the NAGS HEAD INN, and refusing to quit the same, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1882, and being disorderly in the Flash Road, on the same date.”

London Gazette 7/12/1883

“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 *Joseph Round*, of the NAGS HEAD Beerhouse, situate in Flash-road, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Beer-house Keeper and Iron Driller.

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. Thomas Richard Bonser, Solicitor, No.23, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1883, at three o’clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1883.

Thos. R. Bonser, 23, Church-street, Oldbury, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

*James Lines Snr.* – see also ASH TREE, Broadwell Street, and CRYSTAL PALACE.

Birmingham Mail 28/1/1890

“*Joseph Bird*, hairdresser, of Flash Road, Oldbury, was charged with unlawfully wounding *Samuel Mansfield*, sheet-glass cutter, of Green Street, Oldbury, on the 15<sup>th</sup> instant.

Prosecutor said that on the date in question he was at the NAGS HEAD INN, Flash Road, about half-past eight, and after having been there half an hour the prisoner entered. Witness had three half-pints of ale, and

remained at the house until close on 11 o'clock. Defendant was standing by the door with a quart jug in his hand. Witness passed him, and in doing so asked him to give him a drink. Defendant replied, 'Do you want some?' Witness rejoined that he would like a drop. Defendant thereupon dealt him a blow with the jug on the side of the head and face, smashing the jug. Witness became unconscious after the blow. He was conveyed to the doctor's, where his wounds were dressed. He lost a large quantity of blood.

Defendant: What were you doing at 9.30? Were you not playing at cards?

Witness: Yes; we had been playing at whist.

Dr. Lyddon said the prosecutor was brought to his surgery suffering from a wound on the left side of his neck, about six inches long, and also a wound on the left ear. He regarded the case as being a critical one, as erysipelas set in on the third day.

Defendant said the quarrel arose out of a game at cards. He was playing for a quart of ale and 5d, and his partner was playing for the same amount. The prosecutor wanted some of his ale, and because he would not give him some prosecutor struck him a blow, and he then retaliated by striking him with the jug.

Police-constable Buggins, recalled, said both parties were the worse for beer.

The Bench reduced the charge to one of assault, and fined defendant 20s and costs."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1890

"*James Lines*, landlord of the NAGS HEAD INN, Flash Road, Oldbury, was charged with permitting gambling on his licensed premises on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst [sic]. Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended.

Joseph Bird, who figured as the defendant in an assault case which arose at the house kept by *Lines*, stated that on the date mentioned he visited the NAGS HEAD INN, where he saw three or four men playing at 'crib,' in which he joined. Witness lost two quarts of ale whilst he was playing. He afterwards played with the defendant for another quart of ale, but lost. They were playing from about half-past nine until a quarter to eleven o'clock.

Samuel Mansfield, who was the complainant in the case referred to above, corroborated.

Police-constable Buggins said that on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult the defendant met him in New Street and said he should plead guilty to playing for beer, but not for money.

The defendant denied the statements for the prosecution.

The Bench imposed a fine of £1 16s, including costs."

#### 1891 Census

6, Flash Road – NAGS HEAD

[1] *James Lines* (28), beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;

[2] *Hannah Lines* (28), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Lavinia Taylor* (19), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[4] *Lucy Taylor* (11), visitor, scholar, born Oldbury:

*James Lines Jnr*, beer retailer and brewer. [1896]

*Hannah Lines* died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1896.

*James Lines Jnr*. was fined 20s and 29s costs, on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1897, for permitting drunkenness.

He was fined 20s and 49s 6d costs, on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1907, for the same offence.

#### Sporting Life 8/12/1900

"Mr. Howard Wilkinson, of Oldbury, near Birmingham, hearing that two gentlemen, of Oldbury, wish to match their mokes to trot his donkey, Mr. Wilkinson wishes to inform them that he will match his donkey to trot either of the gentlemen's mokes under the following conditions. Both donkeys to measure inside 12 hands, to trot two, three, and five miles, at the Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, for £10 or £25 a side. The *Sporting Life* to be stakeholder, and appoint referee. Mr. Wilkinson will meet either gentleman at Mr. Gibbs' BROWN LION HOTEL, Oldbury, or at Mr. *Lines*' NAGS HEAD HOTEL, Oldbury, tonight (Saturday) prepared to make a match."

### 1901 Census

6, Flash Road – NAGS HEAD INN

- [1] *James Lines* (38), beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Annie Lines* (27), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Dorothy Lines* (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Gladys Lines* (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Edith Morris* (11), adopted daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Joseph Matthews* (56), boarder, brewer, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Jane Felton* (32), domestic servant, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Ruth Murray* (16), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

### Smethwick Weekly News 27/4/1901 - Advert

“General Wanted, about 24, plain cooking, another one kept.  
NAGS HEAD, Flash Road, Oldbury.”

Court ‘Wat Tyler’ (A.O.F.) met here. [1903]

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1910

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury division were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding over the magistrates. The principal business was the consideration of six licences which the magistrates proposed to refer to the Quarter Sessions for compensation on the ground of redundancy. The houses in question were the CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street; BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street; ROYAL OAK, Park Lane; NAGS HEAD, Flash Road; HOPE AND ANCHOR, Halesowen Street; and BOAT INN, Tat Bank.....

Mr. Albright then announced that the magistrates had decided to refer only four licenses to the Quarter Sessions at Worcester this year instead of six as originally proposed. They would therefore renew the licenses of the BIRD IN HAND and ROYAL OAK.....

Respecting the NAGS HEAD, of which the licensee was *James Lines* and the owners Messrs. J. A. and A. Thompson, Superintendent Hill said the present tenant had been there for twenty years, there being one conviction against the house for an offence in 1907.

Mr. Jones remarked that in the immediate district there was one house for every thirty persons and one licence in every thirty-five square yards. Within an area of 500 square yards there were twenty-two alehouses and two beerhouses on, while within a radius of 200 yards there were eleven licensed houses.....

All four houses were referred to the Quarter Sessions.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority.

The renewal was refused on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1910.

### Alcester Chronicle 9/7/1910

“Worcestershire Licencing Committee sat at the Guildhall, Worcester, on Saturday, to consider the fourteen houses referred to them as compensation authority by the several local benches.....

Of the houses reported, the following did not oppose extinction of their licenses.....

NAGS HEAD, Flush Road, Oldbury.”

### Evesham Standard 10/12/1910

“Worcestershire Licensing Committee. Determining Compensation Claims.

A supplemental meeting of this Committee was held on Saturday at the Shirehall.....

The special purpose of the meeting was for the purpose of determining the amount of compensation to be paid for the extinction of licenses. Fourteen such licenses had been reported by the justices to the Committee, and the Committee had already decided to renew one. The amounts claimed in respect of the other thirteen were.....

NAGS HEAD, Flash Road, Oldbury, £3,166.....

The Committee took evidence in support of the claims calculated on the capitalised loss of trade, the capital-



ised loss in the value of the premises by the extinction of the license, and the loss on the sale of fittings.....  
In the case of the NAGS HEAD, Oldbury, Mr. Hayes adduced evidence that the average trade had been 712 barrels per annum, apart from bottled goods. The total capitalised trade profits would be £2,895. The rent was £22 a year, but there was a tie for malt and hops, which was worth £40 a year to the owner.....  
The Committee then announced the following awards.....  
NAGS HEAD, Oldbury, £2,213.”

#### Alcester Chronicle 14/1/1911

“An adjourned meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday.....

At the meeting of the committee in December six claims for compensation were heard, and awards were made. The committee now settled the shares to be paid to the parties as follows.....

NAGS HEAD, Oldbury, £2,213 awarded, £1,531 10s mortgagee, £254 second mortgagee, £427 10s licensee, nothing to the registered owners or the trustees for the benefit of the latter’s creditors.”

#### 1911 Census

6, Flash Road – NAGS HEAD INN

- [1] *James Lines* (48), beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Lines* (37), wife, married 14 years, assisting in business, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Dolly Lines* (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Gladys Lines* (11), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Madge Lines* (6), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Joseph Mathews* (67), boarder, brewer, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Jane Felton* (43), domestic servant, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Susan Bates* (15), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1912

“At Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday Superintendent Davis presented his report.....

The licenses of the following four houses were entered for compensation in 1910, and were refused renewal, but the compensation money not having been paid yet the houses were not closed ..... NAGS HEAD.....

Mr. Albright said that there seemed little doubt that all the arrears of compensation would be cleared off in the present year, and the houses closed, although the amount of money available now would be considerably decreased by the absorption of a large portion of the county in Greater Birmingham.”

#### Bromsgrove Messenger 9/3/1912

“A meeting of the Worcestershire County Licensing Committee was held at the Shirehall, Worcester, on Saturday afternoon.....

The following amounts, which had previously been awarded, were now ordered to be paid on March 29<sup>th</sup>.....  
NAGS HEAD, Flash Road, Oldbury, £2,213 (including £427 10s for licensee).”

Compensation was paid on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1912.

The license was extinguished on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1912.

#### County Express 24/8/1912 - Advert

“Sale by Auction of the Brewing Plant & Household Furniture, at the NAGS HEAD, Flash Road, Oldbury.  
By Messrs. Jones, Son & Vernon, FAI, on Tuesday Next, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1912.

The Five-pull Beer Machine, the Four New Fermenting Vessels, Mash Tub, Boilers, etc; also the Household Furniture and Effects,

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock prompt.

Auctioneers’ Offices: Oldbury and Smethwick.”

## NAVIGATION

29, (1), Engine Street, (Navigation Street), (Popes Lane), (Trinity Street), Tat Bank, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

John Faulkner  
Henry Withers, Causeway Green, Oldbury  
William Withers, Causeway Green, Oldbury  
Mrs. Withers, Ashes Road, Causeway Green, Oldbury  
Ansells Ltd.

## LICENSEES

John Faulkner [1851] – [1855]  
Walter Pearce [1861]  
Thomas Fanthom [1864] – [1865]  
Walter Pearce [1870] – [1873]  
John Hadley [1874]  
William Carpenter [1880] – [1882]  
Mrs. Mary Carpenter [1884] – **1885**;  
Henry Jerrams (**1885 – 1886**);  
George Element (**1886 – 1887**);  
David Slade (**1887 – 1888**);  
William Whitehouse (**1888 – 1889**);  
Arthur Barrett (**1889 – 1890**);  
Charles Humphries (**1890**);  
Thomas Crofts Rogers (**1890 – 1892**);  
William Clarke (**1892**);  
Edward John Baker (**1892 – 1897**);  
John Prince (**1897** – [1901];  
Ann Prince [ ] – **1903**);  
Levi Gough Harrison (**1903 – 1908**);  
Herbert Wyatt (**1908 – 1910**);

## NOTES

1, Engine Street [1873], [1881]  
29, Engine Street [1891], [1896], [1901]

It stood close to the Engine Street Bridge over the Titford Canal.

## 1851 Census

Tat Bank  
[1] *John Faulkner* (44), publican, born Oldbury;  
[2] Sarah Faulkner (39), wife, born Rowley Regis;  
[3] Sarah Faulkner (70), mother, widow, formerly laundress, born Smethwick;  
[4] Emma Skidmore (14), house servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Journal 9/8/1851

“The Consequences of a ‘Lark’ at a Public House.

An inquest was held at Mr. *John Faulkner*’s, the NAVIGATION INN, on Wednesday last, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of Samuel Howe, who had been found in the canal near Titford, the same morning, by one of the Canal Company’s men, named John Warwick. It appeared that the unfortunate man was drinking at the WINDSOR CASTLE, on Saturday night, and while asleep, some meat was taken from his basket, and two pounds of candles, the property of the landlord, substituted in its place. The candles being missed in about two hours after he left the house, the police traced them to deceased’s house, and they were found on Sunday morning. He was quite tipsy when he left the house, and knew nothing about the candles, but having been employed at the Brades Works for many years, Messrs. Hunt discharged him, as soon as they heard of what had occurred. This seemed to prey upon his mind, and for several days he was under such depression of spirits that no doubt existed but he had committed self-destruction. However, an open verdict of Found Drowned was returned. He had hitherto born an excellent character; a wife and five children are left unprovided for.”

*John Faulkner*, victualler and shopkeeper, NAVIGATION, Trinity Street. [1855]

#### 1861 Census

Popes Lane – NAVIGATION INN

[1] *Walter Pearce* (30), stock taker and inn keeper, born Sedgley;

[2] Sarah Pearce (46), wife, born Tividale;

[3] Ann Turner (11), visitor, born North Wales:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 7/5/1870 - Advert

“Oldbury. Sale of a Capital Inn and Freehold Houses.

Messrs. Egginton and Preston have received instructions from the Trustees under the Will of the late Mr. John Faulkner, to Sell by Auction, at the NAVIGATION INN, Popes Lane, Oldbury, on Tuesday Evening, May 17, at Eight o’clock to the minute.

A valuable and commodious Inn, capitally situated (close to the Locks) at Popes Lane, Oldbury, in the occupation of Mr. *Walter Pearce*, known as the NAVIGATION INN; also, Five Freehold Houses, adjoining the above, in the occupation of Messrs. T. Parkes, J. Parkes, Holloway, Grigg, and Compton, as weekly tenants, and producing an annual rent of about £35.

The Properties may be viewed by permission of the respective tenants.

Particulars of sale may be obtained on application to Messrs. E. and A. Caddick, Solicitors, New Street, West Bromwich; at the Place of Sale; and free by post of Messrs. Egginton and Preston, Auctioneers, Valuers, and Estate Agents, 13, Friar Street, Reading, Berks.”

#### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 1/10/1870 - Advert

“Dog Kennel Lane, Langley; and Langley Green, near Oldbury, Worcestershire.

Eligible Freehold Property For Sale.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Charles Wootton, at the House of Mr. *Walter Pearce*, the NAVIGATION INN (near the Locks), Popes Lane, Oldbury, on Monday Next.....”

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 9/11/1870 - Advert

“Oldbury, Worcestershire.

Messrs. Joseph Cooksey and Son have received instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. John Faulkner, to Sell by Auction, at the NAVIGATION INN, Engine Street, Popes Lane, Oldbury, on Monday, the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November inst, at Six for Seven o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced, in one Lot.

All that valuable and commodious Old-licensed Inn, known as the NAVIGATION INN, with the Brewhouses, Stable Yard, and Out-buildings thereto situated, fronting Engine Street, Popes Lane, (near the locks), Oldbury, in the occupation of Mr. Arthur [sic] *Pearce*. Also, Five Freehold Dwelling Houses, with Yard and Out-buildings, adjoining the above Inn, in the several occupations of Thomas Parkes, James Parkes, George Holloway, John Grigg, and another, the estimated value of the whole being £55 per annum.

The Property is well supplied with water.

Further particulars may be had by applying to Messrs. E. and A. Caddick, Solicitors, New Street; or to the Auctioneers, Paradise Street, West Bromwich.”

#### 1871 Census

Engine Street – NAVIGATION INN

- [1] *Walter Pearce* (40), victualler, born Coseley;
- [2] *Susannah Pearce* (31), wife, born Harts Hill;
- [3] *Elizabeth Miles* (19), general servant, born Kates Hill:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/7/1874 - Advert

“Oldbury, Worcestershire. Valuable Freehold Properties for Sale.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Bent, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday Next.....

Lot 4. All that Freehold Old-established Licensed Public House, with the Brewhouse, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto, called the NAVIGATION INN; and also all those Four Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with the Wash-houses, Yards, and Appurtenances belonging thereto, the whole having a frontage of thirty-six yards to Navigation Street, and covering an area of 500 square yards of Land, situate near the Canal Locks, at Tat Bank, Oldbury aforesaid. The Public House is in the occupation of Mr. *John Hadley*, under a repairing lease for five years, and the other Houses are in private tenure, and the whole produces the annual rental of £56 0s 8d.

There is a good supply of water, the gas is laid on, and the property is in good repair. The Public House is in close proximity to the Canal Locks; it is very commodious, and has done a good business for many years.”

#### 1881 Census

1, Engine Street

- [1] *William Carpenter* (62), licensed victualler, born Bromsgrove;
- [2] *Mary Carpenter* (52), wife, born Bromsgrove;
- [3] *Alice Hattwood* (19), domestic servant, born Quarry Bank:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/5/1882

“At Oldbury Police Court, on Monday, *William Carpenter*, landlord of the NAVIGATION INN, Tat Bank, was summoned for keeping his house open during illegal hours on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult. Defendant was fined £2 and costs, and the license ordered to be endorsed.”

*Charles Humphries* – see also FRENCH HORN.

*Thomas Crofts Rogers* = Thomas Croft Rogers

#### 1891 Census

29, Engine Street – Public

- [1] *Thomas C. Rogers* (35), married, licensed victualler, born Quinton, Gloucestershire;
- [2] *Horace C. Rogers* (13), son, scholar, born Evesham;
- [3] *Louisa N. Rogers* (11), daughter, scholar, born Evesham;
- [4] *Maud M. Rogers* (6), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1892

“The magisterial investigation into the circumstances attending the death of John Willie Barrett (9), of Anchor Yard, Deepfields, whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal at Deepfields on the 8<sup>th</sup> January, was resumed at Bilston Police Court, yesterday, when Richard Williams (27), of 34, Lower Chapel Street, Tividale, and Jeremiah Edwards (24), Engine Street, Tat Bank, Oldbury, two boatman, were again charged on remand with the wilful murder of the boy, and further with stealing a coat, cap, and can, the property of the boy’s father. Mr. R. A. Willcock conducted the case for the Public Prosecutor, and Mr. J. Clark defended. Mr. Willcock, in opening the case, stated that on January 6 the deceased was sent with his father’s breakfast

to Sir Alfred Hickman's Spring Vale Works. He was seen by a man named Fellows returning home along the canal side near the Ten Score Bridge. He was then wearing a blue pilot-overcoat and cap. It was a bitterly cold day, and it was not likely that he would take the coat off himself, as it fitted very tightly and he was unable to unbutton it without assistance. It was then about nine o'clock in the morning, and from that time the lad was not seen alive. The canal was dragged, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> January his body was found within one hundred yards of the place where he was last seen by Mr. Fellows. It was then minus the coat and cap, and the breakfast utensils, and a can and saucer were also missing.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> January the two prisoners were in charge of a boat belonging to Messrs. Chance, of the Alkali Works, Oldbury, which was proceeding to Wolverhampton, and they were near the place where the deceased was last seen alive. On the evening of the same day Edwards entered the NAVIGATION INN at Tat Bank, Oldbury, and remarked that he and his mate had had a good day, as they had found a lad's coat and cap in the canal at Deepfields, but they had hurried on for fear of being 'collared.'

An inquest was held on the body, and when Edwards went to the NAVIGATION INN again he was advised to give the articles up which he had found. He then made no reply. An advertisement describing the articles was subsequently inserted in an evening newspaper, and Edwards, on visiting the NAVIGATION INN, was once more advised to give up the things he had found, but he replied, 'If they want the things they must fetch them.' The prisoners were afterwards questioned by the police, and they then stated that they found the things in the canal, and as they feared to attend the inquest they sank the coat in the canal near Holcroft's works at Tividale. The coat had since been recovered at the place described by the prisoners.

Witnesses were then called.

John Barrett, the father of the boy, deposed to the deceased bringing his breakfast on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> January. He started to return home about ten minutes to nine o'clock, and was then wearing a tight-fitting overcoat, which he was unable to put on or take off himself. As the boy did not return home witness had the canal dragged, and the body was found two days later. The coat, cap, and breakfast utensils were then missing.

Enoch Fellows, of 10, Broad Lanes, Bilston, deposed that he was working on a pit bank, near the Ten Score Bridge, on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> January, and saw the deceased returning home. He was then wearing the coat and cap, and carrying the breakfast things.

Evidence having been given that the prisoners went with a boat to Wolverhampton on the day the boy was lost, and returned to Oldbury the same night, Hannah Tolley, the wife of a boatman, living by the canal side at Whimsey Bridge, Oldbury, stated that on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, she saw a boat passing her house. Edwards, who was steering, threw a cap to her, and said it would do for her boy Willie. The boy came up at the time, and he picked up the cap and wore it for some time, but lost it when he fell into a pool. A fortnight afterwards Edwards called to see her, and asked for the cap he had given her for Willie. Witness told him that it was lost, and asked him what was the matter. In reply, he said, 'They are after me about an old hat.' Cross-examined: He did not say where he found the cap.

Eliza Lloyd, a neighbour of the last witness, deposed to seeing Edwards give her the cap, and repeated the conversation which followed. Edwards said he had found the cap, and a topcoat, handkerchief, and saucer in the canal, but he did not state where.

Willie Edwards, the step-son of Mrs. Tolley, also spoke to Edwards giving his mother the cap, on which were the letters 'Play up.'

*Thomas Croft Rogers*, of the NAVIGATION INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury, stated that on the night of the 6<sup>th</sup> January the prisoner entered his house and said he and his mate had had a good day, as they had found a boy's overcoat and cap in the canal at Deepfields. Witness asked him if he had reported the matter to the police, and he said he had not. He wished to do so, but his mate would not agree to the information being given. Edwards also said that when they found the things he shouted to some men who were working on a wharf near by and asked them if they had heard of anyone losing an overcoat, and they said 'No.' When they were returning they hurried through the 'stop' for fear they might be collared. Edwards also added that his mate had given him a shilling for his share of the overcoat, and he also had the tins and cap. On the 18<sup>th</sup> January, after the inquest on the boy, witness again advised Edwards to give the articles he had found to the police. He made no reply then, but when witness spoke to him again on the subject, after the missing articles had been advertised for, Edwards said, 'If they want the things they must fetch them.'

Benjamin Flowers said that on the 6<sup>th</sup> January he was working at a coalpit belonging to Sir Alfred Hickman,

near the Ten Score Bridge. He saw a boat passing, and a boatman asked if he had seen a lad on the canal side taking 'snapping' anywhere, and added that he had found a can and cup.

Sergeant Ellis, of Coseley, stated that on Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, in company with Police-constable Bayliss, he confronted the prisoner Edwards, and the latter in reply to questions, denied that he had been out in the direction of Wolverhampton with a boat for two months, as he worked about the dock, and he further stated that he knew nothing about any boatman finding a coat or anything else on the canal side. Subsequently he (witness) had a conversation with Mrs. Tolley and her son, and in consequence of the statements made he again saw Edwards, when he admitted finding the cap on the canal as he was going to Wolverhampton, but denied having seen a boy on the canal side at Deepfields. He added that he had heard the newspaper account of the inquest read, but he knew nothing more of the affair.

Inspector Bishop repeated the evidence he gave at a former hearing; and John James, a dredger, in the employ of the Birmingham Canal Company, having spoken to fishing the boy's coat out of the canal near the place Edwards said it had been sunk, the Bench intimated that the prisoners would be committed for trial. Mr. Clark asked for bail, as he said there was no doubt the charge of murder would break down, but it was pointed out to him that bail was never granted in the case where a person was charged with murder."

#### Gloucester Citizen 6/4/1892

"At the Staffordshire Assizes on Tuesday, Mr. Justice Hawkins passed sentence of six months' hard labour upon Jeremiah Edwards, labourer, and Richard Williams, boatman, who, after being acquitted of the murder of the little boy named Barrett, at Sedgley, on January 6<sup>th</sup>, had pleaded guilty to stealing some of the deceased boy's clothes."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1892

"Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest concerning the death of John Davis (57), boatman, of Arden Grove, Langley, who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal on Sunday afternoon. It appeared that on Saturday night deceased visited the NAVIGATION INN at Tat Bank and asked to be supplied with beer, but the landlord, seeing that he had already had too much beer, declined to supply him. After leaving deceased was not seen alive again. Dr. Buttery said death was caused by drowning. As there was no evidence to show how deceased got into the water, the jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned."

#### 1901 Census

29, Engine Street

[1] *John Prince* (49), tavern keeper, born Claycross, Derbyshire;

[2] *Ann Prince* (52), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Florence Taylor* (19), niece, domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

#### Smethwick Telephone 18/8/1906 - Advert

"Important Sale by Auction of Free Freehold Full-Licensed House and Premises, Oldbury, and Valuable Freehold Residences, Dwelling Houses, and Premises, Oldbury, Langley, and West Bromwich.

By Messrs. Jones, Son, and Vernon, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1906, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock pm prompt, subject to conditions of sale which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

Lot 1. All that valuable and important Free Freehold Full-Licensed House and Premises, known as the NAVIGATION INN, Engine Street, Tat Bank, Oldbury. The house contains through hall, tap-room with bay window, bar, smoke-room with bay window, sitting-room with bay window, large club-room, two good bedrooms, and capital cellar with rolling ways. Outside are Wash-house, Two-Storey Brewery, Good Stabling, and the usual outbuildings.

This is a well-built double-fronted house, in good repair, having a long frontage to Engine Street, from which there is a short cut leading to the Five Ways, Langley.

The House is within a stone's throw of two of the largest works in Oldbury, and abuts in the rear on to the Canal Locks, to which it has access (for which a nominal rental of 30s per annum is paid). This is a Well-known and Popular House doing a Good, Steady, and Respectable Trade. The premises are at present let on lease expiring December 24<sup>th</sup> next, at a rental of £30 per annum....."

*Levi Gough Harrison* – see also ASH TREE, Broadwell Road, and BOAT, Tat Bank.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

NAVIGATION INN.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation.....

NAVIGATION INN, alehouse, Engine Street, Tat Bank, owner Messrs. Ansell Limited.....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee’s investigations.....”

The license was refused on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1909.

Evesham Standard 10/7/1909

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee sat on Saturday to continue consideration of the 25 licenses which had been referred to them as the compensation authority by the local justices.....

In the case of the NAVIGATION INN, Engine Street, Tat Bank, Oldbury, Mr. Shakespeare, for the justices, to support the reference on the ground of redundancy, and Mr. Turnell (Messrs. Anson and Ashford) intimated that the owners and occupiers did not object to the house being closed, subject to compensation.”

Evesham Standard 18/12/1909

“Compensation for Licenses. Worcestershire Committee ..... NAVIGATION INN, Oldbury.

Mr. Rooker, Birmingham, gave particulars as to sales, etc. The value was £540 as licensed premises, and £104 as unlicensed. Mr. Turnell (Ansell and Ashford, Birmingham) conducted the claimant’s case. The Committee allowed £903, against £1,272 claimed.”

Compensation was paid on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1910.

The license was extinguished on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1910.

It was converted into three houses.

**NAVIGATION**

156, (104), Titford Road, (Titford Lane), Langley Green, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Mrs. Parkes, Titford Road, Oldbury  
Emma Harris, Warley  
Charles Etheridge  
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (acquired c.1905)  
Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired c.1936)  
Ansells Ltd. (acquired in 1960)

## LICENSEES

William Maskell [1844]  
James Jones [1845] – **1851**);  
William Machin (**1851 – 1852**);  
Henry Franks (**1852 – [1854]**)  
Joseph Dawes [ ] – **1857**);  
James Waterhouse (**1857 – [1862]**)  
Henry Tompkins [1864] – [1865]  
John Harris [ ] – **1868**);  
Matthias Matthews (**1868**);  
Levi Allen (**1868 – 1872**);  
Thomas Collins (**1872 – [ ]**)  
Edmund Collins [1873]  
**John Evans [ ]**  
Mrs. Sarah Holden [1880] – [1881]  
Thomas Farrington [1883]  
William Comley [1884] – **1894**);  
Charles Etheridge (**1894 – 1906**);  
William Henry Shilton (**1906 – 1910**);  
John Warner (**1910 – 1912**);  
Albert Edward Darby (**1912 – 1918**);  
Albert Edward Cotterill (**1918 – 1921**);  
Thomas Horton (**1921 – 1923**);  
William Griffin (**1923 – 1944**):

## NOTES

Titford Lane [1845], [1850], [1871]  
104, Titford Road [1892], [1896]  
156, Titford Road [1901], [1912], [1916]

Local miners were paid here.

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/3/1844 - Advert

“Sale by Auction at the NAVIGATION INN, Tilford Lane, near the Bridge and Oldbury.  
To be Sold by Auction, by Septimus Davis, on Wednesday next the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, on the premises as above, the property of Mr. *Wm. Maskell*, who is declining the public business.  
All the neat Household Furniture, excellent Brewing Vessels, Ale Barrels, Ale, Spirits, and capital Fixtures, 130 and 50-gallon casks, Iron Boilers, with a variety of other Effects; about 140 lots.



The above excellent Goods and Brewing Vessels are nearly new.  
Sale to commence at eleven o'clock."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/4/1844 - Advert

"To be Let, and entered upon immediately, a convenient Public House, called the NAVIGATION INN, adjoining the Tetford Canal, and fronting to the road leading from Oldbury to Hales Owen. Five or Six Acres of Land may be had if required. Apply to Mr. Haywood, Tetford Lane, near Oldbury."

*James Jones* was also a blacksmith. [1845], [1850]

Birmingham Journal 4/1/1851 - Advert

"Titford Lane Bridge, near Oldbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, an Old Licensed Public House, the NAVIGATION INN, the only Old Licensed House in the place, and is contiguous to the Canal, and surrounded by eight or ten pair of Coal Pits, and close to Mr. Brookes's extensive Brick Yard. The house is very convenient, having Front Parlour and Front Tap-room, Bar, and Back Kitchen, three Chambers, two Brewhouses, two Ale Cellars, Liquor Cellar, good Yard and Stabling, and a good supply of hard and soft Water. The coming-in will be about £140. The present Tenant is giving up the business on account of other engagements. The House is low-rented, is doing an extensive business, and an enterprising man will find this an opportunity rarely to be met with. For particulars, and to treat, apply on the Premises; or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill."

1851 Census

Titford

- [1] *William Machin* (25), innkeeper, born Dudley;
- [2] *Sarah Machin* (20), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Jane Machin* (10 months), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Eliza Smith* (13), visitor, scholar, born Bilston;
- [5] *Hannah Barnett* (18), house servant, born Kings Norton:

Birmingham Journal 27/11/1852 - Advert

"To Boatmen and Others.

To be Sold by Private Contract, an excellent Oak Cabin Boat, perfectly dry, with Cloths, Planks, Stands, &c, ready for working.  
For particulars, and to see the Boat, enquire of Mr. *Henry Franks*, NAVIGATION INN, Titford, Oldbury."

Worcester Journal 3/11/1860

"At the Halesowen Petty Sessions, on Tuesday last, Thomas Stevington, a returned convict, was brought up, having been apprehended at a stone-pit in Oldbury. He was charged with obtaining goods under false pretences from *James Waterhouse*, of Titford....."

Worcestershire Chronicle 9/1/1861

"Worcestershire Epiphany Sessions.....

Thomas Steventon, 29, was charged with having stolen £9, a telescope, and a silver-plated watch guard, the property of Peter Flavell, from the dwelling house of Major Flavell, at Northfield. Mr. Streeten appeared for the prosecution, and the prisoner was undefended.

The offence was committed so long ago as the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, 1852, since which time prisoner has been transported for other offences subsequently committed ..... Having undergone his sentence of transportation for other offences, he returned to Oldbury, where he was apprehended in October last. He then stated that the governor (meaning, as we understand, the governor of Portland Prison) had told him that he was not liable to punishment for any offence committed before his transportation. The court, however, were of a different opinion, and the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

Mr. Streeten said that there was another charge against the prisoner for having, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June last, at

Oldbury, obtained from Hannah *Waterhouse*, by false pretences, twelve quarts of ale and a quantity of bread and cheese, the property of *James Waterhouse*. No evidence was offered on that charge, on which prisoner was therefore acquitted.

For the first offence he was sentenced to four years' penal servitude."

#### 1861 Census

Titford

[1] *James Waterhouse* (56), coal miner, born Oldbury;

[2] *Hannah Waterhouse* (56), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Eliza Waterhouse* (10), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### County Express 8/8/1868

"The following persons were fined for keeping open their houses for the sale of beer during prohibited hours.....

*Matthias Matthews*, NAVIGATION INN, Titford, 2s 6d and costs (refusing admittance to the police)."

#### 1871 Census

Titford Lane

[1] *Levi Allen* (35), brick burner, born Wordsley;

[2] *Emma Allen* (33), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *Levi Allen* (15), son, labourer, born Oldbury;

[4] *Joseph Allen* (12), son, born Oldbury;

[5] *Emma Allen* (7), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] *Eliza Allen* (2 months), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Dudley Guardian 22/8/1874

"On Monday, Mr. Ralph Docker, coroner, resumed the inquiry at the NAVIGATION INN, Titford, touching the death of the five colliers who died from injuries received in the explosion at Titford Long Meadow Colliery, White Heath Gate, near Oldbury.

The accident occurred shortly before ten o'clock on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult, at which time Mr. Joseph Hacket, proprietor of the pit, and ten miners were in the workings trying to quench 'fire stink' which had recently been discovered. The following men received injuries: John Dyas, Church Bridge; Abel Cook, Tat Bank; Joseph Roberts, Tat Bank; Richard Roberts (brother to the last named), Tat Bank; James Jackson, Church Bridge; Eli Wassall, Church Bridge; and William Morgan, Black Heath. Dyas died a few hours after the accident. The others, excepting Morgan and Wassall, who have now nearly recovered, died within the following week.

The inquest was opened on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult, and evidence as to identity having been given, the inquiry was adjourned till last Monday, in order that meanwhile the colliery might be examined by Mr. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines. The state of the pit, however, has not yet allowed the examination to be made. Immediately after the explosion, the mouth was scaffolded and covered with sand, with the view to stifle the fire then known to exist in the colliery.

In answer to the Coroner, Mr. Hacket said in consequence of fire-damp the examination had not yet been made. The pit had been opened that morning, but it was impossible to tell whether or not the fire was out. The pit might be ready for inspection in two or three days....."

[The inquest was adjourned.]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1874

"Yesterday, Mr. Ralph Docker, district coroner, resumed the enquiry at the NAVIGATION INN, Titford, with regard to the death of the five miners, caused by the explosion of gas several weeks ago at the Titford Long Meadow Colliery, belonging to Mr. Joseph Hacket.

Mr. J. P. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, attended, and explained that he had been unable to inspect the pit owing to its not being in a fit condition to allow an examination being made with safety.

Mr. Hacket, the owner, stated that he had not yet succeeded in extinguishing the fire in the mines, and the

workings were partially flooded with water, which they were now pumping out.

In the absence of evidence on the part of the mines inspector, the Coroner decided to adjourn the enquiry for a month.”

[The next hearing was held at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, which was again adjourned.]

#### Midland Counties Evening Express 28/11/1874

“Yesterday, an inquest was held at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, before Mr. R. Docker, touching the death of the five miners who were killed by an explosion at the White Heath Gate Colliery. It was shown that the unfortunate men were trying to extinguish a fire in the upper workings, when a blast of hot air was released and scorched seven of them, five of them dying from the burns they received. The pit could not be examined, as it was still on fire; but the jury, being satisfied that the occurrence was accidental, returned a verdict to that effect.”

#### Black Country Bugle 13/9/2007

##### ‘Readers uncover Oldbury family’s brewing history.’

“.....*John Evans* (b.1841) initially became a wheelwright and he married *Eliza Lenton* (b.1841) on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1862 at Dudley. They lived at Whiteheath Gate, near the corner of Throne Road and Oldbury Road and they had three children, *Joseph* (b.1866), *William* (b.1873) and *Ann Eliza* (b.1876). Later *John Evans* ran the NAVIGATION in Titford Lane and then the NEW INN in Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, establishing the Churchbridge Brewery in the 1890s. *John Evans* died under the surgeon’s knife on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1901, and his wife *Eliza* retired to live at Wyken, near Coventry.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 5/2/1881

“*Sarah Holden*, of the NAVIGATION INN, Titford, was summoned for keeping her house open during prohibited hours, on Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

PCs Bayliss and Smith deposed that they watched the defendant’s house for several hours on the day named. Between twelve o’clock noon and four pm they saw thirty or forty persons go into the house. Some of these people were seen by the officers drinking beer. When spoken to about it, the landlady said they were friends of theirs, and they had not paid for anything.

Mr. Shakespeare who appeared for the defence, called several witnesses to prove that the ale supplied was not paid for, but given to relations of the defendant’s who had been skating upon a pool close to.

The Bench said they did not consider that the sale was proved, but they thought it had been proved that the house was open during the day for the sale of liquor.

Defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

#### 1881 Census

Titford Road – Public House

[1] *Sarah Holden* (55), widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Edward Holden* (30), son, boatman, born Oldbury;

[3] *John Holden* (28), son, boatman, born Oldbury;

[4] *Thomas Holden* (26), son, boatman, born Oldbury;

[5] *Fereday Holden* (20), son, boatman, born Oldbury;

[6] *Martha Holden* (18), daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Mail 27/8/1883

“The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held this afternoon at the Police Court.....

Police Superintendent Hardman presented his report.....

Since the last meeting 12 licensed persons had been summoned and convicted for offences against their licenses ..... *Thomas Farrington*.....

The Bench decided that all the applications for renewals made by those prisoners who had been convicted during the year should be postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, with the exception of two whose conviction took place on licensing day last year and who were then called up and cautioned. The persons

whose renewals were refused would be required to attend and show reasons why their licenses should be renewed.”

#### Birmingham Mail 24/9/1883

“Today the adjourned Licensing Session for the Oldbury Division was held at the Court House.....

The persons whose names were included in the ‘black list’ presented by the superintendent of police at the annual meeting, and whose applications for renewals were consequently postponed, were called before the Bench to show cause why their licenses should be renewed.....

The license held by ..... *Thomas Farrington*, NAVIGATION INN, Litford [sic] Road ..... were all renewed, the applicants being cautioned by the presiding magistrate as to their future conduct.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 29/11/1884

“Oldbury Police Court. *William Comely*, NAVIGATION INN, Titford Road, publican, was summoned for permitting drunkenness to take place upon his licensed premises. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

PC Baylis stated that on the 10<sup>th</sup> instant, at about 9.45pm, he visited the NAVIGATION INN in company with Sergeant Stanton, and found a man named William Hadley asleep in the tap-room. After awakening him he went into the bar where he found a man named Hale causing a disturbance.

PS Stanton gave evidence corroborating.

Mr. Shakespeare said that with regard to Hadley, it was admitted that he was asleep. He had been in the house for an hour-and-a-half, and the defendant was engaged the whole of that time and he really did not know what took place in regard to him. With reference to the other man, he had witnesses to prove that he was drunk when he came into the house and was not supplied with any beer at all.

A fine of 10s and costs was inflicted in the case of Hadley, the other charge was dismissed.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 15/5/1886

“The following persons were, at the instance of Mr. J. W. Brookes, School Attendance Officer, summoned for refusing to comply with the Education Act ..... *William Comely*, Titford Road.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/4/1890

“At Oldbury, yesterday, *William Cowley* [sic], landlord of the NAVIGATION INN, Titford Road, Langley, was charged with cruelty, on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst, to a duck, the property of George Trainer, of Whiteheath.

It was alleged that defendant caught prosecutor’s duck on Titford Pool, which the former rents from the Birmingham Canal Company, and that he beat it with an oar several times, inflicting shocking injuries.

For the defence Mr. Sharpe said prosecutor had been requested to keep his ducks off the pool. On the day in question twelve or thirteen of the prosecutor’s ducks were found on the pool, and the defendant and others went to drive them off, and in doing so one of them was accidentally struck by a stone, and the defendant then got into a boat and struck the injured bird with the oar for the purpose of killing it.

Defendant was fined 15s 6d. Mr. Sharpe gave notice to appeal.”

#### 1891 Census

Titford Road – NAVIGATION INN

[1] *William Comley* (39), licensed victualler and agent, born Turley, Gloucestershire;

[2] *Mary Comley* (36), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Alice Comley* (17), daughter, dressmaker, born Oldbury;

[4] *William John Comley* (15), son, agent’s assistant, born Oldbury;

[5] *Georgina Comley* (14), daughter, barmaid, born Oldbury;

[6] *Mary Comley* (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] *Ernest Comley* (10), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[8] *Alexander Comley* (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[9] *Albert Comley* (2), son, born Langley:

#### Smethwick Telephone 30/4/1892 - Advert

“Sale of Highly Valuable and commandingly situated Freehold Full Licensed House and Premises known as

the NAVIGATION INN, Titford Road, Oldbury, Freehold Cottage and Gardens, Mill Lane, Langley Green, and Freehold Building Land, Langley Green Road, Langley Green.

Mr. Samuel Jones has received instructions to offer for Sale by Auction at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1892, at 6 o'clock prompt, subject to conditions of sale, which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, the above Attractive and Valuable Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. All that Important and commandingly situated Freehold Full Licensed House and Premises, together with the Mines and Minerals lying thereunder, situate and having an extensive frontage to Titford Road, Titford Bridge, Oldbury.

The House contains Private Sitting Room, Tap Room, Bar with Bay Windows, Kitchen, Three Bed Rooms, Four Cellars, Brewhouse, Stabling, Yard and Garden thereto belonging, and is in the occupation of Mr. *W. Comley*.

The above desirable Freehold Property offers an unusual advantage to Brewers, Private Buyers, or Investors to secure a Full Licensed House, with early possession, situated in the Immediate Neighbourhood of large and Important Works, and which by a small judicious outlay in extending the premises, business could no doubt be trebled. The Property has an extensive frontage to the Titford Road, and abuts on the Branch of the Birmingham Canal.....”

#### Smethwick Telephone 30/7/1892

“Remarkable Escape from Drowning.

On Thursday night, whilst on duty at Titford, Police-constable Davis was informed that a boy had fallen into the Birmingham Canal in that locality. The constable ran to the spot, but could not see the boy. A man named Edward Darby, of Oldbury Road, West Smethwick, was, however, in the water, searching for the boy, who had disappeared below the surface. Isaac Timmins, aged 15 years, of Titford, dived into the water, which at this point is very deep, and succeeded in bringing the boy up. He was in an exhausted condition, and appeared to be dead. Police-constable Davis resorted to artificial respiration, and in about 15 minutes the boy began to breathe. Dr. Sharpe was called in and afterwards the boy was removed to the NAVIGATION INN, Titford. His name is Leonard Wright, Mallin Street, West Smethwick, and he is nine years of age.”

*William Comley* – see also WHITEHEATH TAVERN, Rowley Regis.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/1/1895

“Yesterday, at the police Court, George Eales and Jacob Griffiths were each ordered to pay 10s 6d for being drunk on licensed premises, the former offence having been committed at the NAVIGATION INN, Titford Road, and the latter at the ENGINEERS ARMS INN, Stone Street.”

*Charles Etheridge* brewed his own beer.

He was fined 10s and 34s costs, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1897, for allowing drink to be consumed during closing hours.

#### Smethwick Weekly News 5/1/1901

“On Monday evening Mr. *C. Etheridge*, of the NAVIGATION INN, Titford Road, Langley gave a complimentary dinner, when forty sat down to a good substantial meal.

After the cloth had been withdrawn, Mr. J. Park occupied the chair, and an excellent concert took place.....”

#### 1901 Census

156, Titford Road – NAVIGATION INN

[1] *Charles Etheridge* (39), licensed victualler, born Halesowen;

[2] Elizabeth Etheridge (37), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] Richard W. E. Etheridge (12), son, born Langley;

[4] Rebecca Etheridge (15), daughter, born Halesowen;

[5] Lilly Etheridge (11), daughter, born Langley;

[6] Emma Etheridge (9), daughter, born Langley;

[7] Elizabeth M. Etheridge (4), daughter, born Langley;

[8] Richard W. Etheridge (30), brother, visitor, grocer's assistant, born Halesowen:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 7/6/1902

"An inquest was held on Monday morning by Mr. A. H. Hebbert (Deputy Coroner) at the NAVIGATION INN, Titford Road, Langley, respecting the death of Alfred Matthew Nash, aged (17), formerly residing in Titford Road, Langley, who died on Saturday last from the effects of injuries sustained whilst following his employment on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1899.

From the mother's evidence it appeared that deceased was employed at the Bell End Colliery, Rowley, as a horse driver. He fastened a horse to some tubs on the surface of the mine, and in consequence of the horse moving before he was ready Nash was crushed between one of the tubs and a wall. At the West Bromwich Hospital he was treated as an in-patient for 16 weeks. The medical testimony showed that death was a result of the injuries, and the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony."

#### Smethwick Weekly News 23/8/1902

"A very interesting dinner was held at the NAVIGATION INN, Titford, which was generously given by the landlord, Mr. *Charles Etheridge*. A splendid repast was on the table, and the guests, of which there would be 50, having had a substantial dinner, the cloths were cleared, and a musical evening followed....."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/9/1902

"At a smoking concert held last night at the NAVIGATION INN, Langley, under the presidency of Mr. W. G. Spratling, Mr. J. C. Tillotson, of Birmingham, presented the medals to the members of Langley St. Michael's Football Club, which were won by being runners-up in the Birmingham Junior League."

#### Smethwick Weekly News 13/12/1902

"An interesting point was raised in connection with an application made by *Charles Etheridge*, of the NAVIGATION INN, Langley, for a license to sell intoxicants on the ground of the Langley St. Michael's Football Club next Saturday.

Mr. W. Shakespeare (Clerk), addressing the applicant, said he understood that he took the ground in question himself, paid the rent, and then took his own beer to the enclosure to sell, so that he (applicant) was really the Football Club.

Applicant replied that the ground was his, but he rented it to the Football Club.

Mr. Shakespeare remarked that the Bench were not favourable to such arrangements. They did not care to grant a license to a publican who took or belonged to a football ground, and they preferred that the publican to whom such licenses was granted should be altogether distinct from the club.

Mr. Heaton said the matter was under the consideration of the justices, and probably some definite action would be taken in the direction indicated by Mr. Shakespeare. People must not be surprised if they ceased to grant licenses under such circumstances.

Mr. Shakespeare: It is not intended to grant licenses to men who own football grounds and run clubs for the purpose of selling intoxicants.

The license was granted."

#### Smethwick Telephone 28/10/1905 - Advert

"To Brewers, Maltsters, Publicans, and Others.

The NAVIGATION INN, Titford Road, Langley Green, near Oldbury, and Building Land, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.

Samuel Jones, Son and Vernon have received instructions to Sell by Auction at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday Next, October 31, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock pm, prompt, subject to Conditions of Sale which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

Lot 1. The well-known Free Freehold, Full Licensed House, with the Two-Quarter Brewery and Premises, Titford Road, Langley, near Oldbury.

The House, which is double fronted, contains on the ground floor: Through Passage, well-fitted Smoke

Room, Large Bar, 28ft by 13ft 9ins, with three windows (two large bays overlooking the garden), and good Sitting-room; on the First Floor is a large Club Room, 30ft in length; Landing and 2 good Bedrooms, and Clothes Closet. There is excellent high and dry Cellarage under the whole of the house, with rollingway from yard. Outside are the Well-built, Two-storey Brewery, with an Up-to-date Two-quarter Brewing Plant, Stabling, Cart Shedding, w.c., and large Walled-in Garden, fronting Titford Road, with double Gateway Entrance, &c.

This popular Full Licensed Home Brewing House and Premises is situate in and has a long frontage to Titford Road (which leads from Oldbury, through Langley to Whiteheath, Blackheath, Rowley, and Dudley), and abutts in the rear on to the towing path of the main Birmingham Canal. This is the nearest Licensed House to the well-known 'Titford Fishing Pools and Pleasure Grounds,' and is situate near to, and does the trade from the 'Langley St. Michael's Football Ground.'

The Auctioneers beg respectfully to call particular attention to this Free Full-Licensed Home Brewing House and Premises, there being only about eight other Free Ale Houses in the whole of the Oldbury Division of Worcestershire.

The House, in its present low state of trade, is doing about 6 to 8 barrels of beer, 36 dozens of bottled goods, and 4 to 6 gallons of spirits weekly, and is largely used by boatmen, fishermen, and large crowds from the football ground, and forms an exceptional opportunity for acquiring a Free Full-licensed Home Brewing House and Premises doing a good, steady trade, which could be very largely augmented.

The Fixtures, Trade Utensils, Stock and Brewing Plant to be taken to by Valuation in the usual way....."

#### Birmingham Mail 13/8/1906 - Advert

"General Wanted, at once; good references.

Mrs. *Shilton*, NAVIGATION INN, Titford Road, Langley, Oldbury."

*William Henry Shilton* – see also GEORGE AND DRAGON.

#### 1911 Census

Titford Road – NAVIGATION INN

- [1] *John Warner* (34), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Alice Warner* (33), wife, married 14 years, assisting in business, born Aston;
- [3] *John George Warner* (13), son, born Aston;
- [4] *James Leonard Warner* (10), son, born Selly Oak;
- [5] *Frank William Warner* (7), son, born Handsworth;
- [6] *Alice Elizabeth Warner* (3), daughter, born Handsworth;
- [7] *John Robinson* (54), boarder, striker, born Harborne;
- [8] *Gertrude Emily Ball* (21), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Albert Edward Cotterill* was married to Mary.

He had worked at the Crosswells Brewery as a wheelwright, before World War One.

See also CROSSWELLS.

*Thomas Horton* – see also ROSE AND CROWN, Popes Lane.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/5/1923

"A verdict of Suicide was recorded at the inquest at Oldbury yesterday on *Eli Davis*, aged 47, of 89, Pitford [sic] Road, Langley, whose body was found in a pool near Speedwell Colliery.

The widow said she knew nothing in her husband's life which would lead him to do away with himself. He left the house in the morning, and in the evening she found a note in his handwriting under the front door.

In it he said, 'I have been a bad one. Look after the children; may they never have the curse that I have had. From your broken-hearted Dad.' Witness added that she did not know what was meant by the tern 'bad one' for her husband had always been straight and well respected.

Evidence was given by *Walter [sic] Griffin*, of the NAVIGATION INN, that *Davis* came into the house on Monday and had a pint of ale. He then asked for paper and an envelope and wrote a letter on the counter.

Witness promised that his little girl should take it to deceased's home."

#### Dudley Chronicle 16/10/1930

"James Elwell (68), of 46, Old Park Lane, Langley, was charged with the theft of a collecting box from the NAVIGATION INN, Langley, containing 18s 8d in money.

Margaret Mabel *Griffin*, of the NAVIGATION INN, Titford Road, Langley, stated that the collecting box, which was for an institution for the blind, was on the counter on Monday of last week, and the following day defendant came in and ordered some ale. Witness left the bar, and after defendant had gone the box was missed. He later came in and ordered three double whiskeys, for which he paid 3s 6d, all in coppers.

The licensee of another local licensed house told the magistrates that defendant paid for several drinks at his house in coppers, and also gave him 8s in coppers in exchange for silver.

PS Ridley said that when arrested, defendant said, 'I know nothing about a box.'

The Chairman said that whilst there was a very strong suspicion that defendant was guilty, there was not enough evidence to convict, and the case would be dismissed."

Closed

The license was transferred to the NEW NAVIGATION which opened c.1931.

*William Griffin* was the last licensee here and the first at the NEW NAVIGATION.

#### 1939 Register

Titford Road – NEW NAVIGATION INN

[1] *William Griffin*, date of birth 21/11/1882, licensee (own account), married;

[2] James P. Mulcahy, dob 16/2/1880, chief costing accountant at general engineering works, single;

[3] Sidney G. Cooper, dob 21/1/1908, departmental manager, glass works, married;

[4] Edith M. Cooper, dob 29/11/1909, unpaid domestic duties, married:

#### NEW CART AND HORSES

8, (3+4), (3), West Bromwich Street, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Mrs. Anna Maria Downing

Nathaniel Sadler, Windsor Castle Brewery, Dingle Street, Oldbury [c.1905]

Ansells Ltd. [1909]

#### LICENSEES

Thomas Collins [1826] – [1829]

Mrs. Ann Collins [1829] – [1833]

Edward Perrins [1841] – [1843]

William Pendlebury (1844 – [1850])

Edward Idoine [1851] – [1860]

Ann Cartwright [1861] – [1862]

W Tilsley [1864]

Robert Tinsley [1865]

John Horley [1864] – 1869);

John Thompson (1869 – [1874])



Todd [1878]  
Henry Cracknell [1880] – [1881]  
Mrs. Anna Maria Downing [1883] – 1888);  
Joseph Baugh (1888 – 1892);  
Mrs. Anna Maria Downing (1892 – 1904);  
Nathaniel Sadler (1904 – 1907);  
William Trueman (1907 – 1908);  
Elizabeth Bradbury (1908 – 1912):

## NOTES

3, West Bromwich Street [1881]  
8, West Bromwich Street [1891], [1901]

NEW CART AND HORSES [1865], [1911]  
CART AND HORSES [1850], [1851], [1862]  
COACH AND HORSES [1865]

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/6/1824 - Advert

“Building Land, part of West Bromwich Inclosure.

To be Sold by Auction, by S. Davis.....

NB. The lots are particularly described in hand-bills, which may be had at ..... CART AND HORSES, Oldbury.....”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/4/1826 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction ..... Three Dwelling Houses, Smithy, and Stabling, with Gardens, immediately opposite Mr. *Thomas Collins's*, the new CART AND HORSES.....”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/10/1828 - Notice

“Oldbury Manor, Shropshire.

Notice is hereby given, that a Public Meeting of the Lord of the Manor and Freeholders within the Manor of Oldbury, in the county of Salop, will be held at the house of Mr. *Thomas Collins*, known by the sign of the NEW CART AND HORSES, in Oldbury aforesaid, on Monday the twenty-seventh day of October instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of taking into consideration and deciding upon the propriety of applying to Parliament for an Act to effect the Sale of the Waste Lands within the said manor, and to appropriate the money arising from such sale to such uses as the Lord and Freeholders shall decide upon. Dated this sixteenth day of October, 1828.”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/8/1829 - Notice

“Oldbury Inclosure.

I, Dugdale Houghton, of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Land Surveyor, the sole Commissioner named and appointed in and by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the last Session, intituled An Act for Inclosing Lands in the Manor of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, do hereby give Notice that I shall hold my first Sitting for putting the said Act into execution at the house of *Ann Collins*, widow, known by the name or sign of the NEW CART AND HORSES, in Oldbury aforesaid, on Monday the thirty-first day of August inst, at ten o'clock in the forenoon; at which sitting a Banker will be appointed to whom the monies to be raised by virtue of the said Act shall be paid and deposited with, as often as the same shall amount to the sum of fifty pounds, pursuant to the directions of an Act of Parliament passed in the forty-first year of his late Majesty's reign, intituled An Act for consolidating in one Act certain provisions usually inserted in Acts of Inclosure, and for facilitating the mode of proving the several facts usually required on the passing of such Acts.

Dated this fourteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine.

Dugdale Houghton.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/7/1832 - Notice

“I, Dugdale Houghton, a Commissioner for enclosing the Waste Lands of the Manor of Oldbury, county of Salop, do hereby give Notice that I shall hold my next Meeting at the house of *Anne Collins*, the NEW CART AND HORSES INN, in Oldbury aforesaid, on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> day of July inst, at the hour of ten in the forenoon.

Dugdale Houghton.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/6/1833 - Notice

“Oldbury Inclosure.

I, Dugdale Houghton, of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Land Surveyor, the sole Commissioner named and appointed in and by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the tenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled An Act for Inclosing Lands in the Manor of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, do hereby give notice that I will hold my next Sitting, for further putting the said Act into execution, at the house of *Ann Collins*, widow, known by the name or sign of the NEW CART AND HORSES, in Oldbury aforesaid, on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> day of June instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon; and at which sitting I intend (amongst other things) to proceed in the further ascertaining of the boundaries of the said Manor.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three.

Dugdale Houghton.”

1841 Census

West Bromwich Street

[1] *Edward Perrins* (30), victualler;

[2] *Bessy Perrins* (35);

[3] *Elizabeth Prince* (15);

[4] *Mary Beard* (18), servant:

Birmingham Journal 28/1/1843

“On Monday, January 16, the members and friends of the Loyal Salopian Lodge of Odd Fellows met at the house of Host *Perrins*, NEW CART AND HORSES, Oldbury, Salop, when an excellent supper was very kindly given them by their worthy treasurer, Mr. Thomas Collins, and by Mr. *Edward Perrins*, the worthy host.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/7/1844 - Advert

“Sale at the WHIMSEY INN, at Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, on the premises, on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July inst, at eleven o'clock, by direction of the Proprietor, Mr. *Pendlebury*, who has removed to the CART AND HORSES INN at Oldbury; consisting of part of the Household Furniture, four-pull ale machine, glassware and measures, two large buffets, screens and benches, tables, chairs, and public house fixtures; also the excellent hogshead and smaller barrels, iron and copper furnaces, mash tub, coolers, brewing vessels, and other effects.

Catalogues may be had on Friday next in Oldbury and of John Roderick, Auctioneer. Offices, 54, New Street, Birmingham.”

*William Pendlebury* was also a brickmaker. [1845]

Birmingham Journal 5/7/1845

“The anniversary of the Friendly Britons Lodge of Odd Fellows, M.U., held at the house of Host *William Pendlebury*, WAGGON [sic] AND HORSES, Oldbury, was celebrated on Monday last, June 30, when the brothers, to the number of eighty-five sat down to a dinner, provided by the host in his accustomed liberal manner.....”

Birmingham Journal 26/7/1845

“On Monday last the members composing the Independent Order of Odd Fellows met at Brother *William Pendlebury*’s, the NEW CART AND HORSES INN, in Oldbury, being the anniversary day, and moved in procession to the Methodist Chapel, where a very appropriate discourse was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Lake, from 116<sup>th</sup> Psalm, 12<sup>th</sup> verse – ‘What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me.’ After service the members returned to the Lodge house, where an excellent dinner was provided by the host. The cloth being drawn, the chairman proposed ‘The health of the Queen,’ which was followed by the band playing the national anthem. Many other loyal and appropriate toasts were given during the day. The singing was excellent, surpassing any of the previous years, followed alternately with a tune from the band. The day was spent with the greatest conviviality and brotherly affection, reflecting credit on the order.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/4/1846

“Messrs. *William Pendlebury* and Joseph Gregory have been elected overseers of Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 4/7/1846

“The anniversary of the Friendly Britons Lodge, M.U., was celebrated on Monday week by a sumptuous dinner, at Mr. *Pendlebury*’s, CART AND HORSES, when upwards of 100 members attended, in addition to many guests and well-wishers of this useful institution. In the early part of the day the members walked in procession through the principal streets, headed by an excellent band; after which they sat down to dinner, which was furnished with a profusion and a liberality worthy of the respected host. The Lodge, we are happy to say, was never in a more flourishing condition than at the present moment.”

Birmingham Journal 18/7/1846

“On Monday last, the thirty-sixth anniversary of the Loyal Salopian Lodge of Independent Odd Fellows was celebrated at the house of Host *Pendlebury*, sign of the NEW CART AND HORSES. The room was tastefully decorated with flowers. Mr. John Bridge presided with his accustomed talent, and the vice chair was ably filled by P. G. Collins. After partaking of a splendid dinner, which was served up in first-rate style, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given, interspersed with songs and appropriate sentiments. Amongst other toasts, the vice-president gave the health of their worthy secretary, P. G. Burton, and in the course of his address passed on that officer a well-merited eulogium for the very clear and correct manner in which his accounts had been kept during the past year. The healths of the worthy host and hostess were afterwards given and drank with loud applause. This lodge is, we learn, in a most flourishing condition, having during the past year greatly augmented its funds. After spending a delightful evening the company separated, all highly delighted with the manner in which the anniversary had been celebrated.”

Birmingham Journal 18/7/1846

“A fire broke out in a malthouse belonging to Mr. Thomas Collins, on Monday evening last, which at first assumed a very threatening appearance. It appears that some young men had been indulging in a very brutal ‘lark,’ by tying a piece of rag steeped in turpentine to the tail of a cat, and setting fire to it, allowing the poor animal to go at liberty. In her fright and terror the poor animal ran into the malthouse, and in a few minutes flames were seen issuing from a loft in the building (in which was stored a quantity of hay) by Mrs. *Pendlebury*, the hostess of the CART AND HORSES INN, who immediately gave the alarm, and with promptitude and decision peculiar to the fair sex in cases of danger, immediately gave orders for, and superintended the procuring of buckets and water, the early application of which was in reality the means of preventing the destruction of that and the neighbouring buildings. The powerful engine at Messrs. Chance Brothers’ Alkali Works, Oldbury, was almost immediately on the spot; and very great praise is due to the workmen of the establishment, for without waiting for horses, they drew the engine to the spot at speed that was really surprising, and got the same into play with an activity and readiness that we have never seen exceeded by the most practiced firemen. The destruction of property was by these exertions confined to the loft, and a portion of hay only was burnt; but greater damage is done, owing to the malthouse being nearly full of malt, some of which is injured by the smoke, and a great deal by the water necessarily poured on it. Police-constables Donnery and Walden rendered very efficient service in extinguishing the flames.”

### 1851 Census

West Bromwich Street

- [1] *Edward Idoine* (35), victualler, born France;
- [2] *Susanna Idoine* (28), wife, born Tamworth;
- [3] *Ann Idoine* (2 months), daughter, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Journal 12/11/1859 - Advert

“Oldbury, Worcestershire.

Joseph Whitehouse will Offer by Public Auction, on Monday Next, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

The whole of the Brewing Plant, Fixtures, Furniture, and Effects, belonging to Mr. *Edward Idoine*, of the NEW CART AND HORSES, Oldbury; consisting of three iron Boilers and Settings, 36-bushel Mash Tub, two Ale Coolers, three 100-gallon Ale Casks, one 200-gallon ditto, one 300-gallon ditto, tent and other Bedsteads, feather Bed, Gas Fittings throughout the house, and other Effects, according to catalogues, which can be obtained at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury; or at the Auctioneer’s Office, TURKS HEAD, Wednesbury.

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

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession will be offered as the first lot.”

*Edward Idoine* – see also DUKE OF MALAKOFF.

He died in April 1902.

### 1861 Census

West Bromwich Street – CART AND HORSES INN

- [1] *Ann Cartwright* (41), widow, victualler, born Monmouthshire;
- [2] *Mary Ann Cartwright* (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Frederick A. Cartwright* (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Thomas J. Cartwright* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Eliza Smith* (20), general servant, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1862 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the CART AND HORSES INN, near Collins’s Bridge, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury. To Publicans, Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, under a Bill of Sale, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, This Day (Wednesday), July 23, on the premises as above.

The Licenses, together with part of the Brewing Plant, the whole of the Household Furniture, and Public House Effects; consisting of a quantity of capital Hogsheads, Half-hogsheads, and other Ale Casks, large Working Tub, Oval and other Coolers, Ale and Spirit Measures, quantity of Ale, Wine, Spirit, and other Glasses, Tump of Hops, Drinking Tables and Forms, with numerous other Public House Effects; mahogany Centre and other Tables, mahogany Cheffionere, mahogany horse-hair seated Windsor and other Chairs, Sofa and Couch, Eight-day Clock, handsome Chimney and other Glasses, Oil Paintings and Prints, French, Iron, and other Bedsteads, mahogany Chest of Drawers, Feather and Flock Beds and Palliases, Washstands and Dressing Tables, Floor Carpetings, Chamber Utensils, and numerous other Effects, which appears in Catalogues, and may be had at the place of sale, and at the Auctioneer’s, Valuer, and Estate Agent Office, Wesley, Oldbury.

The Licenses will be Sold in the first lot.

Sale to commence at Ten o’clock in the morning.”

### Birmingham Journal 9/8/1862 - Advert

“The CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of, by Private Treaty, that good and well-accustomed Old-Licensed Inn, now doing a good in and out-door Business.

The House consists of Front Bar and Tap Room, Smoke Room, Private Parlour, large Club Room, three Bed Rooms, two capital Cellars, excellent Brewery, Lock-up Coach-house, and Stabling for six Horses, large

Shedding, Bowling and Marble Alley; a good supply of Hard and Soft Water.

There are two Money Clubs and a Lodge connected with the House, with more than seventy Members.

A Seven-quarter Malthouse, adjoining the House, may be had in the take.

Rent and Coming-in low.

For further particulars and to treat, apply to Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 16/11/1864

“On Friday, Oldbury town was the scene of great excitement, occasioned by the funeral of a Serjeant-Major of the Scots Greys, named George S. Tilsley, who died at the house of his brother, *W. Tilsley*, CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street, on the 4<sup>th</sup> instant. The deceased had been in the army upwards of 20 years, and was one of the gallant band who made the celebrated charge at Balaklava. The deceased had merited the esteem of his comrades, and all with whom he was acquainted, and a last tribute to his memory was paid by following him to the grave, and interring him with military honours.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/5/1865 - Advert

“To Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others.

Unreserved Sale, at the House of Mr. *John Horley*, NEW CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/8/1865 - Advert

“For Sale, a very handsome, superior-built Gig, suitable for a Commercial or Medical Man. Price £20. Apply to Mr. *Robert Tinsley*, COACH AND HORSES INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1865 - Advert

“Oldbury Wake and Races, September 4 and 5, 1865, will be held on the Old Race Ground, at the back of the OLD CROWN, and opposite Mr. C. Hickin’s, ENGINEERS ARMS.

Application for Booths, Shows, &c, to be made to *R. Tilsley* and *J. Gibbons*, at the NEW CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.”

*John Horley* issued tokens bearing NEW CART AND HORSES.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 15/2/1868

“To be shot for at Mr. *Horley*’s, the NEW CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, on Wednesday, February 19, a fine fat pig, 16 score, by 26 members, at 10s each. Conditions, the first shot to take the pig (or £7 10s in money), the second £3, third £2, 3 pigeons each, ¾ bore guns 1½oz of shot; double guns 1¼oz of shot, handicapped from 16 to 22 yards, 80 yards boundary. Shooting at one o’clock. Best blue rocks provided by Redfern of Manchester. Dinner at six. Five minutes’ walk from the Oldbury and Bromford stations.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/8/1869 - Advert

“CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury. Old Licensed House.

By C. Wootton. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the above excellent House, possessing large Garden, lock-up Coach-house, Stabling for 12 Horses, good Yard, and plenty of hard and soft Water. Rent £24.

Coming-in low.

For full particulars, apply to C. Wootton, Auctioneer and Valuer, Paradise Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1869 - Advert

“Sale of Capital Household Furniture, Large Fat Pig, 24 Score, Three handsome Store Pigs, capital Dog Cart, Set of Harness, twenty-six Fowls, four Ducks, Hen Pheasant, two double-barrel Guns, two Pockets Worcester Hops, 1868; Chest valuable Carpenter’s Tools, &c, &c.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. C. Wootton, on Monday Next, September 27, commencing in the morning at Eleven o’clock, on the Premises of Mr. *J. Horley*, who is leaving the premises, NEW CART AND HORSES

INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.

The Capital Household Furniture and Effects, comprising handsome mahogany Bedsteads, goose-feather Beds, hair and straw Mattresses, prime linen Sheets, handsome Chests of Drawers, Washstands and Tables, Swing Glasses, Pictures, and a large variety of Effects, described in catalogues, to be had of the Auctioneer, on and after Thursday next.

Auctioneer's Office, Paradise Street, West Bromwich."

County Express 5/2/1870

"John Horton, butcher, of Tatbank, near Oldbury, was charged with violently assaulting John Collins, of West Bromwich Street, Oldbury. Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the complainant, who appeared in Court with his face frightfully disfigured by a severe black eye, cuts on the lips and various parts of the face. On the previous evening the complainant was sitting in the CART AND HORSES public house, talking to the landlord, *John Thompson*, when the defendant came in, and, without saying a word, struck him a violent blow on the right eye, which knocked him down and rendered him for a time insensible. Not satisfied with this, defendant held him on the floor and struck him a large number of blows, whilst he was down in that position, and also kicked him.

Defendant said he only struck him three times, and his reason for doing so was that complainant had been talking about him and insulting a young woman, who was a friend of his.

This was denied by complainant.

Mr. Shakespeare said he thought that it was a case in which it should not be visited by a fine, but of course, he said that with all due deference to the opinion of the Bench.

The magistrates considering it a very gross assault, fined defendant £5 and costs, or in default two months' imprisonment.

On hearing the decision, defendant said, 'Very well, I will go two months.' He was then removed."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/3/1870 - Advert

"Wanted, three or four Young Cats. Good ratters.

Apply, Mr. *Thompson*, NEW CART AND HORSES INN, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1871 - Advert

"For Sale, Two Freehold Houses, situated at Pitt Lane, Langley. Net rental £17 10s per annum. Price £230. Address, *John Thompson*, the NEW CART AND HORSES INN, Oldbury."

1871 Census

West Bromwich Street – NEW CART AND HORSES

- [1] *John Thompson* (33), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Hannah Thompson (33), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] George Thompson (12), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] John Thompson (7), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Sarah Thompson (6), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Caroline Morgan (16), general servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1871

"At Oldbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, before Mr. Henry Chance, Elizabeth Homeshaw, forty-eight years of age, and of Brades Village, was charged with stealing a jug and a quarter of a pound of tea, the property of Mr. *Thompson*, the landlord of the CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street. The prisoner, a woman of most intemperate habits, went into the prosecutor's house to procure some gin, and, before she left, stole the tea and the jug, which she subsequently offered at the HARMONIC INN for more gin. She pleaded guilty, and, having been several times previously convicted, was committed to take her trial at the Sessions."

AND

Worcester Herald 21/10/1871

"Worcestershire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions ..... Pleading Guilty.....

Elizabeth Homeshaw, aged 49 (on bail), labourer, was charged with stealing a glass cream jug and a quarter

of a pound of tea, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, the property of *John Thompson*, at the township of Oldbury. Two previous convictions were recorded against the prisoner, who was sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months.”

Shrewsbury Chronicle 13/10/1871

“Notice of the dissolution of the Salopian Lodge of Odd Fellows, heretofore held at the NEW CART AND HORSES, Oldbury, was sent to the registrar.”

*John Thompson* was also a grocer. [1873]

Eddowes’s Journal 19/8/1874 - 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.....

Agents for Shropshire ..... Mr. *J. Thompson*, NEW CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.”

London Gazette 9/7/1875

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Warwickshire, holden, at Birmingham. In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *John Thompson*, formerly of the CART AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, afterwards of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS INN, Oldbury, aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, but now of Whitmore Road, Hockley, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Bricklayer.

Notice is hereby given, that the First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. William Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 1875, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1875.

William Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Attorney for the said *John Thompson*.”

London Gazette 23/6/1876

“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 *John Thompson*, formerly of the CART AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, afterwards of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS INN, Oldbury aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, but now of Whitmore-street, Hockley, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Bricklayer.

The creditors of the above-named *John Thompson* who have not already proved their debts, are required, on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 1876, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts or claims, to me, the undersigned, William Shakespeare, of Oldbury, near Birmingham, Solicitor, the Trustee under the liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.

Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1876.

Wm. Shakespeare, Trustee.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1878 - Advert

“Pianist Wanted, immediately; Mondays and Saturdays. Free and easy. CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/11/1878 - Advert

“Pianist Wanted, for Free and Easy.

Apply, Mr. *Todd*, CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1879 - Advert

“NEW CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury. Long lease. In-coming £300.

Apply, Roderick and Son.”

Dudley and District News 24/7/1880

“Sidney Cooper, brewer, residing at West Bromwich, was charged with stealing one stone bottle and eight quarts of ale, of the value of 6s, the property of his employer, *Henry Cracknell*, of the CART AND HORSES INN, Oldbury. The prisoner being suspected, a policeman was set to watch him. On the day named he was seen to leave his employer’s premises under suspicious circumstances, and shortly afterwards the constable found the bottle containing the ale in his cart.

Mr. Shakespeare, who appeared for the defence, said the prisoner had previously borne a good character. The prosecutor intimated to the Bench that he did not wish to press the case.

The Chairman (Mr. Nettlefold) said that in consideration of the prisoner’s previous good character the magistrates would avail themselves of the powers of the Summary Jurisdiction Act. The prisoner was then fined 40s and costs, or in default, one month.”

County Express 18/9/1880

“On Monday Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, on the body of Louisa Beddard. Aged 32, a single woman, youngest daughter of the late John Beddard, of the Becknell Fields Farm, Kingswinford. Deceased left the house of her sister (Mrs. Caroline Male, Dudley Port) on Thursday night. On the following morning her body was found in the locks near the BLUE BALL INN, at Tividale. When she left home she had some silver money in her possession, but when the body was discovered in the water there was but 1½d in the dress pocket. She was in company with a young man on the Saturday night previous to her death, but there was no evidence to show whether or not she parted with him on good terms.

*Henry Cracknell*, proprietor of the theatre in West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, said the deceased called at his establishment on the night previous to the day on which the body of the deceased was found in the water. She asked if the theatre was open, and witness replied that it was not. She said she had some friends waiting at the top of the street who desired to come in. Witness asked her to fetch her friends into the house and take them into the smoke room, as they might enjoy themselves there, he being a musician. She went out, but did not return.....

Leah Stanley, barmaid at *Cracknell’s*, said deceased had an umbrella with her when she called there. No umbrella was found in the canal with the body.

A verdict was returned to the effect that deceased was found dead in the canal; but how she got there no evidence was forthcoming to show.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1880 - Advert

“Manure. For Sale, a boat load of good Stable Manure.  
Apply, NEW CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.”

1881 Census

3, West Bromwich Street – CART AND HORSES

- [1] *Henry Cracknell* (38), married, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] Rose Upton (20), barmaid, born Birmingham;
- [3] Elizabeth Cranage (22), general servant, born Brierley Hill:

London Gazette 28/10/1881

“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 *Henry Cracknell*, of the MINERS ARMS INN, Queen-street, Dudley, in the county of Worcester, and of the CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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 MINERS ARMS INN, Queen-street, Dudley, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1881, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely.



Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1881.

Tree and Son, 98, High-street, Worcester, Solicitors for the Debtor.”

County Advertiser 19/11/1881 - Advert

“To Licensed Victuallers, Brewers, &c.

To be Sold by Private Treaty the Lease, License, Goodwill, and Possession of the CART AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, together with the Household Furniture, Trade Fixtures, Brewing Plant, and Utensils. Lease about eight years to run. Rent, £40. Price £100. This is an opportunity seldom to be met with.

Apply to Hawkins and Son, Auctioneers, 26, Temple Street, Birmingham; or to Wight and Son, Solicitors, Dudley.”

County Advertiser 26/11/1881 - Advert

“Sale at the CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.

To Showmen, Theatre Proprietors, and Others.

Messrs. Hawkins and Son will Sell by Auction, on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1881, a large Wood Portable Theatre, Stage, Scenery, Wings, &c, complete; large Wagon, and 2½ Pockets of Sussex Hops, 1881.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock.

Auctioneers' Offices, 26, Temple Street, Birmingham, and Brierley Hill.”

*Anna Maria Downing* = Hannah Marie Downing

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1883

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday.....

*Hannah Marie Downing*, of the CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, was charged with keeping her house open during prohibited hours, on Sunday night, the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, and was fined 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/7/1889

“On Saturday afternoon William Butler (7), son of George Butler, residing on the canal side in West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, was drowned in the canal near his home. The boy had been sent by his mother to take a small wheelbarrow to a coalyard, and he had to proceed along the canal side. As he did not return, a search was made, with the result that the wheelbarrow was found floating in the canal, and shortly afterwards the body of the deceased was also recovered from the water.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 9/7/1889

“Last evening Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the NEW CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, relative to the death of William Butler, aged seven years, who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near his home, under circumstances reported yesterday. The jury returned an open verdict.”

Birmingham Mail 5/5/1890 - Advert

“Bitch (wire-haired Fox Terrier) Lost, April 29<sup>th</sup>, in whelp, with black head and short tail; anyone returning her to *Joseph Baugh*, NEW CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, will be rewarded.”

Birmingham Mail 4/3/1891

“At Smethwick Police Court this afternoon, William Radbone, boatman, Canal Side, Tipton, was charged with cruelly illtreating a horse on the 17<sup>th</sup> ult by beating it. Mr. Buller appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, instructed by Inspector Ruane. Mr. T. H. Seedhouse defended.

It was alleged that defendant beat the horse with a boat tiller during a journey from Birmingham to Tipton, along the canal side. Subsequently the animal was taken to *Joseph Baugh's* horse slaughterhouse at Oldbury, and slaughtered, when it was found that four of its ribs were broken, and there were other internal injuries, such as Mr. *Baugh* considered would be likely to be caused by beating with some heavy instrument.

*Joseph Baugh* was called and gave evidence as to the injuries the horse had sustained, and also stated that he gave information to the officer of the society the next day, and it was upon that information that the proceedings were instructed.

The defendant denied striking the horse with the tiller, and said he only used a whip, and a fellow-workman who accompanied him also gave evidence to corroborate that statement. The latter also added that on the way between Birmingham and Smethwick the horse was taken ill, and they were obliged to send it to the slaughterhouse.

The defendant was ordered to pay £3 1s 6d, or go to goal for six days, with hard labour.”

#### 1891 Census

8, West Bromwich Street – NEW CART AND HORSES INN

- [1] *Joseph Baugh* (46), horse slaughterer, born Sunderland;
- [2] Elizabeth Baugh (46), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Mary Baugh (17), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Ann Baugh (15), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Elizabeth Baugh (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Lilley Baugh (6), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

*Joseph Baugh* – see also BEEHIVE.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/6/1892 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted, immediately; good character.  
Mrs. *Downing*, CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 12/8/1892 - Advert

“General Wanted, used to public house business.  
Apply, Mrs. *Downing*, CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1893 - Advert

“Pianist (Male) Wanted, at once.  
Apply, CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.”

Mrs. *Anna Maria Downing*, beer retailer, 8, West Bromwich Street. [1896]

#### 1901 Census

8, West Bromwich Street

- [1] *Anne M. Downing* (64), widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] George Downing (40), son, butcher, born Oldbury;
- [3] Annie Downing (29), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Annie Chance (21), domestic servant, born Smethwick:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/1/1907

“Richard Simpson (50), of Barker Street, Oldbury, was charged at the local police court with stealing £51 0s 0½d, the money of the members of the Helping Hand Sick and Dividend Society, until lately held at the CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, he being a beneficial owner of such money. Mr. Jeffries, who prosecuted, said the defendant had been treasurer of the society, in which there were 120 members paying fourpence a week. The money, amounting to £51 0s 0½d, should have been distributed on December 21, but defendant made excuses, and none of it had been forthcoming. He pointed out that great hardship had been inflicted, and many of the members were very poor people. Mr. Dawes, who defended, applied for an adjournment, and after formal evidence by the secretary the accused was remanded for a week, bail being allowed.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/1/1907

“The illness of Richard Simpson, formerly treasurer of the Helping Hand Sick and Dividend Society at the CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, caused the further adjournment of a case at Oldbury Police Court yesterday. Simpson was accused of stealing £50, the money of the society. He is the victim of a stroke.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/2/1907

“‘You have abused the confidence reposed in you,’ said the Oldbury magistrates yesterday to Richard Simpson (44), of Barker Street, in sentencing him to one month’s hard labour. The charge against him was that of stealing the sum of 34s, the money of members of a sick and dividend society of which he was treasurer. Seven shillings and ninepence per member should have been distributed on December 21, but the defendant did not pay.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

CART AND HORSES.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation.....

CART AND HORSES, alehouse, West Bromwich Street, owner, Messrs. Ansells Limited.....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee’s investigations.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1910

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury division were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding over the magistrates. The principal business was the consideration of six licences which the magistrates proposed to refer to the Quarter Sessions for compensation on the ground of redundancy. The houses in question were the CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street; BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street; ROYAL OAK, Park Lane; NAGS HEAD, Flash Road; HOPE AND ANCHOR, Halesowen Street; and BOAT INN, Tat Bank.....

Mr. Albright then announced that the magistrates had decided to refer only four licenses to the Quarter Sessions at Worcester this year instead of six as originally proposed. They would therefore renew the licenses of the BIRD IN HAND and ROYAL OAK.....

With respect to the CART AND HORSES, Superintendent Hill said that the licensee was *Elizabeth Bradbury*, and the owners Messrs. Ansells.

Mr. Ashford represented both licensee and owners, and stated that if the magistrates desired to refer the licence for compensation he would not offer any opposition.

Superintendent Hill said the wants of the district were amply provided for without this licence.

Mr. F. Jones said in the locality there was one licence for every 193 persons. Within 500 yards there were

twenty full licences, four beerhouses on, and one beerhouse off.....  
All four houses were referred to the Quarter Sessions.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority.  
It was refused on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1910.

#### Alcester Chronicle 9/7/1910

“Worcestershire Licensing Committee sat at the Guildhall, Worcester, on Saturday, to consider the fourteen houses referred to them as compensation authority by the several local benches.....  
Of the houses reported, the following did not oppose extinction of their licenses.....  
CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.”

#### Evesham Standard 10/12/1910

“Worcestershire Licensing Committee. Determining Compensation Claims.  
A supplemental meeting of this Committee was held on Saturday at the Shirehall.....  
The special purpose of the meeting was for the purpose of determining the amount of compensation to be paid for the extinction of licenses. Fourteen such licenses had been reported by the justices to the Committee, and the Committee had already decided to renew one. The amounts claimed in respect of the other thirteen were.....  
CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, £2,185 15s.....  
The Committee took evidence in support of the claims calculated on the capitalised loss of trade, the capitalised loss in the value of the premises by the extinction of the license, and the loss on the sale of fittings.....  
The Committee then announced the following awards.....  
CART AND HORSES, Oldbury, £1,440.”

#### Alcester Chronicle 14/1/1911

“An adjourned meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday.....  
At the meeting of the committee in December six claims for compensation were heard, and awards were made. The committee now settled the shares to be paid to the parties as follows.....  
CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, £1,440 awarded, £20 licensee, £1,420 registered owners.”

#### 1911 Census

8, West Bromwich Street – CART AND HORSES

- [1] *Elizabeth Bradbury* (54), widow, public house business, born Tipton;
- [2] *John Bradbury* (16), son, fitter and turner, wagon works, born Tipton;
- [3] *James Swallow* (27), son-in-law, general labourer, steel works, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Ethel Swallow* (22), daughter, born Great Bridge;
- [5] *Nora Swallow* (9 months), daughter, born Oldbury;

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1912

“At Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday Superintendent Davis presented his report.....  
The licenses of the following four houses were entered for compensation in 1910, and were refused renewal, but the compensation money not having been paid yet the houses were not closed ..... CART AND HORSES.....  
Mr. Albright said that there seemed little doubt that all the arrears of compensation would be cleared off in the present year, and the houses closed, although the amount of money available now would be considerably decreased by the absorption of a large portion of the county in Greater Birmingham.”

#### Bromsgrove Messenger 9/3/1912

“A meeting of the Worcestershire County Licensing Committee was held at the Shirehall, Worcester, on Saturday afternoon.....

The following amounts, which had previously been awarded, were now ordered to be paid on March 29<sup>th</sup> .....  
CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, £1,440 (including £20 for licensee).”

Compensation was paid on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1912.

The license was extinguished on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1912.

## NEW ENGINE

Church Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

## NOTES

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/3/1864 - Advert

“Oldbury. The NEW ENGINE TAVERN, Church Street, Oldbury, and opposite the County Court.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, that capital new-licensed Inn and Premises, in consequence of the present Proprietor having made other engagements.

The Premises consist of front Bar and Smoke Room, large Tap Room, Cellaring, large Club Room, three Chambers, capital Brewery, Stabling for six horses, Piggery, Skittle Alley, with a good supply of Water. Only Stock, Brewing Plant, and Fixtures to be taken to, with a large and enclosed Yard.

Immediate possession may be had. Rent and in-coming low.

For further particulars and to treat apply to Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Hotel Valuer. Offices, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 4/6/1864 - Advert

“Clearing out Sale. To Publicans, Brokers, Smiths, Coach Builders, and Others.

The NEW ENGINE TAVERN, opposite the County Court, Church Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on the Premises as above, on Monday Next, June 6.

The whole of the Public House Fittings, Fixtures, and Effects, consisting of Drinking and other Tables, Chairs, Drinking Forms and Benches, 4-pull Beer Machine, metal-top Tap Table, large Drinking Screens and Seatings, pewter Ale and other Measures and Glasses, 120, 60, and 36 gallon Ale and other Casks, Wort Vats and Stays, with Lead Piping to Cellar, 15 bushel Mash Tub, oval and other Coolers, Hop Press, two large Boilers and Settings, Malt Crusher, Pocket of Hops, Cup, Glass and other Shelving, the whole of the new Gas Fittings and Piping, a quantity of Ale, Hay Racks and Mangers, two Spring Traps, Saddle and Bridle, a Perambulator, Three Steam Engines (one 8-horse power, one 1-horse ditto, and a small one); together with a quantity of Coach Makers, Smiths, Fitters, and Carpenters Tools, and a portion of the Household Furniture, and other Effects.

Particulars appear in catalogues, which may be had at the Auctioneers, Surveyors, and Hotel Valuer's Offices, Wesley Street, Oldbury.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the morning.”

### Birmingham Journal 1/7/1865 - Advert

“To Miners, Carters, and Others.

Unreserved Sale, at the Sign of the NEW ENGINE INN, opposite the Court House, Church Street, Oldbury.

On Monday Next, July 3. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Altree.

Two useful Cart Horses, Pit Tools, three Skips, Mahogany Dining, Loo, and other Tables, carved Sofa, mahogany case, and Spring Timepiece and other Clocks; Tent and four-post Bedsteads, and a useful assortment of Household Furniture.

Sale to commence at Eleven.”

## NEW INN

74, (2), (11), Birchfield Lane, (Church Street), Churchbridge / Park Lane (Street), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

John Evans (later at Knottshall Lane, Warley) (later at Wood View, Hartshill, near Atherstone)

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (leased c.1915)

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (leased c.1946) (acquired c.1949)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

## LICENSEES

John Birch [1845] – **1858**);

George Jackson (**1858** – [1873]

John Hyland [1872] – [1880]

John Evans [1881] – **1901**);

Joseph Evans (**1901** – **1914**); manager

Benjamin Birch (**1914** – **1915**);

John Thomas Round (**1915** – **1918**);

Mrs. Hannah Round (**1918** – **1921**);

Thomas Goode (**1921** – **1922**);

Thomas Edmund Morris (**1922**);

George Henry Hill (**1922** – **1923**);

Arthur Smith (**1923** – **1955**);

Elizabeth Smith (**1955**);

William Sharpe (**1955** – **1959**);

William Edwin Turner (**1959** – [1962]

## NOTES

Church Street [1845], [1854]

11, Birchfield Lane [1873], [1881], [1884]

2, Birchfield Lane [1891], [1892]

74, Birchfield Lane [1896], [1901], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1939]

## Worcestershire Chronicle 1/7/1846

“Worcestershire Quarter Sessions.

Friendly Societies. The following articles, duly certified by Mr. Tidd Pratt, were laid before the Court, allowed and confirmed.....

Wolverhampton Reformed Order of Oddfellows, of West Bromwich and Oldbury Districts, held at the NEW INN, Church Bridge, Oldbury.”

## 1851 Census

### Birchyfield Lane

- [1] *John Birch* (46), odd work dresser, iron foundry, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Birch* (47), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Edward Birch* (16), son, odd work dresser, iron foundry, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Ann Birch* (13), daughter, employee at home, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Elizabeth Birch* (9), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *John Summerfield* (51), brother-in-law, moulder, iron foundry, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Rhoda Lenton* (17), house servant, born Oldbury:

## Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/2/1856

“Thomas Ward of Church Bridge, Oldbury, will run John Bayley six score yards, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at the NEW INN, Church Bridge, Oldbury.”

## Brierley Hill Advertiser 4/10/1856

“On Monday last an inquest was held by R. Docker, Esq, at the NEW INN, Church Bridge, on the body of Richard Dunn, who met his death on Saturday under circumstances which have warranted the return of a verdict of Wilful Murder against Joseph Allmark, a young unmarried man, a collier by trade, who lived with his parents at Tividale. The facts disclosed in the inquest may be stated as follows.

On Saturday morning last, about ten o'clock, some fourteen colliers, who were employed in the Sampson Colliery, near Oldbury, left their work in one of the pits, in consequence of the water in it having risen to a considerable height. When the men got upon the surface, they, in consequence of the rain, went to a blacksmith's shop, which was only a few yards off, for shelter. A man named Richard Dunn, aged twenty-one, was the smith employed at the forge in the shop, and was at work at the time the colliers entered. Allmark commenced handling the tools in the shop, and pulling these about to such an extent as to attract the attention of Richard Dunn, who remonstrated, and asked him to let them alone, adding that, ‘If he could not leave the tools alone, he must go out of the shop.’ Upon this, Dunn placed his hand upon Allmark's chest, but, as it appeared, without exhibiting any violence. As soon as Dunn placed his hand in the position described, Allmark struck him with his fist in the mouth, remarking, ‘I will do for you, you b——.’ Dunn then gave him a slight slap on the face, with the back of one of his hands, and with the back of the other he struck him upon the chest, but this was said to have been done without violence. Allmark then observed, ‘You b——, I will lay you straight for that before the day is out.’ Allmark then went to another part of the shop, and stood behind one of the colliers (Thomas Pearson), with whom he had previously been at work in the pit, the man Dunn in the meantime returning to his work at the forge. An interval of five minutes elapsed without anything being said between the parties. At the expiration of that period Allmark took up a new pike helve, which had been lying near to the place where he stood. With this in his hand he advanced a couple of paces towards the man Dunn, who at that time had just placed a piece of iron in the fire of the forge. One of the colliers exclaimed, ‘Look out, Dick,’ and the man Dunn at that instant turning round, he received a violent blow from the helve in the hand of the man Allmark, who, in addition to advancing a couple of paces, leaned forward when the blow was dealt. Dunn received the blow across the right side of his head, and immediately fell to the ground in a state of insensibility, Allmark observing, ‘There, you b——, I told you I would lay you straight.’ The colliers in the shop hastened to render assistance to the blacksmith Dunn, and meanwhile Allmark left the shop, and was seen running across some adjoining fields in the direction of Tividale, where he resided. Dunn was lifted from the ground, and the rude restoratives within their reach were used by the colliers. He remained senseless, and was carried to his home at Churchbridge. A surgeon, Mr. Beatty, was sent for, and found that the injured man was suffering from concussion of the brain. Dunn lingered until half-past twelve on Saturday night, when he expired; never having been conscious after receiving the blow, which, in Mr. Beatty's opinion, must have been a very violent one.

The jury, after having consulted together, returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against Joseph Allmark. The accused, we learn, has absconded, but measures have been taken for his apprehension.”

[Joseph Allmark was eventually discovered in Stafford prison, waiting to be tried for having thrown a lad down a coal pit near Bilston. He appeared at Worcestershire Summer Assizes 1857, charged with manslaughter. He was found guilty and, although the jury recommended him to mer-

cy on account of his age, was sentenced to 15 years' penal servitude.]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/10/1856

“Whitehouse will run Burton of Church Bridge five score yards, for £5 a side. Money ready at the NEW INN, Church Bridge, any night during next week.”

Birmingham Journal 21/5/1859 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Properties, consisting of Old-Licensed Public House, and Freehold Dwelling Houses, situate in Birchy Filed Lane, in the Township of Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by A. G. Altree, at the house of Mr. John Green, JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS, opposite the Church, Oldbury, on Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of May instant, at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions of sale as shall be then produced.

Lot 1. The Old-Licensed Public House, known as the NEW INN, situate at the corner of Birchy Field Lane aforesaid, and Park Street, with the Brewhouses, Out-buildings, and Land thereto belonging, now in the occupation of *George Jackson*; also the Two Dwelling House adjoining thereto, now in the respective occupations of James Prince and Septimus White.

The above Property contains, with the site of the Buildings, about 874 square yards, and produces an annual rental of £37.....”

1861 Census

Birchyfield Lane – NEW INN

- [1] *George Jackson* (25), bricklayer, born Oldbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Jackson (21), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] James Jackson (3), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] Ann Jackson (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Henry Jackson (22), brother, bricklayer, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Mary Harvey (14), general servant, born Oldbury:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/12/1866

“Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, near Dudley.....

W. Price and W. Constable. These Oldbury men are matched to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, at the above grounds, on Dec 26. £1 10s a side is down in the hands of Mr. T. Johnson, the final stakeholder, and further deposits to be made weekly to Mr. *Jackson*, the NEW INN, Church Bridge

1871 Census

Birchy Field Lane

- [1] *George Jackson* (35), bricklayer and publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Jackson (30), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] James Jackson (12), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] Annie Jackson (10), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Agness Jackson (9), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] George E. Jackson (7), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] Florence E. Jackson (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] Eliza Adams (18), domestic servant, born Rowley:

*George Jackson* was also a grocer. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1872

“Yesterday, the annual licensing session for Oldbury was held at the Police Court.....

There were eighty-three applications for the renewal of old licenses, and 50 for certificates under the Wine and Beerhouse Act.

Mr. Avery said that all the applications for the renewal of licensed victuallers' licenses and beer and wine shop licenses would be granted, with two exceptions, viz, those of *John Hyland*, beerhouse keeper, Church



Bridge, and Sophia Jones, the landlady of the HARMONIC INN, Church Street. In the other cases there was no objection on the part of the police and no conviction. *Hyland* and Jones had been summoned for offences, and their cases were to be heard that morning, after which their applications for renewal would be considered.....

The charge against *John Hyland* of permitting drunkenness in his house, on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst, was subsequently heard by the Magistrates, and the offence having been proved, a fine of £2 and costs, was inflicted.

Sophia Jones, of the HARMONIC INN, pleaded guilty to a charge of keeping her house open during prohibited hours, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, and was fined £1 and costs.

Their licenses were renewed, but the defendants were cautioned as to their future conduct.

Yesterday, for the first time, the Licensing Session was held at Oldbury. It had previously been held at Hales Owen, much to the inconvenience of publicans and others interested in the trade of Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 27/11/1874 - Advert

“Lost, on the 20<sup>th</sup> instant, a brown Mare, about 14 hands high, sand cracks in fore feet, saddle mark on the back.

Any one finding same, on returning her to *John Hyland*, Church Bridge, Oldbury, will be rewarded.”

#### Worcester Herald 12/4/1879

“Worcestershire Easter Quarter Sessions ..... Wednesday. Before Mr. G. W. Hastings.....

Edward Waterhouse and Joseph Sheppard surrendered to their bail, and were indicted for stealing 12 sides of bacon, the property of *John Hyland*, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January, at Oldbury. Mr. Godson prosecuted; Mr. A. Young (specially retained) and Mr. E. H. Selfe appeared for Waterhouse; Mr. J. Underhill (specially retained) and Mr. T. M. Todd appeared for Sheppard.

For the prosecution it was alleged that on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January Mr. *Hyland*, who is a provision merchant, residing at Church Bridge, Oldbury, left in his yard two boxes of American bacon. During the night one of the boxes was broken open and 12 sides of bacon, of the value of £7 10s, were abstracted. The police were communicated with, and the prisoner Waterhouse was arrested. It was found that at six o'clock that morning he had been offering the bacon for sale to two men named Attwood and Bate, who had declined to have anything to do with it. The police examined Waterhouse's cart and found the sides smeared with bacon fat. When charged with the offence, Waterhouse at first denied it, and then said that there was a person named Edwards who had called him up at five o'clock that morning and wanted him to get some bacon away because the bailiffs were in the house. They had offered it for sale to several persons, and had finally disposed of it to the prisoner Sheppard at Tipton. Sheppard had given £1 10s for it, out of which he (Waterhouse) had received 10s. Upon hearing this the police went to Sheppard's house and found the bacon there.

Mr. Young urged on behalf of Waterhouse that he had not been actuated by guilty motives. He was a man of good character, and obtained his livelihood by jobbing with a horse and cart. It was in the legitimate exercise of his employment that he had undertaken to carry the bacon for Edwards, who had absconded, and who was the real thief.

Mr. Underhill contended that Sheppard had taken the bacon in good faith from Edwards and Waterhouse upon the understanding that if he was satisfied with the manner in which it had been obtained he would complete the transaction. Witnesses were called to substantiate this statement, and to show that Sheppard had attempted no kind of concealment in the matter.

After a hearing extending over nearly seven hours, the jury found both prisoners guilty.

Mr. Hastings said that with regard to Sheppard there was no doubt in the minds of the Bench that he was a man of bad character. He had been indicted for burglary, and had been sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, with hard labour, for obtaining money by means of false pretences. Of all people in the world, there were none who did so much to keep up the crime of this country as the receivers of stolen property. He would have to undergo a sentence of seven years' penal servitude, and after that be subjected to police supervision for five years. Waterhouse, who had previously borne a good character, would have to go to gaol for twelve months, with hard labour.”

*John Hyland* was also a grocer. [1880]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/10/1880 - Advert

“Important Freehold Corner Public House, Birchfield Lane, Park Street, Oldbury.

By Roderick and Son. To be Sold by Auction (by order of the Mortgagee), at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, on Tuesday, November 9, 1880, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

An important Freehold Full-Licensed Corner Public House, known as the NEW INN, in Birchfield Lane, corner of Park Street, Church Bridge, Oldbury, with Brewhouse, Stable, Coach-house, Yard, Gateway, and Premises, now in the occupation of Mr. *John Hyland*, and considered worth a rent of about £70, in addition to a handsome premium if a lease were granted; and also the Two Houses adjoining, being Nos.12 and 13 in Birchfield Road, let at rents amounting to £11 14s per annum.

The Property has a fine corner frontage of nearly 40 yards, and contains 476 square yards. It is situate near to Messrs. Chance's Works, and to important Brickworks, Ironworks, and Collieries, and the Public-house is unusually free from opposition, and commands the trade of an extensive district.

The Mines and Minerals are reserved.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Johnson, Barclay, and Johnson, Solicitors, Waterloo Street; or to the Auctioneers, 2, Temple Row West, Birmingham.”

Black Country Bugle 13/9/2007

'Readers uncover Oldbury family's brewing history.'

“.....*John Evans* (b.1841) initially became a wheelwright and he married *Eliza Lenton* (b.1841) on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1862 at Dudley. They lived at Whiteheath Gate, near the corner of Throne Road and Oldbury Road and they had three children, *Joseph* (b.1866), *William* (b.1873) and *Ann Eliza* (b.1876). Later *John Evans* ran the NAVIGATION in Titford Lane and then the NEW INN in Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, establishing the Churchbridge Brewery in the 1890s. *John Evans* died under the surgeon's knife on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1901, and his wife *Eliza* retired to live at Wyken, near Coventry.”

1881 Census

11, Birchy Field Lane – NEW INN

- [1] *John Evans* (38), licensed victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] *Eliza Evans* (39), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Joseph Evans* (14), son, wheelwright, born Oldbury;
- [4] *William Evans* (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Eliza Evans* (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

*John Evans* founded the Churchbridge Brewery. His sons *Joseph* and *William* subsequently ran it. *William Evans* – see SIR ROBERT PEEL, Rowley Regis.

The sister of *John Evans*, *Eliza*, married *Henry Whitehouse* and they ran the VINE (FOX) at Whiteheath, Rowley Regis.

West Bromwich Weekly News 16/7/1887

“*John Evans*, NEW INN, Churchbridge, was charged with being drunk in charge of a horse and gig, and *Earl Thompson*, of Langley, was charged with being drunk with him, on the 7<sup>th</sup> July.

PC Clarke stated that he saw defendants swaying about in a gig, and in Eel Street they pulled up, when *Thompson* fell in front of the wheel, and *Evans* threatened to cut his head off with the whip.

PC Smith confirmed.

Mr. Shakespeare defended and stated that *Evans* had kept the licensed house for 20 years, and had never been there before. The two defendants were old friends, and neither of them had ever been drunk in their lives.

Mr. Hayward stated that defendants called at their house on the date in question, and left at two o'clock – perfectly sober. *Benjamin Thompson* said that his father came home at 12.30 on the day in question, and he (witness) opened the door to let him in. He had applied six leeches to his head the day previous, and had been very ill.

*Joseph Evans* stated that his father came home sober, and the next morning he found that the harness had been put away in a proper manner. He had never seen his father properly drunk in all his life. Defendant *Evans* was then placed in the box, and stated that Mr. Thompson's hat blew off, and he pulled up suddenly for him to get out and pick it up. As he did so, two officers flew out from under a wall, and accused them of being drunk. He jumped out of the trap very excitedly, and offered to go to the Police Station with them. The officers told a tissue of untruths, as they were as sober as they were at that time. The case was dismissed."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/12/1889

"A well-attended meeting of miners was held at the NEW INN, Church Bridge, Oldbury, on Saturday night, for the purpose of forming a miners' lodge for the district. The meeting was addressed by Mr. B. Winwood, who said there was great discontent existing amongst miners with regard to the prices of coal being raised. The men had not received their fair proportion of the increase. It was unfair to them and the public to charge the purchasers of coal at the pits more than was charged to manufacturers or merchants. He spoke of the necessity of a restriction being put upon the output of coal. It was decided to form a miners' lodge, and a further resolution was passed in favour of a national movement with reference to the wages question."

1891 Census

2, Birchfield Lane – NEW INN

[1] *John Evans* (48), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Eliza Evans* (50), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *William Evans* (18), son, brewer's labourer, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Ann Eliza Evans* (14), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

*John Evans* was also a brewer. [1896], [1900]

County Advertiser 22/8/1896

"On Monday evening an inquest was held at the NEW INN, Church Bridge, near Oldbury, before Mr. E. Docker, respecting the death of *Samuel Walters* (47), rivetmaker, formerly residing in Tump Road, Blackheath, who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, at Newbury Lane, on Sunday morning.

*Elizabeth Walters*, the widow, stated that deceased left home about half-past seven on Saturday night. She supposed that he was walking from Blackheath to Langley for the purpose of seeing his daughter, who lives there, when he missed his way and fell into the canal.

*Job Taylor*, hairdresser, of Birmingham Road, Blackheath, said deceased called at his shop on Saturday night about 11-30. He then appeared to be under the influence of drink.

Police-constable *Harrison* and other witnesses gave evidence as to the finding and recovery of the body.

There were no marks of violence. The officer stated that he had ascertained that deceased was very drunk on Saturday night.

A verdict of Found Drowned was returned."

AND

"On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the NEW INN, Churchbridge, Oldbury, respecting the death of *Samuel Harvey* (13), whose parents reside in Park Street, Churchbridge, who was killed on Friday evening by the falling of a quantity of earth on a pit-mound near the Park House Brick Works.

*Henry Harvey*, ironworker, said his son went to the pit-mound to pick coal out of the refuse. Some time afterwards he was informed that deceased had been suffocated through being buried under a large quantity of debris.

The Coroner reminded the witness that it was a dangerous practice to allow children to visit such places.

Witness replied that it was a general practice for children in that locality to pick coal on the mounds.

*Louisa Olliver* stated that she saw the deceased and a number of other children picking coal on the mound. They were engaged in a hollow, when suddenly about eight tons of earth fell from the top, burying the deceased and four of the children. Witness ran to the spot and extricated two of the children, and also raised an alarm. A number of men came with picks and shovels, and the children were rescued in about ten minutes.

Harvey was found to be dead, but the others were restored.

William Vance said the children were trespassing, and a man named James Harris was at work amongst them.

Harris was called, and denied that he was working in the hollow with the children, but said he was engaged by the side of it.

Dr. Buttery said deceased was suffocated; his right arm was broken, and he was also crushed. He complimented Police-constable Harrison upon the successful efforts he made to restore animation by artificial respiration. One of the children was suffering from serious spinal injuries.

The Coroner commented upon the dangerous practice on the part of parents in allowing children to pick coal on the mounds. He hoped the case would serve as a warning to parents in the future.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and added an expression of opinion that it was dangerous for patents to allow children to visit the pit mounds for the purpose of getting coal. They also commended the conduct of Police-constable Harrison for having, by his unremitting exertions, restored respiration in the case of a little girl to all appearance dead.”

*John Evans* died on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1901.

#### 1901 Census

74, Birchfield Lane

[1] *Joseph Evans* (35), brewer's manager, born Oldbury;

[2] Rose Evans (22), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Eliza Evans (11), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Joseph Evans (8), son, born Oldbury;

[5] Agnes Evans (6), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Victor Evans (11 months), son, born Oldbury;

[7] Clara Piper (18), domestic servant, born Wednesbury:

#### Birmingham Mail 29/1/1904

“Today, Mr. A. H. Hibbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the NEW INN, Churchbridge, Oldbury, respecting the death of James Smart (15), whose parents reside in Park Street, Oldbury. Deceased was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal near Albrooke's Wharf, at Churchbridge, on the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. It appeared that deceased suffered from fits. On the 25<sup>th</sup> inst he left home to go to a house in Wood Road, West Smethwick, but he did not reach there or return home. No further tidings of him were obtained until his body was found in the canal by a man named Isaac Skidmore. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.”

#### 1911 Census

74, Birchfield Lane

[1] *Joseph Evans* (46), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Rose Evans (34), wife, assistant in the business, born Tipton;

[3] Eliza Evans (21), daughter, assistant in the business, born Oldbury;

[4] Joseph Evans (18), son, assistant brewer, born Oldbury;

[5] Agnes Evans (17), daughter, tailoress, born Oldbury;

[6] Robert Evans (13), son, schoolboy, born Oldbury;

[7] John Evans (8), son, born Oldbury;

[8] Reginald Evans (2), son, born Oldbury;

[9] Horace Evans (2 months), son, born Oldbury:

*Joseph Evans* was also a brewer. [1912]

Rose (nee Piper) was *Joseph Evans*'s second wife.

*Joseph Evans* died in 1942.

Rose had an income from the pub until she died in 1949.

*Benjamin Birch* – check also WHITE LION.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/11/1930

“Norton Canes Pit Disaster Fund. Further Contributions.....  
Customers, NEW INN, Churchbridge, Oldbury, £1 1s 0d.”

1939 Register

74, Birchfield Lane (4 of 5)

- [1] *Arthur Smith*, date of birth 1/8/1871, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Elizabeth Smith*, dob 23/4/1884, bar assistant, public house, married;
- [3] Arthur F. Smith, dob 24/7/1911, hairdresser, assistant, single;
- [4] Muriel M. M. (Smith) Ashcroft, dob 24/9/1907, barmaid, single;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/5/1950

“West Bromwich, Oldbury, and Smethwick licensees have declared war on innkeepers who provide free drinks and sandwiches for darts and domino players to attract customers. The Women’s Auxiliary of West Bromwich, Oldbury and Smethwick Licensed Victuallers’ Association has decided to inquire into the practice, and the National Trade Defence Association will be asked to help. Mr. L. Dodd, of the RAILWAY INN, West Bromwich, president of West Bromwich branch of the Licensed Victuallers’ Association, thinks that this form of enticement amounts to unfair trading. Mrs. *E. Smith*, of the NEW INN, Oldbury, vice-president of the Women’s Auxiliary, was more outspoken. ‘Star players are enticed away from their regular public house by promises of free drinks and food,’ she said. ‘I am losing customers through this new system, and when I find out exactly which licensees are involved I shall go to see them.’ And Mrs. Dale, of the SANDWELL HOTEL, West Bromwich, president of the Women’s Auxiliary, said, ‘If this practice continued, it was an attempt to bribe the public. Already dart and domino players are moving from one public house to another, and some licensees are losing heavily.’ Support for the licensees’ fight was promised last night by Mr. R. P. Bray, assistant agent for the Midland’s Division of the National Trade Defence Association. ‘My Association regards this as unfair trading,’ he said.”

An application of plans for the removal of a dividing wall between the two smoke rooms was granted on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1957.

*William Edwin Turner* – see also UNION.

Closed  
Demolished

**NEW INN**

44, Birmingham Road, (Popes Lane), OLDBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Stanley [1829] – [1835]  
Mrs. Sarah Stanley [1845] – **1858**;

John Parfitt (1858 – 1859);  
Joseph Brown (1859 – [ ]  
Joseph Round [ ] – 1860);  
John Jordan (1860 – [1867])  
Joseph Brown [1870]  
John Smith [1871] – [1872]  
Job Williams [1873]

## NOTES

Popes Lane [1845], [1850]

*Thomas Stanley* = Thomas Standley

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/3/1830 - Advert

“Freehold in Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, at the NEW INNS, in Oldbury, kept by *Thomas Stanley*, on Friday next, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, at four o'clock in the afternoon, in one or more lots, as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, all those five Dwelling Houses, with the Stable, Shops, Outbuildings, Gardens, Land and Premises, situated in Popes Lane, in Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, fronting the said lane and the Birmingham turnpike road.

For particulars apply to Mr. Hemmington, Solicitor, Oldbury.”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/7/1835 - Advert

“Eligible Freehold Houses, Nail Shops, and Building Land, at Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by H. Gimblett, on Wednesday next, July 8, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Stanley*, the NEW INN, near Oldbury, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

### 1841 Census

Birmingham Road – NEW INNS

- [1] *Thomas Standley* (55), dealer;
- [2] Sarah Standley (55);
- [3] Joseph Standley (20), dealer;
- [4] Thomas Standley (15), dealer:

*Sarah Stanley* = Sarah Standley

### 1851 Census

Birmingham Road

- [1] *Sarah Stanley* (66), widow, victualler, born Smethwick;
- [2] Thomas Horton (38), son-in-law, pig dealer, born Edgbaston;
- [3] Letty Horton (45), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Sarah Horton (7), grand-daughter, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Journal 31/7/1858 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, the NEW INNS, near Oldbury, now in the occupation of Mrs. *Standley*.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Joseph Collins, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 1/1/1859 - Advert

“An Opportunity Seldom to be Met With. That Very Old and Good-Accustomed Road-Side Inn, the NEW INN, near the Rood End Gate and Popes Lane, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Contract (by direction of the present Proprietor, who is declining the Public business).

The Premises consist of a large Club Room, commodious Tap Room, Parlour, Bar, Kitchen, excellent Brew-house, two excellent Stables, Piggeries, large and productive Garden, Skittle Alley, and Lock-up Yard.

Rent and Coming-in very low.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Appraiser, and Land Surveyor, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 15/1/1859 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale. To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

At the NEW INN, near the Rood End Gate, Popes Lane, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Sold by Auction, on Tuesday Next, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January instant.

The whole of the Public House Fixtures, Brewing Plant, Household Furniture, and other Effects; consisting of excellent Hogshead and Half-hogshead Casks, four-pull Beer Machine, with Taps and Piping; two large Boilers and Fittings, large Mash Tub, Drinking Screens and Forms, new Gas Fittings, Chimney, Toilet, and other Glasses, thirty-hour Clock, mahogany-frame Sofa, horse-hair seating; Windsor and other Chairs, Drinking and other Tables, mahogany Bedsteads, Feather Bed, Washstand and Dressing Table, Chest of Drawers, and numerous other Effects; which will appear in catalogues.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneer's Office, Westley Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 29/9/1860 - Notice

“In the County Court, of Stafford, holden at Oldbury. 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1860.

Whereas a Petition of Edward Thompson, residing, in October, 1853, at the HAWTHORNE COTTAGE, at Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, and carrying on business as a Publican until October, 1856, and afterwards residing at the BEEHIVE INN, near the Whimsey Bridge, in Oldbury aforesaid, carrying on business as a Publican until January, 1857, and afterwards residing at the BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury aforesaid, carrying on business as a Publican and Carter, until October, 1858, and afterwards and until March, 1859, residing at the NEW INNS Public House, in the Birmingham Road, Oldbury aforesaid, in lodgings, and out of work, but assisting my Uncle in his business as a Publican, and afterwards and now residing at Simpsons Buildings, Smethwick aforesaid, working as a Glass Blower, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Oldbury, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said Edward Thompson, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said Edward Thompson is hereby required to appear in the said Court, to be holden at Oldbury aforesaid, before the Judge of the said Court, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1860, 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 Edward Thompson, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Messrs. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, the Registrars of the said Court, who are the Official Assignees of the Estate and Effects of the said Insolvent, at their Office at the Court House, in Oldbury aforesaid.

J. Wright, Attorney, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 19/11/1859 - Advert

“Worcestershire. Freehold Houses, near Oldbury. To be Sold by Auction.....

Four Houses and Out-buildings, situated near Oldbury, fronting the Turnpike Road from Oldbury to Birmingham, and lying between the NEW INN, occupied by Mr. *Joseph Brown*, and the Rood End Turnpike Gate.....”

#### 1861 Census

Birmingham Road – NEW INN

[1] *John Jordan* (27), glass gatherer, born Oldbury;

[2] *Catherine Jordan* (28), wife, born Oldbury;

- [3] William Jordan (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] Sarah Jordan (4), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] Mary Jordan (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Ann Jordan (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] Ann Hughs (15), general servant, born Oldbury:

*J. Jordan* issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Daily Post 5/4/1865 - Died

“On the 25<sup>th</sup> ult, at Oldbury, aged 32 years, Catherine, the beloved wife of *John Jordan*, victualler; much respected.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/4/1865 - Advert

“To Housekeepers. Wanted, a healthy, middle-aged Person, from 30 to 35, to take charge of a House and Family. A respectable, trustworthy Person will find a comfortable home. None need apply unless they can obtain a good character from last situation.

Address, stating particulars, to *John Jordan*, NEW INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/10/1865 - Advert

“Wanted a good General Servant, from 25 to 30 years of age; one who understands Plain Cooking preferred. Good character.

Apply at the NEW INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1865

“The adjourned inquest on the body of an old man, who was found dead in the Birmingham Road, on Monday week, was held last evening at the NEW INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, before Mr. Ralph Docker, District Coroner.

It will be remembered that about five o’clock on the morning of the day named a man named Bird found deceased lying across the footpath. Dr. Hayward was immediately sent for, but found life extinct upon his arrival. Some evidence was given on the preceding occasion of his acts on the day and night preceding his death. He went into the NEW INN, and had some refreshment, and stated his intention of going to Dudley. He was afterwards observed for several hours to walk up and down the road, and begged a few coppers to pay for a night’s lodging. These coppers were found by the police in his pocket.

Acting under the precept of the Coroner, Dr. Hayward made a post mortem examination of the body, and his evidence removed all suspicion that deceased had been foully dealt with. An outward examination of the body showed that there were no external injuries whatever, and on opening the body, the brain, heart, lungs, and kidneys were found extensively diseased. There was about a quarter of a pint of watery fluid on and in the brain, and in Dr. Hayward’s opinion, the deceased died from serous apoplexy resulting from the diseased state of the organs of the body, possibly hastened by his exposure to the cold on the morning of his death. It was a mystery, however, that he had lived so long as he had. He had carefully searched for any bruises or fractures of the skull, but there was not the slightest trace of any.

Mr. Docker summed up, and the Jury returned a verdict of Natural Death, resulting from serous apoplexy. Deceased was about seventy years of age, tall, with white hair, and when found was dressed in a dark suit of clothes, blue shirt, and white front, and is said to have once been a bucklemaker.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/10/1866 - Marriages

“On the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, at St. Andrew’s Church, Netherton, by the Rev. S. L. Harrison, curate, *John Jordan*, NEW INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, to Ann Elwell, FLOWER POT INN, of the same place.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/8/1867 - Advert

“Oldbury. To be Let, an Old-licensed Public House and Premises, the MALT SHOVEL INN, with Malt-house adjoining, in the occupation of Timothy Thompson. Also, an Old-licensed Public House and Premises, the NEW INN, on the Birmingham Road, in the occupation of *John Jordan*.



Apply to J. Collins, Church Street, Oldbury.”

County Express 10/7/1869

“For the purpose of inquiring into the circumstances attending the death of a youth, 16 years of age, named George Toy, who resided in Frazer Street, an inquest was held at the NEW INN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, on Tuesday, before Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner.

On Saturday evening last deceased went to bathe in an arm of the Birmingham canal, with several other boys. Deceased got into the water first, but was directly afterwards seen to be struggling. A woman passing at the time, perceiving that he was drowning, endeavoured to rescue him. Several boys about at the time, by catching hold of each other’s hands, and arranging themselves in a line, went into the water some distance, but failed to reach deceased, who was soon afterwards seen to sink. A young man named Harris, who subsequently came upon the spot, and who could swim, plunged into the water, and soon brought the unfortunate youth to the side of the canal. He had then been in the water nearly ten minutes, and was quite dead. Mr. Sainsbury, surgeon, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, was sent for, but although he promptly attended, his assistance was of no avail, except to pronounce life extinct. The young man Harris, in reply to the Coroner, said he was not aware of any means to restore life in cases of drowning. Mr. Sainsbury, at the Coroner’s request, showed how to apply Marshall’s method of artificial respiration.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

*J. Brown* issued tokens from here.

1871 Census

Birmingham Road – NEW INN

- [1] *John Smith* (41), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Smith* (38), wife, born Smethwick;
- [3] *Patience Smith* (15), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Jane Smith* (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Phoebe Hudson* (18), general servant, born Netherton:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/8/1871 - Advert

“Five Shillings Reward. Lost, on Sunday last, a small Brown Dog, Black muzzle. Answers to the name of ‘Jerry.’

Anyone returning him to the NEW INNS, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, will receive the above Reward.”

Smethwick Telephone 28/8/1886

“The annual Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday.....

Mr. Shakespeare applied for the renewal of the license of the NEW INN, Birmingham Road, on behalf of John Jordan, brewer, of the British Queen Brewery.

The Superintendent of Police opposed the application on the ground that the house had been closed for a number of years.

Police-sergeant Stanton stated that, to his own knowledge, the house had been closed five years, and, from enquiries, he believed the premises had not been used for public premises for fifteen years.

Mr. Shakespeare said they admitted the house had been closed for eight years.....

The magistrates then retired to consider the various applications ..... Mr. Avery announced that they had decided to allow the application of Walter Cooper, but not that of Mr. John Jordan.”

**NEW INN**

39, (59), Halesowen Street / Union Street, (Furnace Row), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

John Collins, Halesowen Street, Oldbury  
John Jordan and Co. Ltd. [1900]  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired c.1920)

## LICENSEES

Richard Clifton [1862] – **1866**);  
Charles McKenley (**1866** – [ ]  
Joseph Brookes [1870]  
Benjamin Whitehouse [1871] – [1873]  
Thomas Collins [1880] – **1888**);  
Samuel Hill (**1888** – **1889**);  
William Henry Blackford (**1889**);  
Joseph Parsonage (**1889** – **1890**);  
George Milward (**1890** – **1900**);  
John Jordan and Co. Ltd. (**1900** – **1902**);  
William Shaw [1901] manager  
William Simcox [1901] manager?  
Manasseh Clee (**1902** – **1933**);  
William Henry Such (**1933** – **1939**);  
Sophia Such (**1939** – **1960**);  
Frank Leonard Burns (**1960** – **1961**);  
Florence Annie Burns (**1961** – **1963**);

## NOTES

59, Halesowen Street [1871], [1873], [1880], [1881], [1884], [1888]  
39, Halesowen Street [1891], [1892], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939]

It was known locally as ‘Such’s’.

### 1861 Census

Halesowen Street – Public House – NEW INN – Uninhabited

*Richard Clifton* issued tokens from here.

*Joseph Brookes* = Joseph Brooks

*Joseph Brookes* issued tokens from here.

### Birmingham Daily Post 8/6/1870 - Advert

“That excellent Inn, the NEW INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, near Dudley, surrounded with Brickyards, Ironworks, and great population, doing a good ready-money Trade. Apply, Mr. Ashcroft, Auctioneer, Wolverhampton; or on the Premises.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1870 - Advert

“That capital Corner Inn, the NEW INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, near Birmingham; surrounded with extensive works and population; doing a good business in Ale and Spirits. Apply, Mr. Ashcroft, Valuer, Wolverhampton; or on the Premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/10/1870 - Advert

“NEW INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.

Sale by Auction, by Mr. W. Ashcroft, on Monday Next, Oct. 17, commencing at Eleven – all the superior Brewing Plant, 23 sweet and sound Ale Barrels, Boilers, Mash and other Tubs, Lead and Gutta-percha Pipes, mahogany and birch Tables, mahogany Sofa and Chairs, iron Bedsteads, and numerous Effects.”

1871 Census

59, Halesowen Street – NEW INN

- [1] *Benjamin Whitehouse* (46), victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Lydia Whitehouse* (37), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Eliza Whitehouse* (15), daughter, general servant, born Darlaston;
- [4] *Hannah Whitehouse* (13), daughter, general servant, born Darlaston;
- [5] *Florence Whitehouse* (10), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [6] *Phebe Whitehouse* (8), daughter, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [7] *Job Whitehouse* (6), son, scholar, born Darlaston;
- [8] *Eli Whitehouse* (2), son, born Darlaston;
- [9] *Emma Caddick* (67), widow, grand-mother, born Bentley:

1881 Census

59, Halesowen Street – NEW INN

- [1] *Thomas Collins* (26), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Kate Collins* (24), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Clara Ann Shinton* (17), domestic servant, born Tividale:

Dudley and District News 10/6/1882

“Honourable Order of Modern Masons. On Monday evening the members of Branch No.164 partook of an excellent dinner at the Lodge-house, the NEW INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, when there were present Bros. W. Heaton, RWGM, who occupied the chair; and W. Butler, HDGM, the vice-chair; R. Wilcox, GDS; and a considerable number of the brethren from the various branches in Birmingham and Dudley, &c. After the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were duly proposed and honoured. Bro. J. Prestidge proposed the ‘health of the District Officers,’ which was responded to by the Chairman, who remarked he was pleased to see the Oldbury Branch going on in such a flourishing condition, and he hoped it would continue to prosper. (Applause.) The Vice-chairman and Bro. R. Wilcox, GDS, responded in suitable terms. Other toasts followed, and the remainder of the evening was spent in conviviality, songs being sung and instrumental music given by several of the brethren present.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1884

“*Thomas Collins*, of the NEW INN, Hales Owen Street, was charged with keeping his licensed premises open during illegal hours on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Police-sergeant Stanton stated that at twelve minutes past eleven o’clock on the night of the 9<sup>th</sup> he visited defendant’s house, and found two men and a female sitting in the front liquor shop, with beer in a cup before them.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs, the Bench considering that it was a case of negligence rather than wilful violation of the law.

Benjamin Morgan, roller, of Wesley Street, and James Morgan, roller, Hales Owen Street, were summoned for being on the above-mentioned premises, and were each ordered to pay the costs.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 15/12/1885

“At Oldbury Court today Sidney Wallow (37), Halesowen Street, was charged with doing wilful damage to a large plate-glass window belonging to *Thomas Collins*, of the NEW INNS, Halesowen Street, on Sunday night. The Bench, after hearing the case, made an order for payment of the damages and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1888

“Yesterday Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy-coroner) held an inquest at the NEW INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, respecting the death of a child named Thomas Dunwoody, aged three weeks, whose parents reside at No.1 Court, Hales Owen Street.

Mr. Dunwoody stated that on Monday night last she took her child into her mother’s house, and after remaining there a short time she noticed the child’s head fall back, and remarked to her mother that deceased was ill. A neighbour, named Phibbs, took the child from witness, and sent for a medical man, but when he arrived the child was dead.

The Coroner: What made you go into your mother’s house after eleven o’clock?

Witness replied that her husband was intoxicated, and she did not want to quarrel with him.

A Juror: Had your husband previously turned you out? – Witness: No; I have never been exposed to the street.

In reply to further questions, witness admitted having been out on Saturday and Sunday nights, and would have been out on Monday night had not the child died. She did not go to bed on the two former nights. Her husband locked the door about twelve o’clock and retired to bed. The child did not die in her arms in the street, but died in her sister’s arms at her mother’s residence. It was not true that she had been exposed to the cold for hours since the birth of the child.

Rebecca Riley, mother of the last witness, said that her daughter lay upon a sofa on the two nights that she visited her house.

Mary Phibbs said she went to lay the child out at its parents’ residence, when the father said, ‘Take it to the mortuary; I will not have it here.’

Dr. Lyddon said that the child died from convulsions. It had also been improperly fed, which accelerated convulsions.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Convulsions, and the coroner was requested to reprimand Dunwoody for his brutal conduct.”

Birmingham Mail 8/1/1890 - Advert

“Sheep Dog Found; if not claimed in three days will be sold to pay expenses.  
NEW INNS, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Mail 10/2/1890

“Today a mass meeting of ironworkers was held at the NEW INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, for the purpose of considering whether they should work on Mondays. Mr. Harvey presided.

The following resolution was passed unanimously: ‘That this meeting pledges itself to do all in its power to abolish all Monday mornings’ work, both in the mills and the forges.’

Mr. Aucott (operative secretary), and Mr. Langford addressed the meeting on the Mondays’ work question, and other matters relating to the Wages Board of the National Association of Iron and Steel Workers.”

*George Milward* = George Millward

1891 Census

39, Halesowen Street

[1] *George Millward* (60), publican, born Halesowen;

[2] Ann Millward (60), wife, born Stourbridge;

[3] Mary A. Millward (28), daughter, domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[4] Frederick Millward (26), son, grinder, born Oldbury;

[5] Mary A. Roe (18), domestic servant, born Handsworth:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1891

“Yesterday afternoon, at Oldbury Police Court – before Messrs. J. E. Wilson and H. Bennett – *George Millward*, landlord of the NEW INNS, Halesowen Street, was fined 20s and costs for permitting drunkenness on his premises on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst.

The evidence of Police-sergeant Hill and Police-constable Wagstaff went to show that a man named Ashcroft

was led away from the defendant's premises on the day named in a helpless state of intoxication. The defence urged by Mr. W. Shakespear was that the man was not supplied with sufficient liquor in the defendant's house to make him drunk."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/4/1895

"At West Bromwich County Court, yesterday – before Judge Griffith and a jury – an action was brought by Reuben Bull, watchmaker, Oldbury, against *George Millward*, NEW INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, to recover £50 for personal injuries sustained by the plaintiff, through an assault committed upon him by the defendant, on January 15 last. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. Clark defended. Mr. Sharpe explained that some six months ago the plaintiff contracted a small debt of 6d, for brandy supplied by the defendant. The plaintiff had, apparently, forgotten the debt. On January 15 the defendant visited the plaintiff's shop, and, in an excited manner, asked Mrs. Bull why her husband had not paid the 6d which he owed him. Later on the same day the plaintiff saw defendant at the latter's house concerning the matter. An altercation ensued, in the course of which it was alleged, the defendant knocked the plaintiff down, the result being that plaintiff sustained a fracture of the ribs. Dr. Marsh attended the plaintiff for five weeks, and during that period he was incapacitated from following his employment. For the defence, Mr. Clark contended that the plaintiff was the aggressor, and that he and *Millward* had a struggle, during which plaintiff fell and sustained the injuries referred to. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £25 and costs."

#### Huddersfield Chronicle 1/5/1895

"The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890.  
Receiving Orders (by telegraph from last night's *London Gazette*).....  
*George Millward*, NEW INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, public house manager."

#### Express and Star 2/1/1900

"A case of considerable interest to brewery companies and license holders came before Oldbury Magistrates on Tuesday, when Mr. J. S. Sharpe applied for the transfer of the NEW INN, Halesowen Street, from *George Millward* to *William Shaw*. Mr. Sharpe pointed out that Messrs. Hopkins and Carver, trading as John Jordan and Co. held a lease of the premises in question, but under an agreement with Mr. *Shaw*, the latter would become owner of the premises, and receive the profits. Mr. Hopkins said the only interest his firm had in the business was that of wholesale traders, as *Shaw* could only sell liquors supplied by them. In reply to the Bench the applicant said the landlord of the house owned the fixtures and he purchased the fittings from Jordan and Co. for £20. Mr. Heaton said the Bench would not accept as owner of the business, a man who was only a monthly tenant and declined to grant the application. They granted a temporary authority to Mrs. Hopkins and Carver."

#### Smethwick Telephone 16/2/1901

"At Oldbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *William Shaw*, manager of the NEW INN, Halesowen Street, was charged with assaulting William Thomas Whale, who had six pints of ale in *Shaw*'s house and refused to pay for it until he was sober. *Shaw* followed him out, and struck him on the nose, knocking him down. The magistrates did not think *Shaw* should allow his customers to have so much beer. *Shaw* tersely replied that they could drink a barrel and carry it away. (Laughter.) He was fined 5s and costs."

#### 1901 Census

39, Halesowen Street – NEW INNS

- [1] *William Simcox* (51), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Sarah Ann Simcox (50), wife, born Bloxwich;
- [3] Albert Simcox (17), son, trolleyman in ironworks, born Smallthorne, Staffordshire;
- [4] William Simcox (16), son, boiler worker (rivetter), born Smallthorne, Staffordshire;
- [5] Leonard Simcox (13), son, born Smallthorne, Staffordshire;

Mary Farr had a drink in here, with her friend Mercy Atkiss, on the evening before she was killed by her partner, Samuel Porter, on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1901. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for manslaughter.

### 1911 Census

39, Halesowen Street – NEW INNS

[1] *Manasseh Clee* (45), license holder, born Kates Hill;

[2] Sarah Ann Clee (42), wife, married 20 years, born Willenhall;

[3] Theresa Ford (71), domestic servant, born Willenhall;

[4] Harriet Rowling (20), domestic servant, American resident:

*Manasseh Clee* was secretary of the Oldbury Licensed Victuallers & Beer Retailers Trade Society. [1918]  
He died in July 1933.

See also CRYSTAL PALACE.

### Black Country Bugle 9/5/2013

#### Article by Derrick Such

“An agreement had been drawn up on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1933 between the landlords, Mitchells and Butlers, and the newly installed tenant *William Henry Such*, a contract that ran into several pages. The firm Jones, Son and Vernon, auctioneers and valuers, based in Church Street, Oldbury, had been employed to complete an inventory that gives us an intriguing glimpse inside the NEW INNS pub, and it's these two documents which provide us with some of the whys and wherefores of running a pub in the 1930s.

To begin with, and one of the most important issues for licensee *William Such* and his wife *Sophia* to consider was the yearly rent of £78 payable by 52 equal payments. It was also determined that either party should give not less than three calendar months to quit the agreement.

*William Such* had to agree to pay for all the gas lighting and coal in respect of the public house, and do all the necessary to keep the premises scrupulously clean, also glasses and other utensils, and to replace all glass in the windows, doors, and mirrors in the event of them being broken.

In respect of the sale of drinks, the landlord was the sole supplier, and brewing of any description was not permitted at the pub.....

In the entry hall there was a painted and grained half-glazed vestibule door with two electric pendants, one globe and one bulb.

The smoke room contained 14' of return end wide seating supports on turned supports, with two arm rests, a 6' deal top drinking table on painted legs, moulded iron curb, a seven radiant gas fire, and a 3' 10" x 3' 1" mirror in a gilt frame.

The bar had a 11' 5" heavy moulded return end top shelf and 9' 6" back bar fittings which included two under bottle shelves, a decanter counter, two rows of glass shelves, a three panel mirror back and four mirror panel pillars. There were also five mahogany case nickel pull beer taps with five pipe connections to the cellar, and among other items, a shamrock cork extractor.

The NEW INNS had another smoke room at the back, with a moulded iron curb and a seven radiant gas fire, two bentwood stools, four cast iron spittoons, a 3' mahogany top drinking table on an ornamental iron stand and a 6' rail back bench.

In the snug there was a brass rail fender, and a six radiant gas fire, 6' 6" seating with two elbows and a loose pegamoid cover, a 3' mahogany top table on an ornamental stand, and a shaped 6' 6" draught screen painted and grained.

The kitchen had a 5' rail back bench, one stool, and a cupboard with three shelves which were put in by Mr. *Clee*.

The club room included a 6' drinking table, a NCR, old pewter measures, six old spirit measures, one stool broken and a seven radiant gas fire.

Down in the cellar the valuers found among other things five brass barrel taps, cellar stove and flex, and two wrenches; and in the scullery there was a cross legged table, two gallon iron buckets and a lettered sign saying 'Gentlemen.'

The value of the stock that *William* was assuming responsibility for came to £18 7s 4d. This included plenty of jugs and glasses, two dozen large nourishing stout bottles, small export, family ales, Guinness, cider, min-

erals, grapefruit, three bottles of Martel Brandy, Glan Ivor Whiskey, Red Seal Sherry, Jamaica Rum, London Gin, and 34 packets of Woodbines. In the cellar there were 3.5 gallons of best bitter priced at 7d a pint and various other beers.

The final settlement figure from the valuers came to £178 9s 4d.”

*William Henry Such* married *Sophia* Baker, daughter of David Baker of the BRICKMAKERS ARMS, Churchbridge, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1903.

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Central Darts League. [1939]

#### Evening Despatch 21/8/1939

“Despite an adjournment at the inquest nearly a month ago in order for a post mortem examination and an analysis of all the vital organs, doctors have been unable to find any apparent cause for the death of *William Henry Such*, aged 60, who was licensee of the NEW INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.

Reviewing the history of the case at the resumed inquest at West Bromwich today, the Borough Coroner, Mr. Lyon Clark, said that on 20 July, *Such* was engaged in cleaning the fanlight in the passage at home and for that purpose was using a pair of steps.

While preparing breakfast, his wife heard him call out ‘Oh’ and upon going to ascertain the cause found him sitting on the floor. He said he had fallen on the bucket he was using and had hurt his side. Later he was able to continue his work, but four days afterwards he was attended by a doctor who put a plaster on the area where the pain was felt. His condition, however, became worse and *Such* was removed to Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich, where he died on 25 July.

Dr. Power now stated that all the organs of *Such* were normal for a person of his age, and there was absolutely nothing to indicate the cause of death. There were no signs of any physical injury he might have received in falling on the bucket. Replying to the coroner the doctor said the shock of the fall might have caused heart failure, and that was the only possible explanation which could be offered.

Describing it as a very strange case the Coroner returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, adding that the fall coupled with the hurt to his side, must have caused shock which in turn brought about heart failure.”

*William Henry Such* – see also BEEHIVE, Portway Road, and ENGINEERS ARMS.

#### 1939 Register

39, Halesowen Street

[1] *Sophia Such*, date of birth 4/4/1879, public house tenant, widowed;

[2] Harry Such, dob 20/6/1910, AID examiner, steel tubes, single;

[3] Francis C. Such, dob 20/3/1915, driver, drayman, single;

[4] Elizabeth (Lea) Gambon, dob 29/1/1920, viewer, spring works, single:

*Sophia Such* died in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1960.

The premises closed on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1963.

#### NEW INN

48, (23), Summer Row, Rounds Green, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Samuel Johnson

Nathaniel Hadley

Charles King, Arden Grove, Langley (later at Crosswells Road)  
Mary Ann Hadley, Birmingham Street, Oldbury [1900]  
Leased by Mitchell and Co. (later Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.) [1900]

## LICENSEES

Samuel Johnson [1841] – [1842]  
John Johnson [1845] – [1847]  
Thomas Jones [1850]  
Joseph Hamblett [1850] – [1851]  
John Knott [1861] – [1862]  
Lewis Unitt [1870]  
Thomas Hadley Jnr. [1871] – [1876]  
Nathaniel Hadley [1880] – [1881]  
John Barrow [1884] – **1885**);  
Eva Jane Barrow (**1885 – 1886**);  
Joseph Griffiths (**1886**);  
William Nickless (**1886 – 1888**);  
Elizabeth Williams (**1888 – 1889**);  
Jane Philpotts (**1889 – 1902**);  
William Philpotts [1891] – [1901]  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (**1902**);  
George Thomas Cartwright [1902] tenant  
Daniel Cockbill (**1902 – 1903**):

## NOTES

### 1841 Census

Summer Row, Rounds Green  
[1] *Samuel Johnson* (55), publican;  
[2] Phoebe Johnson (50);  
[3] Martha Johnson (25);  
[4] William J. Johnson (15);  
[5] Samuel Johnson (14);  
[6] Oliver Johnson (12);  
[7] Mary Ann Taylor (25);  
[8] Hannah Ward (20);  
[9] Thomas Ward (8 months):

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/9/1842 - Advert

“At Rounds Green, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Septimus Davis, at the premises, on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September inst, at four o'clock in the afternoon, under and subject to such conditions of sale as will be then produced (unless sooner disposed of by private contract).

All that capital Messuage and Premises called the NEW INN, in the occupation of Mr. *Samuel Johnson*, the proprietor, situate at Rounds Green, in Oldbury, comprising a parlour 22ft 3in by 16 feet, large kitchen, spacious bar and back kitchen, club-room, also 22ft 3in by 16 feet, and three good chambers, with excellent cellarage under the building; a Brewhouse detached, with Malt-room over the same, good Stabling, with loft over, Piggeries, and other requisite Outbuildings; the premises are well-supplied with water, and form altogether most commodious and convenient premises for carrying on the Public Business. Possession may be had upon completing the purchase.



For further particular apply to Messrs. Carter and Sons, Oldbury, who will show a plan of the premises; to Mr. *Samuel Johnson*, the proprietor, or to the Auctioneer, West Bromwich.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/5/1847 - Advert

“Peremptory Sale of Property. Desirable Dwelling Houses, Land and Premises, at Rounds Green, Oldbury. To be Sold by Auction, without reserve, by Thomas Pitt Stokes, on Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of May inst, at the house of Mr. *John Johnson*, the NEW INN, at Rounds Green, at Oldbury, at five o'clock in the evening, and subject to such conditions as well be then produced, and together or in lots as may be then determined – all those Three Freehold Dwelling Houses, with the Outbuildings and Premises thereto belonging, situate at Rounds Green, and fronting the road leading to Oldbury, one of which has been lately used as a Public House, and has the advantage of excellent cellaring and other requisite conveniences for that purpose. Also a piece of eligible Building Land, containing in front of the said road nine yards, in depth sixteen yards, and in the whole 144 square yards or thereabouts.

The Premises are now in the occupation of Benjamin Bird, Joseph Bird, and David Griffiths.

For further particulars apply at the offices of Messrs. Fellows, Coldicott, and Canning, Solicitors, or to the Auctioneer, Dudley.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/4/1850 - Advert

“The NEW INN, Rounds Green, near Oldbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Old-Licensed Public House.

For particulars apply to Mr. Thomas Partridge, Maltster, Rowley Regis.”

*Joseph Hamblett* = Joseph Hamblet = Joseph Hamlet

1851 Census

Rounds Green

[1] *Joseph Hamblet* (31), brickmaker employing 12 men and victualler, born Dudley;

[2] Caroline Hamblet (30), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Hannah Hamblet (12), daughter, assists at home, born Dudley;

[4] Sarah Hamblet (10), daughter, assists at home, born Dudley;

[5] Maria Hamblet (3), daughter, born Dudley;

[6] John Hamblet (18), brother, brickmaker, born Dudley;

[7] Mary Foster (17), housemaid, born Chester;

[8] James Philips (30), labourer, brickyard, born Defford, Worcestershire;

[9] William Slater (19), labourer, brickyard, born Northamptonshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/9/1851

“Notices from the *London Gazette* ..... Examinations of Insolvents.....

September 20. *Joseph Hamblet*, Oldbury, Worcestershire, brick-maker and licensed victualler, County Court, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 18/10/1851 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, at Oldbury.

In the Matter of the Petition of *Joseph Hamblett*, now and for twelve months and upwards last past residing at the NEW INN, Rounds Green, in the township of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, carrying on the trades or businesses of a Brickmaker and Licensed Victualler, theretofore for two years and upwards residing at Greets Green, in the parish of West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, carrying on business as a Brick-maker and Retail Brewer, and theretofore for five years and upwards residing at Cornhill, in the parish of Dudley, and county of Worcester, carrying on the trade of Brickmaker.

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October next, at Two o'clock in the afternoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1851.

Henry Holland, Attorney, West Bromwich.”

*Joseph Hamblett* – see also WHITE SWAN.

Birmingham Journal 14/7/1855 - Advert

“NEW INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Old-Licensed Public House, situated near the Canal and extensive Works, and in a populous neighbourhood, and where a paying business can be done.

For particulars, apply to John Wright (late Jesse Wright and Son), Public House Agent, King Street, Dudley; or to Mr. Thomas Partridge, Rowley Regis.”

Birmingham Journal 25/8/1855 - Advert

“NEW INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

To be Let, or Sold by Private Contract, the above well-known Old Licensed House and extensive Premises, situated near to the Canal, in a populous and thriving neighbourhood, and where a good paying business can be done. To Parties about entering the Public Business, this presents a favourable opportunity. No Fixtures to take to. Rent and payments low. Parties inclined to purchase the Premises may do so at a low figure.

For particulars, apply to John Wright (late Jesse Wright and Son), Auctioneer, House and Land Agent, King Street, Dudley.”

1861 Census

Summer Row – BOAT [sic] INN

[1] *John Knott* (39), public house, born Lea Marston, Herefordshire;

[2] *Ann Knott* (36), wife, born Lea Marston, Herefordshire;

[3] *Alice Knott* (11), daughter, scholar, born Netherton;

[4] *William Knott* (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] *John Knott* (3), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *James Nuff Knott* (8 months), son, born Oldbury;

[7] *Elizabeth Smith* (14), general servant, born Netherton:

London Gazette 3/5/1861

“Whereas a Petition of *John Knott*, at present and for about five years last past residing and carrying on business as a Licensed Victualler, at Rounds Green, in, the township of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Worcester, and being occasionally employed as a Farmer’s Waggoner, 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 *John Knott*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *John Knott* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May instant, at ten in the forenoon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors’ assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *John Knott*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Messrs. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, Registrars of the said Court, at their office at the Court-house, in Oldbury, the Official Assignees of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.”

London Gazette 24/5/1861

“In the Matter of the Petition of *John Knott*, at present and for about five years now last past residing and carrying on business as a Licensed Victualler, at Round’s Green, in the township of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Worcester, and being occasionally employed as a Farmer’s Waggoner.

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, at Oldbury, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June next, at ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/8/1861

“At the County Court on Monday before A. M. Skinner, Esq, judge....

*John Knott*, publican of Rounds Green, Oldbury, obtained his final order, supported by Mr. Maltby.....”

*John Knott*, NEW INN, Rounds Green. [1862]

#### Birmingham Journal 7/6/1862 - Advert

“A Capital Opportunity. The NEW INN, near the Blue Fly and other Coal Wharf, and fronting the Birmingham Old Canal, Rounds Green, near Oldbury.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty (in consequence of the Proprietor having made other engagements) that capital, well-situated, and Old-licensed Inn, and now doing a good business, and has been carried on by the present Proprietor many years.

The House consists of a front Tap Room, Smoke Room, and Parlour, large Bar, Cooking and Servants' Kitchen, capital Brewery, two large Cellars, three large Bed Rooms, large Club Room, Malt and Hop Room, Stabling for eight horses, Piggeries, Skittle Alley; with a good supply of hard and soft Water, with a large and entire Yard.

Only the Brewing Plant, Licenses and Trade Fixtures to be taken to.

Rent, £18 per annum.

For further particulars and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent, Westley Street, Oldbury.”

*Thomas Hadley Jnr.* = Thomas Headley

#### 1871 Census

23, Summer Row

- [1] *Thomas Hadley* (37), labourer, born Rounds Green;
- [2] Sarah Hadley (36), wife, born Rounds Green;
- [3] Fanny Hadley (18), daughter, assistant, born Rounds Green;
- [4] William Hadley (17), son, forgeman, born Rounds Green;
- [5] Thomas Hadley (14), son, grinder, born Rounds Green;
- [6] Nathaniel Hadley (11), son, scholar, born Rounds Green;
- [7] Samuel Hadley (7), son, scholar, born Rounds Green;
- [8] Benjamin Hadley (4), son, scholar, born Rounds Green;
- [9] Benjamin Sadler (48), visitor, labourer, born Rounds Green:

#### Wolverhampton Express and Star 21/3/1876

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday, *Thomas Hadley*, landlord of the NEW INN, Rounds Green, was fined £2 and costs for having his house open for the sale of liquor at ten minutes past eleven o'clock on Sunday, the 12<sup>th</sup> inst.”

#### 1881 Census

23, Summer Row – NEW INNS

- [1] *Nathaniel Hadley* (36), smith, born Oldbury;
- [2] Eliza Hadley (29), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Mary Ann Hadley (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] Rebecca Hadley (7), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] Nathaniel Hadley (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Alice Hadley (3), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Flora Hadley (9 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] Alice Ball (25), visitor, domestic servant, born Dudley Port;
- [9] Rose Sheldon (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Nathaniel Hadley* – see also SPREAD EAGLE.

Birmingham Daily Post 9/6/1886

“First Meetings and Dates of Public Examinations.....

*Joseph Griffiths*, NEW INN, Summer Row, Rounds Green, Oldbury, licensed victualler and boatloader.  
Public examination, June 28, at the Oldbury Court.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1887

“Notices of Dividends.....

*Joseph Griffiths*, the NEW INN, Summer Row, Rounds Green, Oldbury, licensed victualler and boatloader.  
First and final dividend of 1s 6d in the pound, payable February 28, at the Official Receiver’s, Birmingham.”

*Jane Philpotts* = Jane Philpott = Jane Philpots = Jane Philpot

1891 Census

Summer Row – NEW INNS

- [1] *William Philpotts* (39), licensed victualler, born Whiteheath;
- [2] *Jane Philpotts* (38), wife, born Swan Village, Staffordshire;
- [3] Sarah Philpotts (15), daughter, born Greets Green;
- [4] Thomas Philpotts (13), son, scholar, born Greets Green;
- [5] William Philpotts (11), son, born Greets Green;
- [6] Elizabeth Philpotts (10), daughter, born Greets Green;
- [7] John Philpotts (9), son, born Tat Bank, Oldbury;
- [8] Nellie Philpotts (8), daughter, born Tat Bank, Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/3/1893

“Yesterday Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the NEW INN, Rounds Green, respecting the death of Herbert Hemmings (36), of Rounds Green, who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, on Saturday night last.

Maria Hemmings, wife of the deceased, stated that her husband went to work on Saturday morning and as he did not return at night witness went in search of him, and found him in a neighbouring public house. She requested him to come home, and he followed her up to the house door, but he went back in the direction of the canal, which is fifty yards from the house. When witness discovered he had gone, she followed him, and saw him running in the direction of the canal. Witness seized him, and requested him to return with her, but he escaped and ran into the canal. Assistance was obtained, but when deceased was got out he was quite dead. Deceased had been subject to epileptic fits for some time past.

Dr. Buttery said he attended deceased for the past three years for epilepsy, and he was not responsible for his actions whilst in a fit.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned whilst suffering from the effects of an epileptic fit.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1900

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

The Superintendent had given notices to oppose the licenses of ..... also the license of the NEW INN, Summer Row, Rounds Green kept by *Jane Philpott*, on the ground that the police were unable to exercise proper supervision.....

The Bench retired to consider their decision ..... The renewal of the license of the NEW INN would be held over until the adjourned Licensing Sessions.”

AND

West Bromwich Weekly News 25/8/1900

“The license was objected to on the ground that the police could not exercise proper supervision over the house. Superintendent Chare, however, said the alterations were being carried out, and he asked for the renewal to be adjourned until the adjourned sessions in order that he could see the work was being done satisfactorily. It was in consequence of something that had come to his knowledge that he asked for the alterations to be made.”

[These alterations involved a boundary wall, which was deemed too low.]

The license renewal to *Jane Philpotts* was refused at the Adjourned Licensing Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1900.

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/9/1900

“Mr. J. W. Clulow applied for the Bench to reconsider their decision with regard to this house. Superintendent Chare stated that access could be obtained to the premises over a low wall at the back, and they were extremely difficult for the police to supervise. The house was dilapidated and dirty, and the neighbourhood was declining, there being only about 30 houses in the locality, and there were five licensed houses within 300 yards, so that this house was not necessary.

Mr. Clulow pointed out that the complaint of the Superintendent with regard to the wall at the back was met by the erection of an iron fence of which he had approved. The house was situated in the midst of brick-works, the men from whom came to it, and there was a tip for ashes near it, these causes combining to make it dirtier than could be desired. If the renewal was granted, the owners, Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers Ltd., would put the house in such a condition as would satisfy all the requirements of the police, and Mr. Clulow appealed to the Bench to renew the license.

Mr. Wilson said the Bench had given great attention to all he had urged, but they were unable to take any other course but that which they had already announced.

Mr. Clulow gave notice of appeal against the justices’ decision.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 15/9/1900

“Felix Parker, iron worker of Wood Street, Greets Green, was summoned for being drunk on the licensed premises of the NEW INN, Rounds Green, kept by *Mary Jane Philpot*, on the 28<sup>th</sup> August.

PC Shilvock visited the house, and saw the defendant in a drunken condition, lolling at the end of a bench and trying to sing. When he left the house he staggered.

Mr. J. W. Clulow, who defended, contended that the officer was mistaken, and called defendant, the landlady, and two men, who stated that defendant was sober. He was singing ‘Alice, where art thou?’, a man having promised him some whisky if he did it.

The Bench considered the case was proved, and imposed a fine of 5s and costs.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 20/10/1900

“At Worcester Assizes on Tuesday, *Jane Philpotts*, licensee of the NEW INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, Messrs. Mitchell and Butler (lessees of the house), and Mary Ann Hadley, owner of the property were the appellants, and the Oldbury magistrates, the respondents, in an appeal against the refusal of the Oldbury Bench to renew the license of the house.

Mr. Cranstoun and Mr. Carmichael (instructed by Mr. J. Walter Clulow, Birmingham) were for the licensees and the owner. Mr. Hickey was for the lessees company, and Mr. Vachell and Mr. Shakespeare (instructed by Mr. Shakespeare) were for the respondent magistrates. Mr. George Heaton, a member of the Oldbury Bench, appeared on his own behalf, objecting to one of the grounds given in the notice of appeal imputing to the justices misconduct by reason of ‘unlawfully, irregularly, and without the exercise of proper judicial discretion, refused the license.’ This he denied absolutely. There was no irregularity or violation of the law. The Chairman assured Mr. Heaton that no one attributed anything wrong to any individual of the Bench. Mr. Cranstoun added that this was the usual form of the notice. The renewal of the license was objected to at the annual licensing sessions on the ground that the premises were improperly enclosed and were not necessary for the requirements of the neighbourhood.

The case was adjourned for the justices to visit the premises, and upon the adjourned hearing the justices refused to renew the license. They, however, acceded to the request of the applicants’ solicitor to allow the witnesses to be recalled and cross-examined, and they then adhered to their decision to refuse the renewal. The neighbourhood, said Mr. Vachell, was a rapidly declining one.

Superintendent Chare spoke to the requirements of the neighbourhood, and said this and other houses could be well dispensed with.

The Bench allowed the appeal, but made no order as to costs.”

### 1901 Census

48, Summer Row

[1] *William Phillpots* (50), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Jane Phillpots* (48), wife, born Swan Village;

[3] Elizabeth Phillpots (20), daughter, born Greets Green;

[4] Nellie Phillpots (17), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Ann Sadler (4), grand-daughter, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/10/1901

“The Oldbury magistrates were asked yesterday to transfer the license of the NEW INN, Rounds Green, from *Jane Philpott* to *George Thomas Cartwright*, but Mr. George Heaton (who presided) objected on the ground that it would be in direct opposition to a resolution which had been passed by the magistrates of the Oldbury division, which was to the effect that the owners of the house or business should be the licensees. Ultimately the license was transferred to Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers.”

### Smethwick Weekly News 25/1/1902

“At Oldbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before Messrs. G. S. Allbright, E. Danks, and T. Lavender, an important point affecting the licensing of public houses owned by brewery firms was raised. Messrs. Mitchell and Butler, of the Cape Hill Brewery, Smethwick, and owners of the NEW INNS, Rounds Green, Oldbury, were summoned for permitting drunkenness upon their licensed premises, and also with supplying a drunken person on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. A. Caddick defended. Mr. Sharpe explained that defendants were the owners and licensees of the premises, which were under the charge of a man named *George Thomas Cartwright*. He contended that they were the only persons who could be brought before the Court, and they were responsible for anything wrong that took place upon those premises. On the night in question PS Pegg and PC Haden found a man named John Barnsley on the premises in a drunken condition.

Mr. Caddick said *Cartwright* was a tenant under the agreement, and Mitchell and Butler had no more control over the management of the house than the magistrates. When the license was granted the agreement was produced, and it was contended that *Cartwright* was a bona-fide tenant, whilst Superintendent Sherriff also asked for the license to be granted in the name of the tenant in consequence of the difficulty to prove the owners' knowledge of the offence. Notwithstanding this protest, at Mr. Heaton's directions the license was granted to the owners of the house, it being stated that the Bench had passed a resolution to the effect that all licenses should be in the name of the owner. He understood that since the license was transferred the Justices had decided to grant the licenses to all tenants, where they were proved to be bona-fide ones.

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr. Shakespeare) gave evidence as to the transfer of the license, but in reply to Mr. Caddick, said he declined to give any evidence upon the resolutions, or to produce them without the authority of the Justices.

Mr. Caddick said under the circumstances he should apply for an adjournment to subpoena the Clerk, and also Messrs. G. Heaton, and T. Lavender, who granted the license. He intended to have the resolutions.

Mr. Allbright said he had not seen any such resolution, and he would like more information upon the matter. The Bench decided to proceed with the case.

Mr. Caddick said he would continue his cross-examination of Mr. Shakespeare, who, however, still declined to give any information upon the resolutions.

Eventually the case was adjourned for a fortnight. Mr. Caddick explaining that he would put Mr. Heaton and Mr. Lavender, as well as the Clerk, into the witness box.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/2/1902

“Considerable interest was manifested in a licensing case at Oldbury yesterday, when Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, brewers, of Cape Hill, were summoned for permitting drunkenness on the licensed premises of the NEW INN, Rounds Green, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January. There were six magistrates on the Bench, and there was a considerable array of legal gentlemen present.....

The magistrates were a considerable time deliberating in private, and Mr. Albright subsequently announced that they considered the charge of permitting drunkenness was proved. They thought, however, that they

had acted under a misapprehension, and in the circumstances they would dismiss the case on the payment of costs.

*Cartwright* was then fined 10s and the costs for being drunk on the licensed premises, and Barnsley 5s and the costs.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 15/3/1902 - Advert

“Providence Cottage, Titford Road, Langley.

Messrs. Slim and Ridding are favoured with instructions from Mr. *Daniel Cockbill*, who has taken the NEW INN, Rounds Green, to Sell by Auction, as above, on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1902, the useful Household Furniture, Horses, Carts, and Effects, comprising.

Sets of brass-mounted and iron bedsteads, palliases, bedclothing, oak chest-upon-chest, birch night chair, night commode, mahogany round table, brass kerbs, fire brasses, drawing-room suite in blue velvet, fine toned cottage Pianoforte in walnut case, by Seifert, walnut sideboard, overmantel, dinner and tea ware.

Chestnut pony, 13 hands and strong; chestnut horse, 16 hands, well-known good worker; set of plated harness, spring trap, heavy carts, old iron wagon, sundry harness, 2-knife chaff machine, and other effects.

Also will be included, by permission, new block jobbing cart, nearly new bent side gig by G. Noble, one second hand scrap cart, light wagonette with new cushions, small spring tip cart (nearly new), harness, den-nett gig with cushion, 2 spring traps, and brown cob.

Sale at 11 o'clock prompt.”

*Daniel Cockbill* was fined £5 and £3 11s 6d costs, on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1902, for permitting drunkenness on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

The renewal to him was refused at the Adjourned Licensing Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1902, but it was renewed on appeal at the Quarter Sessions.

He was fined £5 and £2 19s 0d costs, on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1902 for permitting drunkenness on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

#### Smethwick Weekly News 13/12/1902

“Samuel Didlock and John Careless, both of Rounds Green, were summoned for being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the NEW INNS, Rounds Green, on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult.

Mr. F. Dawes, who appeared for the complainant, *Daniel Cockbill* (landlord), said that these summonses had been taken out for the purpose of assisting the landlord in the good management of the house. It appeared that on the evening of the day named the defendants were in the house at about 9.30. Careless was talking loudly with another man, and using bad language. The landlord asked him to go out unless he used better language. This he refused to do, and Mr. *Cockbill* put him out. His friend Didlock seemed to have got excited at this and scratched the landlord's face, and then he was put out as well. Mr. Dawes explained that Didlock had expressed his regret at his conduct, and in the face of that apology the landlord was prepared to withdraw the charge against Didlock. If Careless would make a similar apology Mr. *Cockbill* would deal with him in the same manner.

Mr. Heaton said the magistrates thought that after the summonses had been taken out, both cases should go on. If cases were to be withdrawn they should be withdrawn with the consent of both parties. The magistrates wished to assist the publican, and the cases would have to proceed.

The case against Didlock, who did not appear, was adjourned for a week.

The landlord and witnesses gave evidence, but the defendant said on oath that *Cockbill* punched him without asking him to leave.

Careless was then fined 14s, including costs, or 7 days.”

The license renewal was refused on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1903.

**NEW INN** +

OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

W T Gittins [ ]

## NOTES

*W. T. Gittins* issued tokens from here.

## NEWMARKET TAVERN

15, (33), Trinity Street, Langley, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

William Ashley  
Harriet Ashley  
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.  
Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired c.1935)  
Ansell Ltd. (acquired in 1960)

## LICENSEES

William Ashley [1881] – **1888**);  
Mrs. Harriet Ashley (**1888 – 1897**);  
George Danby (**1897 – 1901**);  
Robert Reid (**1901 – 1914**); manager  
Samuel Snade (**1914**);  
Amy Snade (**1914 – 1915**);  
Henry Jeens (**1915 – 1921**);  
Joseph Turner (**1921 – 1922**);  
Thomas Henry Rea (**1922 – 1924**);  
Edward Fletcher Mugford (**1924 – 1944**);  
Frank Ernest Cutler (**1944 – 1953**);  
Dennis Lewis (**1953 – 1954**);  
Kathleen Josephine Feeney (**1954 – 1955**);  
John William Grainger (**1955 – 1956**);  
Elsie May Barker (**1956 – 1961**);  
Maurice Betts (**1961**);  
Tom Blount (**1961**);  
Frances Gertrude Weston (**1961 – 1962**);  
Kenneth Arthur Jordan (**1962**);  
Norman Dixon (**1962 – [ ]**)



## NOTES

33, Trinity Street [1881]

15, Trinity Street [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1916], [1921]

Tokens were issued from here.

### 1881 Census

33, Trinity Street – NEW MARKET TAVERN

[1] *William Ashley* (54), publican and grocer, born Coventry;

[2] *Harriet Ashley* (44), wife, born Warley;

[3] *Anne Bellamy* (19), daughter, born Bromsgrove;

[4] *Louisa Bellamy* (17), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] *Harriet Bellamy* (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *William Bellamy* (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] *Thomas Bellamy* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury:

*William Ashley* died in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1887.

### 1891 Census

15, Trinity Street

[1] *Harriett Ashley* (50), widow, beerhouse and grocery, born Oldbury;

[2] *Harriett Southall* (22), daughter, born Oldbury;

[3] *Thomas Bellamy* (19), son, turner, born Oldbury;

[4] *Joseph Southall* (25), son-in-law, decorator, born Oldbury;

[5] *Herbert S. Southall* (1), grand-son, born Oldbury;

[6] *Annie Jackson* (21), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Joseph Southall – see COTTAGE.

### Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1894

“The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held yesterday.....

Superintendent Chare explained that in the case of *Harriet Ashley*, of the NEW MARKET TAVERN, Langley, a grocery business was carried on in premises adjoining the beerhouse, and there being an internal communication between the two it offered facilities for female drinking. The case was postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting.”

### Smethwick Telephone 29/9/1894

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

With regard to the license of *Harriet Ashley* of the NEW MARKET TAVERN, Langley, the magistrates were informed by Superintendent Chare that the cause of his objection had been remedied, and the license was renewed.”

Mrs. *Harriet Ashley*, shopkeeper and beer retailer, 15, Trinity Street, Langley. [1896]

### West Bromwich Weekly News 1/9/1900

“On Saturday last, the members of the Sick and Dividend Society, held at the NEW MARKET TAVERN, Langley (host Mr. *G. Danby*) had their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual outing, the locale chosen being Marlbrook. The company (numbering 36).....”

*Robert Reid* = Robert Reed

### 1901 Census

15, Trinity Street

- [1] *Robert Reed* (33), public house manager, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Angelina Reed* (30), wife, born Langley;
- [3] *Robert Reed* (9), son, born Langley;
- [4] *Agnes Turner* (16), servant, born Langley;
- [5] *Oliver Fisher* (60), boarder, widower, born Oldbury:

A team from here took part in the Langley and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

### 1911 Census

15, Trinity Street – NEWMARKET TAVERN

- [1] *Robert Reed* (43), publican, manager, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Angelina Reed* (40), wife, married 19 years, born Langley;
- [3] *Robert Reed* (18), son, labourer, engineering work, born Langley;
- [4] *Oliver Fisher* (70), father-in-law, widower, furnaceman, chemical work, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Mary Reed* (81), mother, widow, old age pensioner, born Oldbury;
- [6] *May Hale* (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Henry Jeens* = Henry Jacus

*Henry Jacus* [sic], beer retailer, 15, Trinity Street. [1916]

*Henry Jeens*, beer retailer, 15, Trinity Street. [1921]

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/11/1930

“Norton Canes Pit Disaster Fund. Further Contributions.....

Customers, NEWMARKET TAVERN, Langley, £1 2s 6d.”

### 1939 Register

Trinity Street – NEWMARKET TAVERN

- [1] *Edward Fletcher Mugford*, date of birth 23/10/1878, public house manager, married;
- [2] *Annie Eleanor Mugford*, dob 2/7/1878, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Neville Mugford*, dob 21/9/1913, electricity supply wages clerk, single:

*Dennis Lewis* – see also WHIMSEY and ALBION.

*John William Grainger* – see also ALBION.

A full license was granted on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1950.

Plans for alterations to part of the licensed premises were approved on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1952.

*Frank Ernest Cutler* – see also GATE HANGS WELL, Burnt Tree, Tipton.

### Birmingham Daily Post 16/11/1964

“Teams of Indians and Englishmen settled down happily in Oldbury on Saturday night to play a darts match ..... In Oldbury the Indian v White matches are a regular occurrence at the NEWMARKET INN in Trinity Street, Langley. Three of the Indians play regularly for the house darts team – and one of them, Shanker Dass, is classed as the best player in the team. ‘There is no colour bar here in Langley,’ Mr. A. White, captain of the Darts Club, said.....”

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Charity Darts League. [1970]

Closed

## NEW NAVIGATION

Titford Road, Langley, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.  
Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired c.1936)  
Ansells Ltd. (acquired c.1960)  
Holt, Plant and Deakin [1991]  
Allied Domecq Inns [1997]  
Punch Taverns [2009]

## LICENSEES

William Griffin (1923 – 1944);  
Charles Alan Chambers (1944 – 1946);  
Wilfred Bradley (1946 – 1949);  
Sidney William Edwards (1949 – 1953);  
Ernest George Daniels (1953 – 1954);  
Austin Holman Hughes Johnson (1954 – 1956);  
Henry Thompson (1956);  
Geoffrey William Stevens (1956);  
Donald George Harper (1956 – 1957);  
Minnie Slater (1957);  
Jeffrey Whitmore Slater (1957 – 1958);  
William Bryce Lamprey (1958);  
Bernard Sydney Hyde (1958 – 1959);  
Leslie Edward Reynolds (1959 – 1962);  
Gladys Mary Reynolds (1962);  
John Arthur Castle (1962 – [ ]  
Brian Oxley [ ] – 1980);  
George Curtis (1980 – [ ]  
Judith Oxley [1984] – [1986]  
Brian Martin (1990 – [1996]  
Sue Norgrove [2013]

## NOTES

It opened c.1931 with the license from the NAVIGATION.  
*William Griffin* was the last licensee of the NAVIGATION and the first here.

### Dudley Chronicle 1/2/1934

“New Telephone Lines.....

Broadwell 1712, *W. Griffin*, NEW NAVIGATION INN, New Wolverhampton Road, Langley, Birmingham.”

### 1939 Register

Titford Road – NEW NAVIGATION INN

[1] *William Griffin*, date of birth 21/11/1882, licensee (own account), married;

[2] James P. Mulcahy, dob 16/2/1880, chief costing accountant at general engineering works, single;

[3] Sidney G. Cooper, dob 21/1/1908, departmental manager, glass works, married;

[4] Edith M. Cooper, dob 29/11/1909, unpaid domestic duties, married:

### Birmingham Mail 29/9/1944 - Advert

“Full-Size Billiard Table in good cond. All acces.

App. NEW NAVIGATION INN, New Wolverhampton Road, Langley.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1963

“A team in the Oldbury and District Football League will not be able to field a side for what was to be their first match of the season on September 7 because six members of the team are getting married on that day. The team is Four Ways Rangers, and its secretary, Mr. T. H. Belt, announced the team’s inability to play at the Oldbury and District League’s first meeting of the season at the NEW NAVIGATION public house, Oldbury. Of the six members of the team marrying, only one, Mr. A. Simcox, of Wallace Road, Rounds Green, Oldbury, is to be married locally. His wedding will take place at Oldbury Parish Church.”

*Brian Oxley* was married to Sylvia.

*George Curtis* was married to Barbara.

### Sandwell Evening Mail 25/6/1986

“An Oldbury pub team have fought their way through to the final stages of the first West Midlands Team Domino Championships. NEW NAVIGATION will line up with seven other finalists for the climax of the Ansells-sponsored event at the Mackadown, Tile Cross, Birmingham on Sunday July 13.”

### Sandwell Evening Mail 18/9/1986

“Charity fund raisers in Oldbury have proved a real knockout in helping to provide guide dogs for the blind – with Warley boxer Pat Cowdell on hand to prove it. Kind-hearted regulars at the NEW NAVIGATION pub, in Titford Road, Langley, Oldbury, presented a third £1,000 cheque to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and Pat was there to officiate. Each instalment has meant the organisation being able to buy another dog and put it through the intensive training necessary to become a blind person’s invaluable aid. The cheque was accepted on behalf of the association by Mrs. Emily Vane, of Northfield, with her dog Ziggy, aged three.

Pub regular Mr. Royston Reardon, from Swan Crescent, Langley, has organised events for the last three years, getting support from licensee Mrs. *Judith Oxley* and her husband *Brian*. The latest £1,000 cheque was raised with the aid of a number of raffles in the pub, customers entering the BRMB Walkathon and another being sponsored to run the Sandwell Marathon. Mrs. *Oxley* said, ‘This is the third guide dog we have raised money for in three years and it was a great effort by everyone.’”

### Sandwell Evening Mail 16/10/1991

“Four Holt, Plant and Deakin licensees have been made members of the brewery’s exclusive Fellowship of Entire Alekeepers for the quality of their beer.

Dennis Williams, of the BREWERY TAP, Dudley Road, Wolverhampton; Brian Preece, of the WEST ACRES, Finchfield Hill, Wolverhampton; Leon Abecasis, of the BEECH TREE, Gosty Hill Road, Rowley Regis; and *Brian Martin*, of the NEW NAVIGATION, Titford Road, Langley, were presented with engraved brass pump clips and certificates.

They were awarded membership because of the consistently high quality of their beers.”

### Sandwell Evening Mail 1/11/1991 - Advert

“Early Evening Pint Savers. Holts Bitter 99p per pint. Holts Entire 105p per pint.

Special offer prices for the month of November only.

Available Mon-Sat evenings 5.30-8pm.

Only from these Holts pubs ..... NEW NAVIGATION, Titford Road, Langley, Oldbury.”

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 6/7/1992

“They’re the pubs that YOU think are the best in the Midlands – and now they’re all in the running for our prestigious Midland Town and Country Pub of the Year.....

The *Evening Mail* has teamed up for the contest with the Midland Counties Brewers’ and Licensed Retailers’ Association, to raise a toast to the very best of our region’s pubs. Now it is up to the judges, who face a huge task choosing the two winners from the enormous entry. They’ll be looking for service and standards of comfort demanded by today’s discerning pub-goer. And they will be awarding marks for another important ingredient of a successful pub – the part it plays as a hub of social life in the community.....

NAVIGATION, Langley, Warley.”

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 28/10/1992

“A Black Country pub is toasting its success after raising enough money to buy its fifth guide dog. The NEW NAVIGATION in Titford Road, Oldbury, has collected £5,000 over the last eight years in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.”

*Brian Martin* – check OLD HOP POLE, West Bromwich.

#### Daily Mirror 3/6/1997

“Our £3.5 Million Great Pub Giveaway gets a boost today from Budweiser – the most popular beer in the world. We’re offering readers the chance to win one of four superb trips to the USA, home of Budweiser, the ‘King of Beers.’ [sic].....

All you have to do for your chance to win is answer the question and complete the tie-breaker on the entry form. Then add your name and address and take the coupon to your nearest participating Allied Domecq Inns pub. When you buy a bottle of Budweiser, hand your completed entry form to the bar staff and it will go into our luxury holidays competition ..... Where to get your drinks.....

NEW NAVIGATION, Titford Road, Oldbury, Warley.”

#### London Gazette 23/5/2009

“Trevor Peter Ford of 71 Causeway Green Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68 8LE. Publican. And carrying on business as the NEW NAVIGATION, Titford Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4QE. And carrying on business as the Steam Wagon, Mount Pleasant Road, Shrewsbury, SY1 3LP and the Beacon Public House, Copthorne Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 8LP.”

#### Express & Star 11/5/2019

“A man who swung a knife around a pub following a row with a punter has been given a suspended jail sentence. Stephen Roe left the NEW NAVIGATION in Oldbury after the argument only to return armed with the blade. But when his rival refused to back down, it was Roe who fled from the pub. The knife-man’s night took a further turn for the worse when he suffered a fractured leg during a scuffle outside. The 48-year-old told police he was ‘bladdered’ after downing ‘eight or nine pints’ earlier in the day on March 23, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Words were exchanged with another drinker in the pub and after leaving, delivery driver Roe came back with the knife.

Mr. Gary Cook, prosecuting, told the court, ‘The victim was in the NAVIGATION pub in Oldbury when he became involved in a verbal argument with the defendant. The defendant had been in the public house all day long and had drunk a lot. He was asked to leave the public house but returned 20 to 30 minutes later and had a knife which he swung around in the direction of the victim.’

But the victim remained undeterred despite being faced with the knife, shouting ‘come on then’ at his challenger, the court was told. Then, along with his son, he chased Roe out the pub.

Mr. Cook continued, ‘The defendant fell over. He got up and still had the knife. The son rugby-tackled him to the ground and held him on the ground until he was arrested.’

It was Roe who came off worse, suffering the injury to his leg in the midst of the commotion. 'He said he had gone back to the public house to scare off the complainant. He has then been pursued from the public house,' Mr. Cook said. 'He didn't complain about his injuries because he said he probably deserved them. It was his account that a little rough justice had been handed out.'

The court heard Roe was diagnosed with a 'brain disease' in 2017 which experts said could cause his 'cognitive thinking' to be impaired.

Mr. Thomas Griffiths, defending, added, 'He accepts full responsibility and has always done so. He made a significantly immature mistake.'

Roe, of Titford Road, Oldbury, who pleaded guilty to possession of a bladed article in a public place and using threatening and abusive behaviour with intent to cause fear of violence, was given a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months. He was also banned from licensed premises for 18 months."

[2021]

## NOAHS ARK

45, (40), Church Street / New Meeting Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Joseph Parks

William Parks, New Town, Greets Green, West Bromwich [1901]

Holden Brewery Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [c.1919]

## LICENSEES

Joseph Jesson [1861]

John Jones [1869]

William Miller\* [1870]

William Mellor\* [1870]

James Willmore [1881] – [1891];

Mrs. Eleanor Willmore [1896] – **1897**;

John Edward Busby (**1897**);

Anna Maria Hammersley (**1897 – 1898**);

Joseph Waterhouse (**1898 – 1899**);

Joseph Lindon (**1899 – 1923**): manager

## NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Tokens were issued from here.

## 1861 Census

Church Street – NOAHS ARK

[1] *Joseph Jesson* (56), retail brewer, born Oldbury;

[2] Ann Jesson (53), wife, born Oldbury;

- [3] Emma Jesson (25), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Julia Jesson (17), daughter, dressmaker, born Oldbury;
- [5] Ann Jesson (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Joseph Jesson (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] William Southall (23), son-in-law, shingler, born Stourbridge;
- [8] Rebecca Southall (23), daughter, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Journal 14/11/1863 - Advert

“Church Street, Oldbury. The NOAHS ARK, New Licensed Inn.  
By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the above new Licensed Inn, well situate in, and leading to the Oldbury and Bromford Lane Railway Station, and fronting the main Turnpike Road. Immediate possession may be had. Rent and coming-in low.  
For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/2/1869 - Advert

“NOAHS ARK INN, Church Street, Oldbury; New-licensed Tavern, in main thoroughfare, and dense population, now doing a profitable business. In-coming, £40 only.  
Apply, A. Altree, Auctioneer, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/6/1869 - Advert

“NOAHS ARK, Church Street, Oldbury.  
By A. Altree, Tomorrow (Tuesday), June 22, at Eleven.  
Brewing Plant, Ale Barrels, four-pull Ale Machine, Fixtures, Fittings, portion of Household Furniture, large Musical Box, plays six tunes; Fowling Piece, &c, the property of Mr. *John Jones*, who is leaving.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1869 - Advert

“To be Sold, a Pony, Truck, and Harness, for £12.  
Apply at NOAHS ARK, Church Street, Oldbury.”

\*probably the same person

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/4/1870 -Advert

“NOAHS ARK, Oldbury.  
Capital Beerhouse, near Station. Fixtures only to be taken to. Under £20.  
E. Cox, Auctioneer, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/4/1870

“*William Mellor*, of the NOAHS ARK, Oldbury, was summoned for allowing drunkenness in his house on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Edwards-Wood appeared for the defendant.  
Police-constable Beven said on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, about 11.45pm, he called at defendant's house, where he found several people drunk in the kitchen. There was no beer upon the table. He did not know the persons who were in the house.  
For the defence, Mr. Wood called two witnesses to show that defendant was unable to get the people out of the house, and that he had drawn no beer after 10.45. The magistrates gave defendant the benefit of the doubt, and dismissed the summons.”

*James Willmore* = James Wilmore

1881 Census

40, Church Street – NOAHS ARK

- [1] *James Willmore* (46), beerhouse keeper, born Worcester;
- [2] *Eleanor Willmore* (47), wife, born Worcester;

- [3] William Delahay (8), nephew, born Oldbury;  
[4] George Dyer (19), general inn servant, born Worcester:

*James Willmore*, beer retailer, Church Street. [1888]

*James Willmore* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1894.

#### 1891 Census

45, Church Street – NOAHS ARK

- [1] *James Willmore* (55), carpenter, born Worcester;  
[2] *Eleanor Willmore* (56), wife, born Worcester;  
[3] William Delahay (18), grand-son, carpenter, born Oldbury;  
[4] George Delahay (10), grand-son, scholar, born Oldbury:

Mrs. *Eleanor Willmore*, beer retailer, 45, Church Street. [1896]

*Joseph Lindon* = Joseph Linden

#### 1901 Census

45, Church Street

- [1] *Joseph Lindon* (42), publican, born York;  
[2] Elizabeth Lindon (40), wife, born West Bromwich;  
[3] Sarah Dickens (22), daughter, born West Bromwich;  
[4] Ernest Dickens (29), son-in-law, engine fitter, born West Bromwich;  
[5] Tabey Foy Lindon (20), son, born West Bromwich;  
[6] Evens Foy Lindon (17), son, born West Bromwich;  
[7] Florance Lindon (13), daughter, born West Bromwich;  
[8] Joseph Lindon (8), son, born West Bromwich:

*Joseph Lindon* was fined 20s and 5s 6d costs, on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1901, for permitting drunkenness.

#### Smethwick Weekly News 31/8/1901

“Sergeant Cox deposed to serving notice of objection to the renewal of the above license upon the owners of the premises, on the ground that *Joseph Lindon*, the occupier, was convicted on June 4<sup>th</sup> for permitting drunkenness; and that there was no necessity for the license, as the requirements of the district were amply provided for; further, that *Lindon* was not a fit and proper person to hold a license.

Superintendent Sherriff explained that the inn belonged to William Parkes, of Newtown, Greets Green, but the lease was held at present by Sir John Holder. There were eleven licensed houses within a radius of 180 yards of the NOAHS ARK. He had examined the latter premises, and found there was no back door to the house.

Mr. Fritchett, who represented Sir John Holder, urged that the door at the rear of the premises was dispensed with in consequence of the magistrates order, there being some houses adjoining.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/9/1901

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. Clulow made application for the renewal of the licence of the CROSS GUNS INN, Church Street.....

Superintendent Sheriff urged that the premises were dilapidated, that there were two convictions within a month for permitting drunkenness last October and November, and that there were eleven other licensed houses within a radius of 200 yards, so that the house was altogether unnecessary.

Mr. Clulow said if it was necessary to reduce the number of licences he thought the NOAHS ARK INN, opposite, which the police described as a ‘dog kennel,’ and against which there was a conviction, should have been refused.....

After retiring to consider their decision, Mr. Wilson explained with reference to the NOAHS ARK that it was



only a beerhouse, and whatever their views in regard to it might be they would still be in the same position. The justices were agreed they must decline to renew the licence of the CROSS GUNS INN.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/2/1903

“The adjourned licensing sessions were held at Oldbury yesterday. The Chairman (Mr. G. Heaton) announced that the magistrates had passed a resolution requiring all license holders to give six months’ notice, and deposit with the clerk to the justices plans of their licensed premises.

It was decided to grant the whole of the music licenses applied for, but the three licenses for dancing were granted on the understanding that no intoxicants were supplied in the rooms where it took place.

Mr. Heaton announced that the magistrates had decided to discontinue granting occasional licenses for football matches, as they were of opinion that there was sufficient provision for obtaining drink. They had also passed a resolution viewing with disfavour the establishment of air-gun clubs at public houses.....

In renewing the license of the NOAHS ARK INN, the magistrates said alterations should not be made without their consent.”

#### 1911 Census

45, Church Street – NOAHS ARK INN

[1] *Joseph Lindon* (53), boat builder, brewer’s manager, born Berfield, Yorkshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Lindon* (51), wife, married 25 years, assists in the business, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Florence Lindon* (23), daughter, assists in the business, born Oldbury Road, West Bromwich;

[4] *Joseph Lindon* (18), son, labourer, carriage works, born Grout Street, Greets Green, West Bromwich:

*Joseph Lindon*, beer retailer, 45, Church Street. [1912]

#### Smethwick Telephone 4/2/1922

“At Oldbury Superintendent Milsom reported that he had served notices of objection to the renewal of the following licenses on the ground of redundancy.....

NOAHS ARK, Church Street.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1922.

The license renewal was refused on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1922.

#### Evesham Standard 14/10/1922

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee sat on Tuesday at the Shirehall to assess compensation for the nine licenses which in July they decided to extinguish. They were all North Worcestershire cases. The total claims by owners and occupiers of the nine houses amounted to about £26,821, representing an average of £2,980. The total amounts claimed were.....

NOAHS ARK, Church Street, Oldbury, £5,104 5s 0d.....

The Committee took in respect of each house evidence of the capitalised loss of trade profits, the capitalised loss in reduction of rental value, and the loss on the sale of fixtures.....

NOAHS ARK, Church Street, Oldbury, beerhouse (ante 1869), rented by Joseph Lindon and owned by Mitchell and Butler’s Ltd. Trade £4,519, rent £839 14s, trade fixtures £82 5s, net claim £5,104 5s 9d less £336 14s estimated value of the premises unlicensed.....

After a private consultation the Chairman announced that the Justices had decided to award compensation as follows ..... NOAHS ARK £3,871.

Notice was given that the awards given in the case of ..... NOAHS ARK ..... could not be accepted by the interested parties who would appeal to the Inland Revenue.”

#### Evesham Standard 5/5/1923

“The Worcestershire County Licensing Committee had to consider eight awards made by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue determining the sums to be paid as compensation to the persons interested on the non-renewal of eight licensed premises in the County. The Committee had finally to settle the division of the compensation money between the interested parties in each case.....

The sum awarded in respect of the NOAHS ARK, Church Street, Oldbury, was £4,450 compared with the £3,871 16s awarded by the Committee. *Joseph Lindon*, licensee, received £450 and Mitchells and Butlers Ltd, the registered owners, £4,000.”

Compensation was paid on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1923.

The license was extinguished on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1923.

#### Smethwick Telephone 8/12/1923 - Advert

“Monday Next, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Sale by Auction.....

Lot 2. All that Freehold De-Licensed Premises, formerly known as the NOAHS ARK, situate and forming the corner of Church and New Meeting Streets, Oldbury. With Vacant Possession”

#### Smethwick Telephone 26/1/1924 - Advert

“For Sale, with Vacant Possession. Commodious Freehold Corner, Double-fronted, De-Licensed Premises, formerly known as the NOAHS ARK, Church Street, Oldbury. Suitable for Coffee House, etc. Lowest Price for quick sale, with Possession, £325.

Jones, Son and Vernon, Auctioneers, Oldbury. Telephone, 282.”

### **OAK TREE**

Halesowen Street, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

#### LICENSEES

Jonathan Gething [1851] – [1855]

#### NOTES

*Jonathan Gething*, retailer of beer, Hales Owen Street. [1851]

*Jonathan Gething*, beer retailer, OAK TREE, Halesowen Street. [1855]

Closed

### **ODDFELLOWS ARMS**

16, (8), New Street, Oldbury Green, Low Town, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Francis Bradley (later at Holy Cross, Clent)

William Smith [1890]

John Richard and Alice Howard Downes

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1896)  
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

## LICENSEES

Sarah Bradley [1850]  
John Farr [1851] – [1854]  
Mrs. Sarah Farr [1855] – **1865**);  
Francis Bradley (**1865** – [1881]  
William Smith [1884] – **1891**);  
Alfred Cox (**1891** – **1894**);  
John Richard and Alice Howard Downes Ltd. (**1894** – **1896**);  
John Downes [1896]  
North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (**1896** – **1906**);  
Emily Price [1901] manager?  
Matthew Thomas Dowell (**1906** – **1909**);  
Elizabeth Beasley (**1909** – **1910**);  
William Charles Adams (**1910**);  
William Middleton (**1910** – **1911**); manager  
Ezbon Foy (**1911**);  
Arthur John Griffin (**1911** – **1912**);  
Theresa Lewis (**1912** – **1913**);  
Robert Turner (**1913**);  
Claude Vincent (**1913** – **1914**);  
Thomas Cartwright (**1914** – **1922**);  
Josiah Fenton (**1922** – **1924**);  
Maria Fenton (**1924** – **1925**);  
Alfred Sheldon (**1925** – **1932**);  
Herbert Douglas Norris (**1932** – **1933**);  
Thomas Turner (**1933** – **1940**);  
Arthur John Cooper (**1940** – **1945**);  
Samuel Bates (**1945** – **1958**);  
Joseph Slater (**1958** – **1961**);  
Frank Robinson Dean (**1961**);  
Harold Percy Walters (**1961** – [1962])

## NOTES

8, New Street [1873], [1881]  
16, New Street [1891], [1892], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1939]

### Birmingham Journal 5/1/1850 - Advert

“To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the Possession, with the Licenses and Goodwill, of that old-established Public House, the ODD FELLOWS ARMS INN, New Street, Oldbury Green.  
Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a valuation.  
The reason of leaving is, the Proprietress is declining Business.  
For particulars, apply on the Premises.”

### Birmingham Journal 16/3/1850 - Advert

“ODD FELLOWS ARMS INN, Oldbury.  
W. L. Turner has the Disposal of the above-named Old-licensed Public House.

There is a Lodge and Club held at the house. The Premises are in excellent condition, and very complete, with Lodge Room, Butcher's Shop, Stable, Piggery, two Malt Rooms, good Yard, and Alleys; will be let at a moderate rent. The present Proprietor is a Widower, and wishes to retire from business. Coming-in about £70.

For particulars, apply to W. L. Turner, Appraiser and Landlords Agent, Oldbury.  
Rents and Debts Collected."

#### Birmingham Journal 4/2/1851 - Advert

"An Excellent Public House and Spirit Concern, the ODD FELLOWS ARMS, New Street, Oldbury. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above old-established and most advantageously situated Public House, in a densely populated neighbourhood.

The Premises are very complete, contain a first-rate and commodious Club-Room, and every convenience both as respects business accommodation and domestic comfort. In addition to which, a Butcher's Shop adjoining, calculated to do a good trade, is to be Disposed of with the above. Coming in low. The Fixtures to be taken with the Premises, and immediate possession may be had.

For particulars, apply to Mr. John Wedgehouse, Estate Appraiser and General Agent, Oldbury."

#### 1851 Census

New Street

[1] *John Farr* (34), publican, born Bridgnorth;

[2] *Sarah Farr* (35), wife, born Cheshire;

[3] Emma Plant (19), visitor:

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/4/1851 - Advert

"Reversionary Interest.

To be Sold by Auction, by R. Clarke, on Thursday next, April 17, at the Turks Head Inn, Livery Street, Birmingham, at five o'clock in the afternoon (unless previously disposed of by private Contract) subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that One-Sixth Part or Share of and in the Reversionary Interest in the following Freehold Property, situated at Oldbury.....

A very excellent Licensed Public House, known by the name of the ODD FELLOWS ARMS, situated in New Street, Oldbury, now doing a good business, in the occupation of Mr. *John Farr*, at an annual rent of £25; also a capital Butcher's Shop adjoining, with the large Yard, Stabling, and all necessary Outbuildings belonging thereto.....

To revert to the Purchaser at the death of a Lady in her 58<sup>th</sup> year....."

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/5/1853

"George Mathews of Oldbury, who never ran for one shilling, will run any lad in Oldbury 400 yards, for £5 a side; or run John Bennett of Oldbury 200 yards for the like sum. The money will be ready at *John Farr's*, ODD FELLOWS ARMS, Oldbury, any night next week."

*Sarah Farr* was also a butcher. [1855]

#### 1861 Census

New Street

[1] *Sarah Farr* (42), widow, publican, born Holmes Chapel, Cheshire;

[2] Alfred Farr (9), son, born Oldbury;

[3] Elizabeth Billingham (22), house servant, born Great Bridge:

*Sarah Farr* – see also GEORGE, Birmingham Road.

*Francis Bradley* = Francis Bradeley

*Francis Bradley* married Mary Ann Bassford, widow of Stephen Bassford of the BLACK BOY, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1865.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/4/1866

“Rabbit Coursing. J. Wood of Oldbury will match his dog Spring against Mr. Marwick’s bitch Alice of the same place, the best of 11 or 15 courses, for £10 a side; or Mr. Kinchin’s dog Jacko of Selly Oak can be on the same terms, or W. Collins’s bitch, also for £5 a side. It will not suit J. W. to run for a less sum. Either match can be made at Mr. *Bradeley*’s, ODD FELLOWS ARMS, Oldbury, at any time.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/10/1866

“Canine Fancy. J. Wood of Oldbury will match his dog Spring to run W. Collins’s bitch of Selby Oak the best of 21 courses, 60 yards law, for £10 or £20 a side, according to Collins’s own challenge, at 18lb or 19lb weight. Money ready at any time at the ODD FELLOWS ARMS INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/11/1867 - Advert

“Desirable Old-Licensed House, the ODD FELLOWS ARMS, New Street, Oldbury, close to the centre of the town, a very populous quarter, surrounded by extensive works, doing a profitable trade. Large suitable Premises with large Yard. Gateway Entrance. Rent £25. In-coming £110.

J. A. Duffield, Auctioneer, 34, Little Cherry Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/4/1868 - Advert

“ODD FELLOWS ARMS, New Street, Oldbury; centre of Town; populous neighbourhood, close to large Works; doing a paying trade. Roomy Premises, with Stabling, large Yard, Gateway Entrance, &c. Rent £25. In-coming £100. A genuine concern

J. A. Duffield, Auctioneer, 34, Little Cherry Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/5/1869 - Advert

“ODD FELLOWS ARMS, New Street, Oldbury, a desirable old-established Licensed House, in a populous neighbourhood, surrounded by extensive Works, doing a prosperous business. Capital Premises, with large Yard and Stabling, where a Hay and Straw Business may be introduced. Changed hands once in nineteen years. In-coming about £100.

Apply on Premises; or to J. A. Duffield, Auctioneer, 13, Cannon Street, Birmingham.”

1871 Census

New Street

[1] *Francis Bradley* (38), victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Mary Ann Bradley (40), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Charles Bassford (18), step-son, carpenter, born Oldbury;

[4] Albert Bassford (16), step-son, sawyer, born Smethwick;

[5] Agnes Bassford (14), step-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 18/3/1872 - Advert

“To be Sold, pursuant to an Order of the High Court of Chancery made in a Matter and Cause re Bradley, Farr v Bradley, with the approbation of the Vice-Chancellor Wickens, in Two Lots, by Mr. Thomas Howell, the Person appointed by the said Judge, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1872, at Six o’clock in the Evening, certain Freehold Property.....

Lot 1. A Public House, known as the ODD FELLOWS ARMS INN, situate in New Street, Oldbury, with Brewhouse, Malt-room, and Stable, Yard, with Gateway entrance, and two Cellars; having a frontage of 13 yards to New Street.....”

*Francis Bradley* was also a painter and plumber. [1873]

[Bee-Hive 14/7/1877](#)

“Trades Union Directory.....  
Amalgamated Society of Engineers ..... Branches.....  
ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Oldbury.”

1881 Census

8, New Street

[1] *Francis Bradley* (47), victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary A. Bradley* (49), wife, born Oldbury:

County Advertiser 19/7/1890 - Advert

“To Brewers, Spirit Merchants, Publicans, and Others.

Highly Important Sale of Valuable Freehold and Leasehold Public Houses and Land, situated at Langley and Oldbury, in the County of Worcester.

Bill and Son have been favoured with instructions from Mr. *William Smith* (the owner) to Sell by Auction, at the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1890, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale, incorporating the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.....

Lot 3. All that Capital Leasehold Fully-Licensed Public House, the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, New Street, Oldbury, for nearly twenty years in the occupation of Mr. *Francis Bradley*, and now in the occupation of Mr. *William Smith*. The House is held on lease (free from any trading clause) for fourteen years from March, 1884, at an annual rental of £30, and the lease contains a clause giving the lessee the option of taking a further lease of seven years at the same rental, and of purchasing the Freehold at any time during the continuance of the tenancy for the sum of £600. The attention of investors is particularly drawn to the terms of this lease, which are of an exceptionally favourable character, and afford an unusual opportunity of securing a highly remunerative investment.

There is every convenience for Brewing upon the Premises, the necessary buildings being already erected.

Immediate possession can be had. Valuation will amount to about £200.....

A large portion of the Purchase Money of any of these Lots could remain on Mortgage.

As opportunities of purchasing Freehold Licensed Properties are daily becoming rarer, the Auctioneers beg to call special attention to this Sale.

For plans and further particulars, apply to *William Shakespeare*, Esq, Solicitor, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneers, Grenville Buildings, Cherry Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/10/1889

“Last evening Mr. E. Docker held an inquest at the ODDFELLOWS ARMS INN, New Street, Oldbury, touching the death of *Ellen Jackson*, aged six months, daughter of *Phoebe Tustin*, of New Street, who was found dead in bed yesterday morning.

Dr. Lyddon said he was of opinion that death was caused by suffocation, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated.”

*William Smith* – see also WHITE LION and CROSSWELLS.

1891 Census

16, New Street

[1] *Alfred Cox* (40), licensed victualler, born Halesowen;

[2] *Elizabeth Cox* (41), wife, born Blackheath;

[3] *Lizzie Frances Cox* (18), daughter, born Halesowen;

[4] *George Henry Cox* (15), son, born Blackheath;

[5] *Emily Ada Cox* (13), daughter, born Blackheath;

[6] *Lucy Rosetta Cox* (5), daughter, born Halesowen;

[7] *Herbert Arthur Cox* (2), son, born Halesowen:

*Alfred Cox* – see also HANDEL, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/9/1895 - Advert

“Waitress and General Servant.

Smart Girl Wanted for a first-class full-licensed house; Catholic preferred. Highest references indispensable. ODD FELLOWS ARMS, New Street, Oldbury.”

1901 Census

16, New Street

- [1] *Emily Price* (51), widow, tavern keeper, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *George Price* (23), son, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Myra Price* (22), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Harry Price* (20), son, stationary engine driver, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Sam Price* (17), son, assistant clerk (commercial), born West Bromwich:

*Matthew Thomas Dowell* – see also ROEBUCK, West Bromwich.

*Elizabeth Beasley* – see also UNION, Tabernacle Street.

1911 Census

16, New Street – ODDFELLOWS ARMS

- [1] *William Middleton* (36), public house manager, born Walsall;
- [2] *Phoebe Middleton* (36), wife, married 15 years, born Walsall;
- [3] *Doris Middleton* (14), daughter, stitcher, leather manufacturer, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] *Marie Middleton* (10), daughter, school, born Wolverhampton:

*William Middleton* – see also WHIMSEY and ROSE AND CROWN, Popes Lane.

London Gazette 19/6/1914

“First Meetings and Examinations.....

*Claude Vincent*, 97, Sable-road, Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, lately residing at the BROWN LION, Birmingham-street, Oldbury, and the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, New-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester.

Date of Meeting, June 24, 1914.”

*Claude Vincent* – see also BROWN LION, Tividale, WONDER, Tividale, and BROWN LION, Oldbury.

Smethwick Telephone 12/4/1924 - Deaths

“On the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, at the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, New Street, Oldbury, after much suffering, *Josiah Fenton*, the beloved husband of *M. Fenton*, in his 59<sup>th</sup> year. RIP.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/9/1928

“The ODDFELLOWS ARMS Angling Society, New Street, Oldbury, fished their annual contest at Cressage, and the total fish caught were 163. The prize-winners were: 1, *A. Hughes*, 2lb 1oz 10½dr; 2, *A. Sheldon*, 2lb 1oz 8dr; 3, *P. Jones*, 1lb 1oz 6dr.”

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Central Darts League. [1939]

1939 Register

16, New Street

- [1] *Thomas Turner*, date of birth 29/9/1880, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Elizabeth M. Turner*, dob 20/3/1880, licensed victualler, married;
- [3] *Norman C. Turner*, dob 1/5/1917, electrical engineer, single, AFS;
- [4] *Bernard J. Turner*, dob 12/2/1921, estimating clerk, seamless steel tubes, single:

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/10/1949

“An Oldbury public house which the landlord’s wife says is sometimes ‘more like a church than a public house’ is staging a harvest festival a week on Sunday. A poster in the bar calls it ‘a token of thanks to God by the users of this house for a bountiful harvest.’ The public house is the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Low Town. A chance conversation overheard in the bar by the landlord, Mr. *Samuel Bates*, himself a keen church and choir man, started the idea.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/10/1949

“A half-empty glass of beer stood on the mantelpiece of the clubroom of the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Low Town, Oldbury, last night. ‘We plough the fields and scatter,’ the regulars sang. One smoked a cigarette. Five minutes before, in the bar, the word had gone round ‘Harvest service’ and customers leaning on the bar quickly drank up and went upstairs. It was the first harvest festival service in an Oldbury public house. Regulars had been asked to bring vegetables, flowers, eggs, sugar – anything they could spare – to be auctioned for the local Darby and Joan and Sons of Rest Club. The landlord’s wife, Mrs. *C. Bates*, told the *Birmingham Gazette* she believed every customer had brought something. Then it was decided to hold a harvest festival service, and Pastor Walter Evitts, of the Ebenezer Chapel, Oldbury, agreed to lead. He went to the ODDFELLOWS ARMS straight from his chapel service. Although the landlord, Mr. *S. Bates*, had told everyone, ‘You can take your pints upstairs,’ only one glass was seen in the room. During the service one or two people left the room for a drink and then returned. Pastor Evitts told the *Birmingham Gazette*, ‘I believe in mixing with people. If they won’t come to the church, we have to take the church to them.’

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/10/1950

“Customers at the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, New Street, Oldbury, left their drinks in the bar last night and went upstairs to sing hymns in connection with a Harvest Festival service, at which Pastor Walter Evitts of the Unitarian Church preached. Customers brought produce which is to be auctioned in aid of the local Darby and Joan Club and Sons of Rest.”

## ODDFELLOWS ARMS

Dudley Road, Brades Village, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

Joseph Brookes [1850] – [1854]  
Joseph Ingram [1855] – 1857)  
Isaac Hadley [ ] – 1858);  
Ann Bennett (1858 – [ ]

### NOTES

*Joseph Brookes* = Joseph Brooks

### 1851 Census

Dudley Road

- [1] *Joseph Brooks* (35), steel hardener and victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Ann Brooks (32), wife, born Tipton;



- [3] Lavinia Brooks (9), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Emma Brooks (7), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] George Brooks (6), son, born Oldbury;
- [6] William Brooks (4), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] Sarah Brooks (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] Ann Foster (14), house servant, born Oldbury:

*Joseph Brookes* was also a grocer, cheese monger and provision dealer. [1854]

London Gazette 7/4/1857

“Whereas a Petition of *Joseph Ingram*, now and since the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March last living in lodgings, at the house of Elizabeth Fellows, in Brades Village, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Collier, before then for two years residing in Brades Village, Oldbury aforesaid, at a house called or known by the name or sign of the ODD FELLOWS ARMS, Licensed Victualler and Collier, and formerly residing in Grets-green, West-bromwich, Staffordshire, for the space of one year, Collier, 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 *Joseph Ingram*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Joseph Ingram* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April instant, at ten of the clock in the forenoon precisely, for his first examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors’ assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *Joseph Ingram*, 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.”

Birmingham Journal 23/5/1857

“Oldbury. County Court. Insolvency Cases.....

*Joseph Ingram*, victualler, of Brades Village, near Oldbury, obtained his final order, without opposition.”

Birmingham Journal 23/1/1858 - Advert

“ODD FELLOWS ARMS, Brades Village, Dudley Road, Oldbury.

To be Let (in consequence of the death of the Landlord) and may be entered upon immediately, the above Old-Licensed Public House. The valuation will be exceedingly low.

For rent, and other particulars, apply personally to Mr. Joshua Hammond, 21, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, on Thursday, between 11am and 2 o’clock pm.”

**OLD BARN**

54, Church Street, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Thomas Bonser

Augustus Bridgwater, Church Street, Oldbury (later at Overdale, Streetly Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield)

John Jordan and Co. Ltd. (leased) [1901]

LICENSEES

Joseph Fradgley [1883] – 1892);

Edward Faulkner (1892 – 1895);

George Henry Holloway (1895 – 1900);  
George Drew (1900);  
Joseph Langford (1900);  
William Newman (1900 – 1901);  
Mary Newman [1901]  
Isaiah Bell (1901 – 1902);  
Benjamin Webb (1902 – 1904);  
Henry Gallears (1904);  
John Bailey (1904 – 1906):

## NOTES

*Joseph Fradgley* = Joseph Fradgeley = Joseph Frageley

### Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1883

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday.....

*Joseph Fradgley*, of the OLD BARN INN, Church Street, for permitting drunkenness, on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, was fined 20s and costs.”

*Joseph Fradgley*, beer retailer, Church Street. [1884], [1888]

### Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1884

“The annual licensing session for Oldbury Petty Sessional division was held yesterday.....

The whole of the licenses were renewed with the exception of those held by.....

*Joseph Fradgley*, Church Street ..... all of which were deferred until the adjourned licensing day.”

### Smethwick Telephone 27/9/1884

“The adjourned licensing session for the division of Oldbury was held at the Police Court on Tuesday.....

*Joseph Frageley* ..... whose licenses had been adjourned at the annual meeting, were called before the Bench, and after being cautioned as to their future conduct the applicants’ licenses were all renewed.”

### 1891 Census

54, Church Street

[1] *Joseph Fradgley* (72), publican, born Brierley Hill;

[2] Elizabeth Fradgley (68), wife, born Brierley Hill;

[3] Joseph Fradgley (38), son, engineer, born Brierley Hill;

[4] Alfred Fradgley (29), son, engineer, born Oldbury;

[5] Clara Fradgley (26), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Rose Fradgley (15), grand-daughter, warehouse girl, born Oldbury:

*Edward Faulkner*, beer retailer, 54, Church Street. [1896]

### Smethwick Weekly News 9/2/1901

“George Pearson (28), Albert Street, got drunk on Monday night, and visited the OLD BARN INN, Church Street, where he seems to have lost his senses, for he went upstairs and struck a match while the landlady’s mother was in bed. She jumped out, chased him downstairs, and Mr. *Newman*, the landlord caught hold of him and gave him into custody. When at the Police Station prisoner broke two panes of glass, and as the County Council have to replace them he was charged with this offence also.

Prisoner said he had a bad wife. Four days out of the six he found nothing to eat in the house, and so he got drunk and would not remember anything that happened. He expressed his regret, and was fined 5s and the costs for entering the bed room, 1s damages, and 4s 6d costs for breaking the glass.”

Smethwick Weekly News 9/3/1901

“*William Newman*, landlord of the OLD BARN INN, Church Street, was charged with serving drink to a drunken person, and permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Mr. Sharpe appeared to prosecute on behalf of the police, and Mr. Dawes (Messrs. Bonser and Dawes) defended.

PC Male, with PCs Bayliss and Chitty, visited the house at 10.35 on the night in question, when they saw a man named George Delhay drunk, with beer before him.

Mr. Dawes said two of the officers had stated the man Delhay was sufficiently sober that if they had met him in the street probably they would not have summoned him. He had a great number of witnesses, and the man was not supplied with anything to drink in the house. A man named Mansfield paid for some ginger wine for a woman, but Delhay had none, although he poured some beer into a glass and gave it to Mansfield. Delhay might have had some but the police were on him too quickly, before he had time, after getting into the house.

A number of witnesses were called, but defendant was fined £3 5s 6d including costs.”

1901 Census

54, Church Street

[1] *William Newman* (28), brick setter, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Newman* (27), wife, publican, born Dudley;

[3] *Julia Newman* (4), daughter, born Oldbury:

*William Newman* was fined 40s and £2 15s 6d costs, on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1901, for selling intoxicating liquor to a drunken person.

Smethwick Weekly News 25/1/1902

“*Isaiah Bell*, of the OLD BARN INN, Church Street, was charged with selling drink to a drunken person, and also with permitting drunkenness on the licensed premises. Mr. J. Sharp prosecuted, and Mr. H. Jeffries defended.

It appeared that about ten o'clock on Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, PS Cox visited the house, and went into the tap room. Mrs. *Bell* and her daughter were behind the bar. In the room was a man named James Russell, who was drunk and pouring out some beer from a jug into a glass. The sergeant asked Mrs. *Bell* why she allowed the drunken man on the premises, and also how it was he had got some beer. Mrs. *Bell* replied that it was another man's beer. Russell then staggered across the room, and asked the officer to have a drink. He then staggered out into the street. The officer also stated that the landlady said that she only served the man with half a pint of beer.

Superintendent Sherriff said he was outside the house when the landlord came across to him, and told him his wife had served the man with only half a pint of beer, for she thought the man was not drunk.

Mrs. *Bell* said she did not serve the man. He called for half a pint, but was not served. He drank some beer which was offered him by a man named Cole.

Cole corroborated this last statement, and said in his opinion, the man was ‘half and half.’

Mr. Allbright said the Bench thought due care had not been exercised in this case, and he would be fined 20s and costs, £3 16s 6d in all, or in default, one month, and the license was not to be endorsed.”

Smethwick Telephone 14/6/1902

“On Tuesday, at Oldbury Police Court, before Messrs. J. E. Wilson and E. Danks, Owen Williams, a bookmaker, of Broadwell Road, Oldbury, was summoned for street betting on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of May.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted on behalf of the police, and explained that Police-sergeant Cox, who was concealed, saw defendant receive betting packets from persons on the canal side, Flash Road. On the last date defendant was apparently startled by someone, for he ran away, jumped over a wall, and did not return again. Defendant denied betting on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. The Bench fined defendant £5 and costs in each case, the total amount being £14 19s.....

[Several people were summoned for aiding and abetting Williams and fined 1s and costs, in all 13s 2d each.]

Lewis Davies, bookmaker, of Lower Hagley, was summoned for frequenting Stone Street, for purposes of

betting on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. Police-constable Bryan proved the case, and defendant was fined £5 and costs (£2 9s 6d). Albert George Ball, residing at the OLD BARN INN, Church Street, Oldbury, was summoned for a similar offence on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. Defendant strongly denied the offence, but was fined £7 10s 6d, including costs.

The total amount paid in fines and costs was over £35.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.

It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

#### Birmingham Mail 24/6/1905

“The adjourned meeting of the Worcester County Licensing Committee was held today at the Shirehall, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, for the consideration of licenses of houses in Oldbury which had been reported by the local justices as not being necessary for the requirements of the district.....

Mr. Jeffries commended the OLD BARN, Church Street, to the favourable notice of the Committee, because it was overlooked by the police station. *John Bailey*, licensee, admitted there had been five tenants in five years. It was stated there were two convictions against the house.....

After deliberating half an hour, the justices decided that all the houses brought before them were unnecessary, but not being certain how far compensation money would suffice to meet the claims to be paid, drew up an order of precedence in which houses are to be dealt with, houses not paid for keeping open provisionally till they are dealt with.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

8. OLD BARN, Church Street.”

#### Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years' purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years' purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

OLD BARN, £200.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to con-

sider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division.....

The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

OLD BARN, Church Street, £325.

The committee made awards as follows.....

OLD BARN, Church Street, £30 to the licensee, *John Bailey*, £112 to the owner, Augustus Bridgewater, and £183 to the lessees, John Jordan and Co.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

## **OLD BOAT**

Seven Stars Bridge, 3, (1), Canal Side, Park Lane, (Park House Lane), (Low Town), OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Ann Parkes, Holly Bank, Smethwick

J. A. and A. Thompson Ltd., maltsters, Oldbury [1905]

Isacke and Clark, 82, New Street, Birmingham (acquired c.1911) [1920]

## **LICENSEES**

William Fisher [1829] – [1839]

William Markwick [1841] – [1851]

John Mellor [1851] – [1855]

Ballard [1855]

Arthur Lench [1858] – [1860]

Thomas Bird [1861]

Charles Owen [1862]

Edward Wood [1864] – [1870]

John White [1871]

Samuel White [1872] – **1901**;

John William Sadler (**1901 – 1903**);

Alfred Ellis (**1903**);

Mary Maria Nightingale (Brown) Lowe (**1903 – 1908**);

Charles Frederick Lowe (**1908 – 1909**);

Alfred George Knight (**1909 – 1912**);

Mrs. Betsy Ann Knight (**1912 – 1920**);

Joseph Cottrell (**1920 – 1921**);

Joseph Simcox (**1921 – 1922**);

Alfred Hollyhead (**1922 – 1925**);

William Henry Hollinshead (**1925 – 1928**):

## **NOTES**

NAVIGATION [1839]

OLD BOOT [1912]

*William Fisher*, BOAT, Canal Side, Oldbury. [1829]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/9/1839 - Advert

“Freehold, Mining, and Other Property, Oldbury.

To be disposed of by private Contract, all that moiety or half part of that well-known Public House, called the NAVIGATION INN, at Oldbury, near Birmingham, and all those two other Dwelling Houses adjoining, with extensive Stabling, Rope-maker's Shops, Blacksmith's Shop, Warehouses, and other suitable Outbuildings, with about two Acres of Land, all lying together and adjoining the Birmingham Canal, with the Coal and other Mines under the same, in the respective occupations of Mr. *Wm. Fisher*, Mr. Edward Townshend, and others.

For particulars apply to Mr. Wm. Horton, Kinfare, near Stourbridge, if by letter, post paid.”

*William Markwick* = William Marwick

*William Markwick* married Harriett Fisher on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1835.

1841 Census

Seven Star Bridge

- [1] *William Markwick* (25), victualler;
- [2] Harriett Markwick (20);
- [3] Elizabeth Markwick (4);
- [4] Edwin Markwick (3);
- [5] Mary Markwick (1);
- [6] Elizabeth Markwick (15):

Harriett *Markwick* died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1848.

*William Markwick*, BOAT INN, Seven Stars Bridge. [1850]

1851 Census

Park House Lane

- [1] *William Markwick* (36), boatman, retail brewer, born Hadderbury, Oxfordshire;
- [2] Myra Markwick (27), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] Elizabeth Markwick (14), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] Mary Ann Markwick (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] Sarah Markwick (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Jane Markwick (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] George Markwick (7 months), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] William Markwick (66), father, retired boatman, born Barcombe, Sussex;
- [9] Rebeckah Jevons (18), general servant, born Bilston:

*William Markwick* – see also SEVEN STARS.

Birmingham Journal 12/2/1853 - Advert

“The OLD BOAT INN, at Oldbury, on the side of the Old Birmingham Canal, about 120 yards from Messrs. Chance's Chemical Works.

John Roderick has the above House to Let, upon very advantageous terms. Coming-in about £150.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *Mellor*, upon the Premises; or at his Offices, 54, New Street, Birmingham.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 11/5/1853

“On the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, the public house kept by Mr. *John Mellor*, at Oldbury, was broken into, and bottles of brandy, whiskey, and peppermint, a box of cigars, a pair of shoes, a tea caddy, and a workbox, were

stolen. The entrance was effected by breaking a pane of glass in the window of a lower room.”

Birmingham Journal 14/4/1855 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, the OLD BOAT INN, Oldbury. Coming-in about £50, or may be reduced to suit parties.

For particulars, apply to William Green, Auctioneer, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 22/9/1860 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, that old-established Canal-side Old-licensed Public House, the OLD BOAT INN, situate and being close to Messrs. Chance’s extensive Works, Oldbury, now doing a first-rate business. The House comprises front Bar, Tap Room, Club Room, good Chambers, Cellaring, large and enclosed Yard, Piggeries, Stabling for twelve Boat Horses, with good Hay and Corn Warehouse. Stock, Fixtures, Goodwill, and Licenses, about £100. The present Tenant is leaving on account of having entered into other engagements.

Apply on the Premises; or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, New Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1860 - Advert

“If the Donkey, which was left at the OLD BOAT INN, Oldbury, a fortnight since, is not taken away within three days of this date it will be Sold for expenses.

Oldbury, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1860.”

London Gazette 21/5/1861

“Whereas a Petition of *Arthur Lench*, at present and for six calendar months and three weeks last past living at lodgings with William Bishop, at Lower Gornal, in the parish of Sedgley, in the county of Stafford, during that period being employed as a Labourer, and for three years or thereabouts previous thereto residing at and keeping the OLD BOAT INN, Park-lane, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, carrying on there the business of a Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, and for twelve months previous thereto residing at and keeping the ALBION INN, Pennsnett, in the parish of Kingswinford in the county of Stafford, carrying on there the business of a Retailor of Beer and Dealer in Tobacco, 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 *Arthur Lench*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Arthur Lench* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June next, at ten in the forenoon precisely, for his first examination, touching his debts, estate and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and the choice of the creditors’ assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *Arthur Lench*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Thomas Walker, Registrar 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.”

1861 Census

Low Town – OLD BOAT INN

- [1] *Thomas Bird* (42), publican, born Moira Baths, Leicestershire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Bird* (43), wife, born Warwick;
- [3] *John Bird* (20), son, engine smith, born Moira Baths, Leicestershire;
- [4] *Elizabeth B. Bird* (18), daughter, born Moira Baths, Leicestershire;
- [5] *Sarah Louisa Bird* (16), daughter, born Moira Baths, Leicestershire;
- [6] *Ada Eliza Bird* (13), daughter, scholar, born Moira Baths, Leicestershire;
- [7] *Fanny A. M. Bird* (8), daughter, scholar, born Ascension Island;
- [8] *Clara Hannah Bird* (5), daughter, scholar, born Ascension Island;
- [9] *Thomas Pountain* (22), lodger, engine smith, born Derby:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/4/1862 - Advert

“A Safe Investment and a Fortune for a Man of Spirit.

Boatman’s House. The OLD BOAT INN, Canal Side, Oldbury.

By Mr. Robert H. Jones. To be Let, this old-established and well-situated Old-Licensed House, in consequence of the Proprietor going abroad.

The Premises consist of large Kitchen and Back ditto, Bar, Smoke Room, large Club Room with a sliding partition, three Bed Rooms, and Sitting Room, Malt Room, Brewhouse, large Yard, Garden, Piggeries, and abundant supplies of Hard and Soft Water, and are in the immediate neighbourhood of extensive Iron, Chemical, Brick, and other Works, Boat Docks, &c, and in the centre of the Coal district.

Part of the Yard is used as a Coal Yard, where a profitable trade is carried on, and may be largely increased, and as the Boats can be loaded at the neighbouring Collieries, and for unloading can be drawn up alongside, considerable expense of tonnage and haulage is saved.

The Stabling consists of Stalls for thirteen Horses, and is always full.

Valuation is not to exceed £150, and possession may be had next week if desired.

There are also two Dobbins, nearly new, and a Spring Trap, belonging to the present Proprietor, which may be included in the valuation or not, at the option of the in-coming Tenant.

Apply to Mr. Robert H. Jones, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Accountant, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1862 - Advert

“Rare Opportunity. The OLD BOAT INN, Canal Side, Oldbury.

By Mr. Robert H. Jones. To be Disposed of, with immediate possession, in consequence of the Proprietor going abroad, this old-established Old-licensed House, one of the best Houses for business in this very populous district.

The Premises have every convenience for a stirring trade, and are abundantly supplied with hard and soft Water, and are situated in the heart of the Iron, Chemical, Brick, and other Works, Boat Docks, &c, and in the centre of the Coal District.

Rent low, and valuation moderate, and can be reduced to suit the purposes of an immediate applicant.

Apply to Mr. Robert H. Jones, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Accountant, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1862 - Advert

“The OLD BOAT Old-Licensed Inn, Seven Stars Bridge, and fronting the Birmingham Old Canal, Oldbury, and near the most important Works of Messrs. Chance Brothers and Company, Messrs. Albright and Wilson’s, and other Iron and Coal Works, Iron Foundry, Brick and Coal Wharfs, Boat Docks, &c.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, in consequence of the present Proprietor’s ill health.

All that most important and Business House, as above, and now doing an excellent in and out-door Business. The House consists of Front Bar, Smoke and Tap Room, large Club Room, Private Parlour, four good Bed Rooms, two Ale and one Wine Cellars, capital Brewery, Stabling for ten horses, with large Hay Warehouse, Piggery, Marble and Skittle Alley, Garden, large and entire Yard, with an excellent supply of hard and soft Water. Immediate possession may be had.

Rent £25 per annum, with a let-off of £4 per annum. Coming-in low.

For further particulars, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Estate Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 20/9/1862 - Advert

“Oldbury, at the OLD BOAT INN, Seven Stars Bridge, fronting the Birmingham Old Canal, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. S. Parkes, on the Premises as above, on Wednesday, October the 1<sup>st</sup>.

A part of the Brewing Plant, Household Furniture, and other Effects; consisting of half-hogsheads, 40, 35-gallon and other Ale Casks; Wash Stands, Dressing and other Tables, mahogany Windsor and other Chairs; tent and other Bedsteads, feather and flock Beds, Chimney, Toilet, and other Glasses, handsome carved mahogany horse-hair-seated and other Sofas, and other Public House Effects and Household Requisites.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale, and at the Auctioneer’s, Surveyor and Estate Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”



Birmingham Daily Post 6/5/1863

“On Saturday last a man named James Murray was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near to the OLD BOAT public house. Deceased had been drinking at the public house named on the previous night, and at about four o'clock on the morning in question, as a puddler, named Richard James, was returning from work, he saw some hair floating upon the water near the Seven Stars Bridge. He obtained assistance, and the body was got out of the water, but life was extinct. An inquest on the body was opened on Monday, when it transpired that deceased was a single man, aged twenty-seven years. The enquiry was adjourned.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/11/1865 - Advert

“Oldbury. To Capitalists and Others.

Important Freehold and Copyhold Property, situate at Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Worcester.

Comprising the OLD BOAT INN, extensive Warehouses, Stabling Yard, Garden, and Premises; together with a Field of Land and three Dwelling Houses, with the Appurtenances thereto belonging.

To be Sold by Auction, in one lot, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at Mr. John Green's, the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, 1865, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

All those Messuages and Hereditaments, being part Freehold and part Copyhold, and comprising all that valuable and importantly situated Old-licensed Inn, with extensive Stabling, Warehouses, Garden, Yard, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, three Dwelling Houses, together with a Field of Land adjoining, and severally occupied by *Edward Wood*, George Duckhouse, and others; and containing in the whole 5,687 square yards or about that quantity, be the same more or less.

The Property is well situated, and the Land well adapted for the erection of a Flour Mill, Iron, and other Works, Malshouses, and for other building purposes, being in the centre of the Coal and Iron district, and in the important and improving town of Oldbury.

It has a considerable frontage to the Birmingham Old Canal and Park House Lane, leading from Oldbury to Langley.

For plans and further particulars, apply to Messrs. Barlow and Smith, Solicitors, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; or to the Auctioneer, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/12/1865 - Advert

“Sale This Day, at 6pm.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury – Freehold and Copyhold Property; comprising the OLD BOAT INN, Warehouses, Land, and Dwelling Houses, situated at Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 15/9/1866

“The annual licensing meeting of the magistrates was held on Tuesday.....

The following licenses were suspended till the adjourned meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst, to enable further enquiries to be made ..... *Edward Wood*, OLD BOAT, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1866

“At the Public office, on Tuesday, at the close of the usual business, the Magistrates proceeded to determine on the licenses which were suspended at the first meeting, and decided as follows. The licenses of ..... OLD BOAT, Oldbury, kept by *Edward Wood*, would be granted, promises being given for future good management.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1869 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Public House.

To be Let, the OLD BOAT INN, Seven Star Bridge, Park Lane, Oldbury. Rent and in-coming low. Apply to Powell and Son, Auctioneers, Tipton; or on the Premises.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/12/1869 - Advert

“Sale at the OLD BOAT INN, Seven Star Bridge, Oldbury, This Day (Monday), December 27<sup>th</sup>.

Messrs. Powell and Son will Sell by Auction, at Eleven o'clock am.

Nine well-bred Store Pigs, useful Bay Mare, Three Carts, Contractors' Tools, Timber, Drinking Booth, 16ft by 30ft, complete; Public House Fixtures, Furniture, &c, belonging to Mr. *Edward Wood*.  
Auctioneers' Offices, 60, High Street, Tipton."

### 1871 Census

Low Town – BOAT INN

- [1] *John White* (69), boatman, born Bambury, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Elizabeth White* (70), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Samuel White* (29), son, coach builder, born Paddington, London;
- [4] *Sarah White* (26), son's wife, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Henry White* (2), grand-son, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Frank White* (1), grand-son, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Alice Howell* (19), boarder, milliner, born West Bromwich;
- [8] *Margaret Connon* (12), general servant, born Oldbury:

*Samuel White* was also a grocer. [1873]

### 1881 Census

1, Canal Side, Park Lane – OLD BOAT INN

- [1] *Samuel White* (39), publican, born London;
- [2] *Sarah Selina White* (36), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Frank White* (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Bertha White* (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Annie White* (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Lizzie White* (5 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Elizabeth White* (81), mother, widow, born Birmingham;
- [8] *Esther Whitehouse* (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Mail 20/8/1881

"Petitions for liquidation filed in the Oldbury County Court.....

*Samuel White*, of the OLD BOAT INN, Canal Side, Oldbury, licensed victualler, and carrying on business at the Britannia Foundry, Whimsey Bridge, Oldbury, in co-partnership with Thomas Glazebrooke, as engineers and ironfounders; liabilities £1,000."

### Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1881

"Yesterday a meeting of the creditors of *Samuel White*, of the OLD BOAT INN, Canal Side, Oldbury, licensed victualler, and carrying on business at the Britannia Foundry, Whimsey Bridge, in co-partnership with Thomas Glazebrooke as engineers and ironfounders, was held at the office of Mr. William Shakespeare, Church Street, Oldbury; Mr. Williams presiding.

The statement of affairs showed unsecured creditors, £461; assets, £45 12s 6d, less creditors to be paid in full for rent, rates, &c, £36 4s 10d; leaving net assets £9 7s 8d. A composition of 3d in the pound secured, payable within one month from the confirmation of the proceedings, was accepted."

### Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1883

"At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday.....

*Samuel White*, landlord of the OLD BOAT INN, Park Lane, was charged with selling intoxicating drinks during illegal hours. Mr. T. H. Forrest defended.

Police-constable Williams stated that on Sunday morning, the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, he was watching the defendant's premises, when between 8.50 and 10.20 he saw several persons supplied with ale.

The magistrates considered it a bad case, and fined defendant £2 and the costs, and ordered the license to be endorsed."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1884

“The annual licensing session for Oldbury Petty Sessional division was held yesterday.....  
The whole of the licenses were renewed with the exception of those held by.....  
*Samuel White*, BOAT INN ..... all of which were deferred until the adjourned licensing day.”

Smethwick Telephone 27/9/1884

“The adjourned licensing session for the division of Oldbury was held at the Police Court on Tuesday.....  
*Samuel White* ..... whose licenses had been adjourned at the annual meeting, were called before the Bench,  
and after being cautioned as to their future conduct the applicants’ licenses were all renewed.”

Smethwick Telephone 16/5/1885

“Michael Hawkins, Low Town, Oldbury, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 30<sup>th</sup> March,  
and on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, with being drunk and refusing to quit the BOAT INN, Canal Side. The defendant hav-  
ing been several times previously convicted for a similar offence, was fined 5s and costs in each case, or in  
default, seven days’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1889

“Mr. *Samuel White*, landlord of the BOAT INN, Park Lane, Oldbury, has received a testimonial from the  
Committee of the Royal Humane Society in recognition of his saving Thomas Williams from drowning in  
the canal, in January last. It is stated that Mr. *White* has saved thirteen persons from drowning in the canal.”

1891 Census

1, Canal Side, Park Lane – BOAT INN

- [1] *Samuel White* (49), carpenter and publican, born Paddington, London;
- [2] Sarah S. White (46), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Frank White (21), son, plumber, born Oldbury;
- [4] Bertha White (15), daughter, assistant, born Oldbury;
- [5] Annie White (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Esther Whitehouse (27), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 8/7/1891

“*Samuel White*, landlord of the OLD BOAT INN, canal side, for permitting drunkenness on his licensed  
premises on June 20, was yesterday fined 10s and costs.”

Sarah Selina *White* died in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1895.

1901 Census

3, Canal Side

- [1] *Samuel White* (59), publican, born Paddington, London;
- [2] Ellen L. White (49), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Clara Seymour (19), niece, publican’s assistant, born Oldbury:

*John William Sadler* was fined 10s and £2 9s 6d costs, on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1902, for permitting drunkenness.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.  
The license was renewed on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/6/1905

“A meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, the  
principal business being consideration by the committee of licences reported by the preliminary meeting to  
the compensation authority.....

In the case of the OLD BOAT, Canal Side, Lower Town, Oldbury, an on-beer licence, held by *Mary Maria  
Nightingale Brown*, and owned by Messrs. J. A. and A. Thompson. For the applicant it was contended that

the house was a great convenience to canal boatmen and workers by the canal side, and bore a good character.

The committee at this point retired, and on their return the Chairman said that having regard to the limited nature of the fund at their disposal, and that there were public houses reported which were in a more congested neighbourhood to which they would prefer to devote the fund, the licences of the ..... OLD BOAT INN ..... would be renewed for this year.”

Birmingham Mail 4/9/1905 - Advert

“Person, respectable, Wanted, used public business; good worker; references required.  
Mrs. *Brown*, BOAT, Park Lane, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Mail 14/11/1905 - Advert

“Person (respectable), 20 to 30, Wanted; good references.  
Apply, Mrs. *Brown*, OLD BOAT, Park Lane, Oldbury.”

*Mary Maria Nightingale Brown* married *Charles Frederick Lowe* on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1908.

1911 Census

Canal Side, Park Lane – OLD BOAT INN

- [1] *Alfred George Knight* (54), licensed victualler, born Droitwich;
- [2] *Betsy Ann Knight* (55), wife, married 34 years, born Stoke Works, Worcestershire;
- [3] *William Hudson* (44), boarder, boat builder, born Lower Heyford, Northamptonshire;
- [4] *Florence Elizabeth Clissett* (23), visitor, born Stoke Works, Worcestershire;
- [5] *Alfred George Clissett* (3), nephew, born Stoke Prior, Worcestershire;
- [6] *Bessie Day* (14), servant, born Stoke Works, Worcestershire;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/7/1917 - Advert

“Oldbury Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Fund Sports will be held on the Oldbury Town Football Ground. On Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 1917. £35 in Prizes. Open Events, &c.  
Entry forms from C. J. Banks, OLD BOAT INN, Park Lane, and H. Webster, WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/2/1920

“At the Oldbury Licensing sessions yesterday, the Superintendent’s report showed there were 114 licences (69 fully licensed), representing one to every 283 persons. During the year on licensed holder was proceeded against for an infringement, and 17 persons were convicted for drunkenness. Objection was taken by the Superintendent to the renewal of 16 licenses on the ground of redundancy, and, after private consideration, the Bench reduced these to four, to be referred for compensation. These are: BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green; FOUNTAIN INN, Stone Street; OLD BOAT, Canal-side: and MANCHESTER STORES, Church Bridge.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1920.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1920

“Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday.....  
The licenses of the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green; the MANCHESTER STORES, Park Street; and the FOUNTAIN INN, Stone Street, were renewed.  
The license of the OLD BOAT INN, Canalside, was referred for compensation.  
The Chairman explained that the Bench were influenced by the limited amount of money at the disposal of the Compensation Authority.”

The license was renewed on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1920.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/7/1920

“At a meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee yesterday, opposition was offered to the OLD BOATS INN, alongside Park Lane, Oldbury, being referred for compensation. On behalf of the licensing justices it was contended that the house was redundant.

Mr. Wylie, for the owners, Messrs. Isacke and Clark, 82, New Street, Birmingham, said the house was much used by boatmen on the canal, and being on the towpath, it was more convenient for them than other houses in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Joseph Darby, assistant secretary of the Oldbury branch of the Boatmen’s Union, said that if the licence were taken away it would cause great inconvenience to the boatmen.

The Bench renewed the licence, but considered that some structural alterations should be made on the premises.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 6/3/1926

“The Oldbury Licensing Justices granted the application made on Wednesday last by Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, Ltd. for the removal of the full licence of the CROSS ANCHORS INN, Oldbury, to new premises to be erected near the Smethwick housing site bounded by Thimblemill Road, Pargeter Road, and Norman Road, Warley, subject to the surrender of the licence of the OLD BOAT INN Canal Side, Oldbury, and the off-licence at Katherine Road, Warley, and certain alterations in the plans of the proposed new building.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 5/6/1926

“Housing developments at Warley were mentioned at a meeting of the Worcestershire Licensing Committee on Monday, when Mr. J. G. Hurst, KC, applied, on behalf of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, for confirmation of the removal of the licence of the CROSS ANCHORS, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, to premises proposed to be erected in an area where new houses have been built.

Mr. Hurst said there had been a great movement of the population in Oldbury. The CROSS ANCHORS was in a district where there were 35 fully-licensed houses, and in the new area, where it was proposed to remove the licence, there were only two fully-licensed houses. It would be to the advantage of the Local Authority if the licence was removed as suggested, as it would be made possible, with less expenditure, to carry out road widening.

Mr. Hurst said it was proposed to surrender the licence of the OLD BOAT INN and an off-licence near the new site.

The committee confirmed the removal, the Chairman (Mr. Bund) saying that the surrender of the two licences was part of the bargain.”

The house closed at 10pm on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1928 and the license was surrendered as part of the arrangement for the licence of the THIMBLEMILL, Smethwick.

#### Smethwick Telephone 14/7/1928 - Advert

“Sale by Auction of Freehold Business Premises, Dis-licensed Properties and Decontrolled Villa.

By Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon, FAI, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>.....

Lot 3. Freehold Dis-licensed Premises, OLD BOAT, Park Lane. Together with Three Cottages adjoining, let at weekly rentals, producing £38 7s per annum. With Vacant Possession of the Dis-licensed Property. The Site contains an Area of about 5,608 Square Yards with Canal Frontage.”

### **OLD CROSS**

2, Causeway Green Road, (2, Causeway Green), (Langley Road), Langley Green, OLDBURY

### **OWNERS**

Thomas Goode

Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd.  
Edward Cheshire and Co. Ltd.  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1900]

## LICENSEES

Alice Wilcox [1831]  
Thomas Nathaniel Hadley [1845]  
Thomas Goode [1850] – [1874]  
Joseph Read [1880] – [1881]  
Edward Cheshire [1884] – **1886**;  
Charles Dawes [1884] – [1886] manager  
Henry Alfred Faysome (?) (**1886 – 1888**);  
Alfred Harriman (**1888**);  
Clement Bayliss (**1888 – 1890**);  
John Hickton (**1890 – 1896**);  
Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. (**1896 – 1906**);  
Albert E Cleeton [1901] manager?  
Frederick William Smith (**1906 – 1925**);  
Thomas Williams (**1925 – 1927**);  
Fred Darby (**1927 – 1948**);  
Martha Elizabeth Darby (**1948**);  
George Thomas Owen (**1948 – [1962]**)  
Sid Facer [ ]  
James Jones [ ]  
Bill Chiswell (**1989 – [1990]**)  
Trevor Peter Ford [1997] – [2006]

## NOTES

GOLDEN CROSS [1881]

[late 18<sup>th</sup> century]

Langley Green Cycling Club was based here.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/8/1831 - Advert

“Langley Green, Oldbury. Freehold Building Land.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Jeremiah Mathews, on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, 1831, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of *Alice Wilcox*, the CROSS Public House, at Langley Green.

All those valuable sound and dry Building Lots, as now marked out, comprising the whole of the Waste Land at Langley Green, with extensive frontages to the roads leading from Oldbury, Titford, &c.

The Mines under this Land will be included in the purchase, and thus prevent the danger of the erections being shaken or injured by the workings of them.

The Land being sold by order of an Act of Parliament, the purchaser will not be required to pay any thing for his conveyance.

For particulars and plans apply at the office of Mr. Dugdale Houghton, Land Agent and Surveyor, 28, Paradise Street, Birmingham.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 30/12/1846

“On Tuesday, last week, a young man named James Rigby, employed as a miner in the coal pit of Mr. J.

J. Gregory, near Oldbury, was unfortunately killed. While at work with several others in the pit, a great quantity of coal gave way, the majority of the persons at work escaping without injury. Rigby was not so fortunate, for a part of the mass fell upon him, inflicting several injuries, from the effects of which he died the same day. On Wednesday an inquest was held at the CROSS, Langley Green, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, when the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1847

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

On Monday, at the CROSS INN, Langley Green, on the body of Shadrach Wright, aged 24, who died from injuries received whilst working in a pit, on Monday morning. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

*Thomas Goode* = Thomas Good = Thomas Gould

#### 1851 Census

Langley Green

- [1] *Thomas Goode* (36), pig dealer, born Langley;
- [2] Ellen Goode (30), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] William Goode (11), son, scholar, born Langley;
- [4] James Goode (10), son, scholar, born Langley;
- [5] Thomas Goode (6), son, scholar, born Langley;
- [6] Ellen Goode (5), daughter, scholar, born Langley;
- [7] Samuel Goode (3), son, born Langley;
- [8] George Goode (1), son, born Langley;
- [9] Sarah Goode (44), sister, house servant, deaf and dumb, born Langley;
- [10] Henry Cowley (19), servant, born Stonehouse, Gloucestershire:

#### County Advertiser 24/5/1856 - Advert

“Freehold and Copyhold Properties and Mines, Langley Green, near Oldbury, Worcestershire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1856, at the House of Mrs. Parrish, the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at Five o'clock in the Afternoon, and subject to conditions.

Copyhold. Lot 1. All that Old-Licensed Public House, the OLD CROSS INN, situate at Langley Green, near Oldbury, aforesaid, in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Goode*.

The House comprises Front Parlour and Tap Room, Bar, Bar Parlour, Back Kitchen, 3 Cellars, 5 Chambers, Pantry, Brewhouse, Stabling, &c, other Outbuildings, with 2 Large Gardens. The Premises are well supplied with Water.....”

#### Brierley Hill Advertiser 20/11/1858

“*Thomas Good*, licensed victualler, of Langley Green, was charged, on the information of Superintendent Overend, with keeping open at illegal hours on Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of September last.

The case had been twice adjourned – once to suit the convenience of the defendant, and once because the Police-constable could not attend. PC Franklin stated that he found three men drinking in the house at ten o'clock on the morning of the day in question.

Defendant said they were acquaintances of his, and that he did not receive any money for the drink.

Fined 5s with costs; Superintendent Overend stating that the defendant generally kept a very orderly house.”

#### 1861 Census

Langley Green – OLD CROSS INN

- [1] *Thomas Goode* (46), pig dealer and victualler, born Titford;
- [2] Ellen Goode (41), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] James Goode (20), son, die sinker, born Causeway Green;
- [4] Thomas Goode (18), son, born Causeway Green;
- [5] Ellen Goode (15), daughter, scholar, born Langley;
- [6] George Goode (11), son, scholar, born Langley;

- [7] Sarah Goode (9), daughter, scholar, born Langley;  
[8] Alfred Goode (7), son, scholar, born Langley;  
[9] Lucy Goode (2), daughter, born Langley;  
[10] Joseph Brettel (43), brewer and servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/7/1866 - Advert

“Tat Bank and Langley Green, near Oldbury. Unreserved Sale.

11¾ Acres of fine growing Wheat and Rye, six capital powerful Wagon and Half-bred Horses, fresh up from work, seven sets of Thiller Tackle, four sets of Fore Tackle, set of Gig Harness, six Narrow and Broad-wheel Carts, two Spring Traps, nearly new. Seven and a half Acres of the Wheat is growing on two fields of Land opposite the MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, and will be Sold at the MALT SHOVEL INN. Four and a quarter Acres of Wheat and Rye is growing on a field of Land near the CROSS INN, Langley Green, and with a portion of Household Furniture, will be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. S. Parkes, on Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of July inst, the above valuable Growing Crops, Wagon, half-bred and other Horses, broad and narrow-wheel Carts, Spring Traps, nearly new; Thiller and Fore Tackle, Gig Harness, Seven-and-a-half Acres of Wheat, now growing on Two Fields of Land opposite the MALT SHOVEL, will be Sold at the MALT SHOVEL INN; and Four-and-a-quarter Acres of Wheat and Rye, now growing on a Field of Land near the CROSS INN, Langley Green, with the Six Horses, Carts, Spring Traps, and the Furniture, will be Sold at the house of Mr. *Thomas Gould*, the CROSS INN, Langley Green, for convenience of Sale.

Sale to commence at Three o'clock in the Afternoon.

The Auctioneer claims particular attention to the Horses, as they are young and powerful, fresh from work, and are in excellent condition. The Wheat and Rye promises for an abundant cast.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/10/1866 - Advert

“Sale Tomorrow, at 2pm.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at the CROSS INN, Langley Green, near Oldbury.

Three Horses, Gig, Gearing, Stable Requisites, and Effects.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/6/1868

“On Tuesday afternoon last, an adjourned inquest was held before Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, at the OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green, respecting the death of Enoch Smith, a collier, 25 years of age, who had worked at the colliery of Messrs. Harper and Moore, Causeway Green, and who met with his death under the following shocking circumstances.

About six o'clock on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst the deceased went to work, but previous to his going down the pit the doggy did so, and said it was all right. The deceased in company with other men then descended the shaft, and when they got to the bottom of the pit they noticed in a place where they were about to work the rock moving overhead. They mentioned it to the doggy, and he told them to go and work in another part of the pit. Shortly afterwards about 100 tons of rock gave way, and fell with a deafening crash upon the deceased. Every assistance was at once rendered to rescue the unfortunate man, but when his body was found the head, legs, and arms were cut clean away from the trunk and mangled in a frightful manner.

Mr. Baker, one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, was present at the inquiry, and strongly reprimanded the doggy for allowing men to work in such a dangerous part of the pit, and especially as there was not sufficient wood on the spot to support the roofing.

The Coroner carefully summed up the evidence, and in doing so he said he would leave it entirely to the jury whether or not they would commit the 'doggy' for manslaughter.

The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 18/7/1868 - Advert

“Freehold Land, Langley Green, near Oldbury, Worcestershire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joshua Hammond, on Monday, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July inst, at the CROSS INN, Langley Green, at Five for Six o'clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced.....”



### 1871 Census

Causeway Green Road

- [1] *Thomas Goode* (55), cattle dealer, born Causeway Green;
- [2] *Ellen Goode* (51), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *George Goode* (21), son, cattle dealer, born Langley Green;
- [4] *Sarah Goode* (19), daughter, born Langley Green;
- [5] *Alfred Goode* (17), son, wine merchant's assistant, born Langley Green;
- [6] *Sarah Rock* (16), domestic servant, born Langley Green:

*Thomas Goode* was also a farmer. [1873]  
He was also a farmer and wheelwright.

### Birmingham Daily Post 5/4/1873 - Advert

“Langley Green, near Oldbury. Preliminary announcement of Sale of valuable Freehold Building Land. To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Clarke and Barrows, on Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April instant, at the house of Mr. *Goode*, the CROSS INN, Langley, at 6 o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions....”

### Birmingham Daily Post 30/9/1874

“On Monday, at a special Session, before Messrs. T. Avery and J. H. Houghton, Emanuel Fisher and his wife were summoned for refusing to quit the OLD CROSS INN, Langley, and also for assaulting Mr. *Goode*, the landlord, on the previous Monday. The defendants while drinking commenced a disturbance in the house, and on being ordered out by the landlord refused to leave. They were finally ejected by the police, but returned some time afterwards, and when the landlord turned them into the street they knocked him down and kicked him.

Fisher was ordered to pay 5s and costs for the refusal to quit, and £2 and costs for the assault, or to go to prison in all for six weeks, while his wife was fined 1s and 5s, with the costs respectively, or a total imprisonment of three weeks.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1878 - Advert

“Sale at the CROSS INN, Langley Green, Oldbury.

Messrs. Hawkins & Son have received instructions from Mr. *Thomas Goode*, to Sell by Auction, on Friday Next, November 22 – the whole of the Live and Dead Farming Stock, ricks of Hay and Oats, two five-year-old handsome dark-brown Carriage Horses, grand action; fat and store Lambs, store Pigs, broad and narrow-wheel Wagons and Carts, wood and iron Barrows, Ploughs, Turnip Pulpers, Iron Scuffles, Weighing Machine, pair of patent Pulley Blocks (Tangye), Rick Sheet, 12 by 12, with Poles, Ropes, and Blocks; thiller and long Gears; together with the surplus Modern Household Furniture, Sofa and Couches, mahogany, horsehair-seated Chairs, mahogany centre Loo Tables, four-post Bedsteads and Mattresses, Washing Stands and Dressing Tables, Chamber Chairs, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock.

Catalogues may be obtained at the Place of Sale; or of the Auctioneer, 23, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

### 1881 Census

Causeway Green Road

- [1] *Joseph Read* (51), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Ellen Read* (35), wife, born Langley;
- [3] *Maria Read* (15), daughter, born St. Albans;
- [4] *Clara Read* (14), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Joseph Read* (17), son, farm labourer, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Nellie L. Read* (4), daughter, born Langley;
- [7] *Emma Fantom* (18), domestic servant, born Langley:

### West Bromwich Weekly News 11/6/1881

“On Thursday, a rick of hay, belonging to Mr. *Read*, of the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Langley Green, was

fired by some young children. The fire brigade from Messrs. Chance Brothers, Alkali Works, was promptly upon the scene, and the fire was quickly subdued before much damage was done.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1882 - Died

“On the 13<sup>th</sup> inst, at the OLD CROSS INN, Langley, Oldbury, aged 53 years, *Joseph Read*, contractor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/10/1882 - Advert

“Langley Hall Farm.

Mr. W. H. Pass is favoured with instructions from the Executors of the late *Joseph Read* (deceased) to Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, October 30, upon the Premises of the OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green – the whole of the Contractor’s Plant, Farming Implements, Dobbins, Carts, Wagons, Ten Horses, and other Effects, particulars of which appear in catalogues, to be had from the Auctioneer, Oldbury Road, Smethwick, or at the Place of Sale.

Sale at 11am prompt.

Auctioneer’s Office, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/12/1884 - Advert

“Found, strayed, at Langley Green, on Saturday last, a young bay Mare, about 13 hands.

Apply, Mr. *C. Dawes*, OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green.”

Smethwick Telephone 25/4/1885

“*Edward Cheshire*, licensed victualler, OLD CROSS INN, Langley, was summoned for selling during prohibited hours on the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> April. Mr. Shakespeare defended and stated that *Charles Dawes* was manager in charge of the house, and as it was the birthday of his daughter, he had invited the persons to remain behind to drink at his expense, and they became his guests. No beer was paid for after 11 and the manager believed he could do this if he did not sell any. The police stated that the house was a well-conducted one. The bench considered that a serious offence had been committed, and inflicted a fine of £2 and costs, but in consideration of the reputation of the house being good ordered the license not to be endorsed.”

The Era 13/2/1886 - Advert

“For Sale. A Chamber Scene, Five Flats, by *C. Brider*, Artist, London.

Apply, *C. Dawes*, OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1886 - Advert

“Amateurs and Others. For Sale, a Chamber Scene. Cost £10 new; will take £3 10s.

Apply, *C. Dawes*, OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/11/1886

“Mr. E. Docker (deputy coroner) held an inquest last evening, at the OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green, relative to the death of *William Colsey* (20), of 4, Peel Street, Kidderminster, carpet weaver, who died on Sunday, from the effects of injuries sustained whilst playing in a football match on Saturday, at Causeway Green.

*Samuel Wheldon* deposed that, on Saturday afternoon, a match was being played between Kidderminster Harriers and Langley Green Victoria. Witness was playing for the last-named team, and whilst trying to kick the ball he missed his aim, and kicked deceased in the abdomen. Deceased was removed to his (witness’s) father’s residence, where he died on Sunday afternoon.

Police-constable *Bayliss* stated that he was present at the match, and considered it a pure accident.

*Walter Smith* also said before deceased expired he told him that the injuries were caused accidentally.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned by the jury.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/1/1887

“On Monday last a new lodge was opened by the Free Gardeners, at the OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green. Permission having been granted by the district quarterly meeting, the members of the Pride of the Queen

lodge assisted by the district officers, conducted the ceremony of opening the lodge.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/9/1888

“Yesterday afternoon the annual meeting of the Licensed Victualler Association was held at the OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green, Mr. Smith presiding.....”

Smethwick Telephone 23/3/1889 - Advert

“Eligible Freehold Land and Property. Bristnall Fields and Langley, near Oldbury.

Mr. W. H. Pass is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Clement Bayliss*, OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green, on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1889, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced and read.....”

County Express 6/9/1890 - Advert

“CROSS INN, Langley Green, near Oldbury.

To Housekeepers, Furniture Dealers, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. W. Hackett has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1890, a quantity of Household Furniture and other Effects, comprising Mahogany Set of Half-Tester Bedsteads, with hangings; Spring Mattress, Set of Mahogany Four-Post Bedsteads, with hangings, straw palliasse to fit; Set of Iron French Bedsteads, Painted Chest of Five Drawers, Wool Bed, Straw Mattresses, Excellent Well-made Oak Dining Room Suite, Upholstered in Crimson Plush Velvet; Two Pairs of large Maroon Rep Curtains, Two Mantel Boards, Macromo, with bracket to match; Five Pictures in Oxford Frames, Four Pictures in Gilt Frames, Nest of Shelving, with plate-glass back; One Dozen of Cut Ale Glasses, One Dozen of Cut Spirit Glasses, Six Cut Wine Decanters, Glass Water Jug, Two Cut Glass Pickle Bottles, quantity of Wine and Claret Glasses, Two Timepieces, Mahogany Case Clock, Handsome Dinner Service, 1½ Dozen of Dessert Spoons, 1½ Dozen of Prongs, Two Dozen of White-handled Knives, One Pair of Carvers, Six-hole Plated Cruet, with call-bell and bottles; Plated Cruet, with four holes and bottles; Plated Cruet, with five bottles; Plated Biscuit Box, Biscuit Tray, Plated Tray Waiter, Butter Dish, Marmalade Jar, Plated Ice Pail, large Glass Lustre, Set of Flower Stands, Set of Vases, Spirit Tester, in mahogany case; Set of Pewter Spirit Measures, Plate Rack, excellent Knife-cleaning Machine, by Kent; copper-bottom Wort Sieve, 54-inch Bicycle, Mahogany-frame Bagatelle Table, with Slate Bottom and Loose Top for Dining Table, with Balls, Cues, and Marking Board; Two Sets of Brass-mounted Harness, Excellent Brown Cob, 14 Hands High, 5 Years Old, Quiet to Ride and Drive, and will face trams or trains, and is in very fast; Excellent Dog Cart, Light Spring Wagon, suitable for Furniture Dealer or or Broker's Business; Cart, suitable for Butchers; Excellent Chaff Engine, for Hand or Steam; and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices, 78, High Street, Blackheath, and Oldbury Road, West Smethwick.”

1891 Census

Causeway Green Road – OLD CROSS INN

- [1] *John Hickton* (30), publican;
- [2] *Elizabeth Hickton* (29), wife;
- [3] *Ernest Hickton* (16), brother;
- [4] *Ruby Hickton* (2), daughter;
- [5] *Frank Hickton* (9 months), son;
- [6] *Kate Walker* (21), domestic servant;
- [7] *Elizabeth Wright* (14), nurse:

Birmingham Daily Post 22/11/1895

“On Wednesday, Mr. R. Docker (coroner) held an inquest, at the OLD CROSS INN, Langley, respecting the death of *Joseph Egginton* (54), blacksmith, formerly residing in Henry Street, who died suddenly at Langley Green Station, on the Great Western Railway, on Sunday night. The widow stated that deceased had been employed at Ledsam Street, Birmingham. Dr. Sharpe, who had made a post mortem examination, attributed death to apoplexy, caused by the bursting of a blood vessel in the head. The jury returned a verdict of Death

from Natural Causes, and at their request the Coroner complimented a witness named Allen for the prompt manner in which he went to deceased's assistance."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1895

"Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest yesterday, at the OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green, touching the death of Sarah Holyoake (77), Farm road, Langley Green, who died on Sunday as the result of injuries received by falling downstairs on Wednesday. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1900

"The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday. .... The Superintendent had received notices from the following persons of their intentions to apply for new licenses. ....

Mitchell and Butler Limited, Cape Hill, Smethwick, for a provisional grant of a license to hold any of the excise licenses that maybe held by a publican to sell by retail under the Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Act, 1828, intoxicating liquor, to be consumed either on or off the premises about to be constructed on land in front of the existing site at the corner of Causeway Green Road, and known as the OLD CROSS. ....

The application made by Mitchell and Butler, in respect of the OLD CROSS at Langley Green was withdrawn."

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/9/1900

"Mr. J. W. Clulow appeared on behalf of Mitchells and Butlers Ltd., the owners of the OLD CROSS, to support an application for a provisional license for a new house, proposed to be built in front of the existing premises. Mr. Clulow explained that the proposed alteration would be a distinct street improvement and public convenience. The owners proposed to abandon their claim – whether substantial or not, they said it was, to 1,850 square yards of land at the rear of the house, and to give 166 square yards fronting Barrs Street and Causeway Green Road to the widening of the street which would be a manifest public improvement. The house was suffering from senile decay, it required restoration, and the alteration would be no detriment to the public morals of the neighbourhood. The house could be better supervised by the police, and the tenant would be better provided for, and better able to look after the house.

Mr. Ward (Ward and Kendrick) then explained the plans.

After retiring for a short time, the justices returned, and Mr. Wilson said they had decided to refuse the application.

Mr. Clulow asked whether the Bench would consider an amended application, and give them an opportunity of making it.

Mr. Wilson said it was a matter for the discretion of the owners whether they would make another application, but it would have to be made at the next Licensing Sessions. They had simply to deal with the application before them."

*Albert E. Cleeton = Albert E. Cluton*

1901 Census

2, Causeway Green Road

[1] *Albert E. Cleeton* (36), licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] Louisa Cleeton (34), wife, born Liverpool;

[3] Albert E. Cleeton (7), son, born Birmingham;

[4] Louisa Cleeton (5), daughter, born Birmingham;

[5] Elsie Cleeton (3), daughter, born Birmingham;

[6] Florrie Cleeton (2), daughter, born Birmingham;

[7] Minnie Freeman (22), sister, barmaid, born Birmingham;

[8] Lizzie Worrell (33), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

Smethwick Weekly News 4/5/1901

"Sheffield Equalised Independent Druids. On Tuesday evening last a very successful smoking concert was

held at the house of Bro. *Cluton*, the OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green, before a large and highly appreciative audience.....”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 1/6/1901

“OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green. A most enjoyable concert was provided for the customers of the above well-known inn on Monday last, when Mr. Duffield, of Smethwick, presided at the piano, the chair being occupied by Mr. Jim Walker, also of Smethwick.....”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 29/6/1901

“On Wednesday evening a smoking concert was given at the OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green, for the benefit of Jim Walker, of Smethwick, who has been disabled and unable to follow his employment for several months owing to an accident to his leg. There was a good display of talent, and Mexican Harry, the champion watch swallower of the world, gave a very good display. Jim Henshaw is well worth mention for his song and dance, which was well received. Professor Graham also showed some very good sleight of hand tricks. Mr. Jim Walker presided as chairman, Mr. F. Thomas as vice-chairman, and Mr. Duffield as pianist. At the conclusion of the concert Mr. Jim Walker thanked all who had come forward and given their services so willingly on his behalf, after which Mr. A. Hawthorne spoke upon the fruits of friendly societies, and urged all those who were not in any way provided for against sickness or accident, to join some society and keep the wolf from the door, and not to be placed as their friend Jim Walker had been. In conclusion he would ask them all not to forget the Sheffield Equalised Independent Order of Druids. The concert ended by all joining in singing God Save the King.”

The name was altered in the licensing register to OLD CROSS in 1903.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/7/1907

“At their meeting yesterday the Oldbury District Council gratefully accepted the offer of Mr. Andrew Carnegie of £1,500 towards the erection of a branch library and reading-room at Langley under certain conditions, and also the offer of a site at the rear of the OLD CROSS INN, Langley, by Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.....”

#### 1911 Census

2, Causeway Green Road – OLD CROSS INN

- [1] *Frederick William Smith* (52), publican, born Smethwick;
- [2] Ellen Smith (50), wife, married 26 years, assisting in the business, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] William Frederick Smith (24), son, railway clerk, born Birmingham;
- [4] Harold Smith (22), son, stamper, born Smethwick;
- [5] Dennis Smith (11), son, school, born Smethwick;
- [6] Alfred Bernard Smith (8), son, school, born Smethwick;
- [7] Mary Elizabeth Meredith (33), domestic servant, born Birmingham:

Plans for converting the smoke room into a kitchen and pantry, converting the kitchen into a smoke room, converting the congested bar and tap room into bar and out-door department, converting the club room upstairs into a bedroom and fitting up another bedroom as bathroom and WC, and forming a passage on the first floor to make the bedroom private, were approved on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1911.

#### Smethwick Telephone 13/9/1913

“On the Green.....

At Cape Hill the Brewery side entertained the OLD CROSS, Langley. It was a capital encounter, the home side running out winners, by 259 to 232.”

It had a bowling green and bowling club. [1914], [2012]

#### Smethwick Telephone 21/4/1923 - Advert

“Bar General Wanted, one with experience; good references required.  
Apply, OLD CROSS INN, Langley.”

Birmingham Mail 17/11/1939 - Advert

“Bar General Wanted at once.  
*Darby*, OLD CROSS, Langley Green.”

1939 Register

2, Causeway Green Road – OLD CROSS Public House  
[1] *Fred Darby*, date of birth 11/3/1887, licensed victualler, married;  
[2] Martha E. Darby, dob 22/1/1890, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Plans were approved for alterations to the premises on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1960.

*George Thomas Owen* – check also BLUE BALL, Old Hill.

*Sid Facer* was married to Betty.

It was the headquarters of Smethwick Cripples Outing Fund (secretary Betty Facer).

*James Jones* was also a blacksmith.

*Bill Chiswell* was married to Margaret.

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.....

OLD CROSS, Causeway Green Road, Oldbury, Warley.”

[2021]

**OLD CROWN**

14, (7), (8), Green Street, (Todd Row), Oldbury Green, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Louisa Hodgetts, Small Heath, Birmingham  
T. J. Hodgetts, 21, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham  
Jarvis Hodgetts

LICENSEES

Thomas Slim [1829] – [1829]  
William Hadley [ ]

Edward Walker [1841]  
Joseph Yates [1845]  
Joseph Round [1847]  
Anthony Gaynor [1850] – [1851]  
William Jones [1851] – [1856]  
Eliza Williams [1856]  
Isaiah Reeves [1859]  
Joseph Sale [1861]  
John Moore [1862] – **1863**;  
Ann Moore (**1863 – 1865**);  
John Moore (**1865** – [1866]  
William Jones [1864] – [1867]  
John Walters [1869]  
John Taylor [1870] – [1872]  
Emanuel Atkiss [ ]  
Edward Harding [1884] – **1886**;  
Lewis Jenkins (**1886 – 1888**);  
James Bakewell (**1888**);  
Julia Clarke (**1888 – 1889**);  
Sarah Jane Lancashire (**1889 – 1890**);  
George Akenhead (**1890 – 1891**);  
Joseph Page (**1891 – 1906**): tenant

## NOTES

Todd Row, Green Street [1851]  
8, Green Street [1871]  
7, Green Street. [1884]  
14, Green Street [1891], [1901]

CROWN [1829], [1850], [1851], [1861], [1888]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/3/1829 - Advert

“To be Sold by private Contract, the Good-will and Licence of that highly respectable Public House, the CROWN INN, in Oldbury Green, Salop, now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Slim*, who will treat for the same.

The said premises consist of good cellaring, a large kitchen, and club-room, a comfortable parlour, three comfortable lodging-rooms, two stables, brewhouse, piggery, a large well fenced garden, replete with every necessary convenience and well supplied with excellent water.

For particulars enquire of Moses Wright, Auctioneer, Handsworth, or on the premises.

NB. There is a Lodge, No.1 of the Loyal Friendly Brothers, held and numerously attended at the above house.

Take Notice. If not disposed of on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> inst, it will be put up for Sale by Auction.”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/10/1829 - Advert

“OLD CROWN, Oldbury Green.

To be Let, by private Contract.

Apply to *Thomas Slim*, in the parish of Hales Owen.”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/3/1830

“Insolvent Debtors.....

*Thomas Slim*, late of Birmingham, out of business, but heretofore of Oldbury and Langley Green, Salop, victualler and rivet maker.”

Birmingham Journal 24/3/1838

“The Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

The matters of the petitions and schedules of the Prisoners hereinafter named (the same having been filed in the Court) are appointed to be heard as follows, at the Court House, at Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, on the seventeenth day of April, 1838, at ten o’clock in the morning.....

*William Hadley*, the elder (sued as *William Hadley*) heretofore of Little Field, between Oldbury and Rounds Green, in the county of Salop, retail brewer and steel caster; afterwards of the OLD CROWN public house, Oldbury Green, in the parish of Oldbury, in the county aforesaid, licensed victualler, and steel caster; since then of Oldbury Green aforesaid, steel caster; and late of the same place, out of business.....

Take Notice.

1. If any creditor intends to oppose a prisoner’s discharge, notice of such intention must be given to the said prisoner, in writing, three clear days before the day of hearing, exclusive of Sunday, and exclusive both of the day of giving such notice, and of the said day of hearing.....”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 11/1/1841 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, that old-established Victualling House, the OLD CROWN, Oldbury, comprising Tap-room, Parlour, Bar, and large Club-room, with suitable Brewhouse, Stables, and other Out-buildings. Rent only £20 per annum.

Apply to *Edward Walker*, on the premises.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 15/10/1845

“Worcestershire Michaelmas Sessions ..... Friendly Societies.

The following articles duly certified by Mr. Tidd Pratt, were laid before the Court.....

Rules of the Fountain of Peace, Lodge No.2, of the Reformed Order of Odd Fellows, of the West Bromwich and Oldbury District of Miners, held at the OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/6/1847

“An inquest was held at the OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury, on Saturday last, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Robert Mason, who was killed the day before, while at work in Mr. Robins’s ironstone pit, by a quantity of rubbish falling upon him. Verdict Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 27/11/1847 - Advert

“Freehold Houses at Oldbury, in the Parish of Hales Owen, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Newbold and Smith, on Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of November instant, at Five o’clock in the afternoon, at the OLD CROWN INN, on Oldbury Green, in Oldbury aforesaid, subject to conditions of sale to be then and there produced.

All that old-established and well-frequented Public House, called the OLD CROWN aforesaid, now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Round*.

And also, all that Dwelling House adjoining, in the occupation of Thomas Smallman, together with the Stables, Gardens, and Out-buildings thereunto belonging.

Any further information may be had, on application to Messrs. Hayes and Son, Solicitors, Hales Owen; Mr. Samuel Clifton, jun; or Mr. Price Cooper, of Oldbury, who will show the Property; or the Auctioneers, Dudley.”

1851 Census

Todd Row, Green Street

[1] *William Jones* (31), victualler and coal miner, born Sedgley;

[2] *Lucy Jones* (23), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Sarah Ann Jones* (9), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;



[4] William Jones (3), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Samuel Jones (1), son, born Oldbury:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/5/1851

“Robert Powell of Oldbury will fight Charles Jennings of Netherton, Tracy of Dudley, or Old Horse of Hale-sowen, for £10 or £15 a side. Money ready at any time at *W. Jones*’s, OLD CROWN, Oldbury Green.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/1/1852

“James Lee (the little Yorkshire Boy) will run James Vaughan from 100 yards to a mile, or pick up 100 stones a yard apart, for £15 or £20 a side. If £5 are sent to us, and articles to *W. Jones*, the OLD CROWN, Oldbury, the match can be made.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/9/1855

“Davis and Edmonds. A further deposit of £3 a side for this match was made on Monday at the BRITISH OAK, Old Hill. The fourth, of £3 a side, is to be made at the OLD CROWN, Oldbury, tomorrow.”

AND

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 28/10/1855

“Davis of Oldbury and Edmonds of Cradley met on Defford Common on Monday, at catch weight, for £15 a side ..... Just as the men were ready the police appeared, and a move was at once made to Cleg Common, near Brockidge, a distance of five miles across the country, where a good ring was pitched, and the fight came off without further interruption. The fight was destitute of any interest. It may be said to have been all one way ..... The stakes are to be given to Edmonds on Tuesday at Mr. Dimmock’s, BRITISH OAK, Old Hill.”

Birmingham Journal 13/10/1855

“Singular Charge against a Retail Brewer’s Wife of Buying Stolen Pigs.

Mrs. Sarah Weaver [**sic**], and her mother, Mrs. Mary Kempson, very respectably dressed, were charged as above. Mr. Watson was retained for the owner of the pigs.

On the preceding Thursday, a pig driver, with two fine pigs, called at the house of Mrs. Weaver’s husband, who, in addition to his employment at the Tube Works, keeps the GROVE TAVERN, retail house, Cape Lane, Smethwick. The fellow, representing himself as owner of the pigs, finally sold them to Mrs. Weaver for £4 10s, and walked off as soon as he got the money. Mrs. Kempson was merely present, being on a visit to her daughter.

Today, Mr. J. [**sic**] *Jones*, landlord of the OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury, stated that on the morning of Thursday he purchased the pigs in question from a pig dealer, Walker, (known as Shady Walker), for a sum of £6, in Birmingham market. As usual, several of the fellows who get a living by driving cattle, proffered their services, and he gave the man who subsequently sold his pigs the job to drive them to his house at Oldbury, for which he was to have 1s 6d and meat and drink.

After hearing Mr. Watson, the Court at once directed the charge to be dismissed. There was not the slightest appearance of a felonious nature, and they consequently had no jurisdiction. Mrs. Weaver and Mrs. Kempson thanked the Magistrates and withdrew. From what we heard subsequently, we infer that the matter must come before the County Court ere it is settled.”

AND

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1855

“County Court.....

*Jones v Wheway*. In this curious matter, an action to recover £7, the plaintiff is the landlord of the OLD CROWN, Oldbury, and was represented by Mr. Watson, and the defendant is a publican at Smethwick, and retained Mr. Edmonds.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October instant Mr. *Jones* purchased two pigs in Birmingham market of a dealer named Shadrach Walker, and gave him £6 for them. He employed a drover to drive home his pigs, and gave to him for his services 1s 6d, promising him a good meal of victuals and ale when he arrived at Oldbury. In passing through Smethwick, however, the drover came in contact with the defendant’s wife, who, admiring the swine, consented to purchase them, and a bargain was at once struck between her and the drover, she

paying the latter £4 10s. On arriving home, Mr. *Jones*, the plaintiff, was of course surprised that his pigs had not preceded him, and after waiting awhile he returned to Birmingham, saw Walker, of whom he purchased them, but gleaned no information from him. In returning through Smethwick he made inquiries respecting his lost pigs, and happened to meet with a neighbour of the defendant's, who told the story of the recent purchase by Mrs. Wheway, and the disconsolate plaintiff then found the pigs, bearing the marks he placed on them, safely secured on the defendant's premises. The defendant refused to return the pigs, contending that he purchased them fairly. The plaintiff applied to a policeman, and the matter was taken before the West Bromwich Magistrates on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, the defendant's wife and her mother, who were present at the purchase, being charged with buying stolen property. It was, however, dismissed by the Bench, there being no felonious intention proved. The driver has not been heard of since.

Mr. Edmonds contended that the defendant's wife bought the pigs fairly, and considered that the driver was the legitimate owner. He reprehended the act of the plaintiff in intrusting the swine to a driver who was an entire stranger, and whose name he did not know.

The Judge was of opinion that the public should be more cautious in their dealings with such men as drivers, and gave a verdict for the plaintiff for the £7, one pound of which was charged by the plaintiff as expenses."

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/2/1856

"Benjamin Malpas of Dudley will fight T. Price of Bilston 10st or catch weight, for £25 or £50 a side. Money ready any night next week, at *W. Jones's*, the OLD CROWN, Oldbury, Worcestershire."

#### Birmingham Journal 23/4/1856

"On Monday at the Magistrates' Clerk's office, Oldbury, before James Hunt and W. O. Hunt, Esqrs, the man Henry Reynolds, a miner, about forty-five years of age, having a wife and family, was charged with attempting to poison Margaret Skinner, a girl of questionable character, who, it seems, is married, but living apart from her husband, with intent to murder her, on Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. The case was noticed in last week's *Journal*.

The prosecutrix, who was unable to give evidence on Tuesday week, attended in apparently good health. The prisoner's wife was present; a large concourse of people assembled near the Clerk's Office. The prisoner was not defended. He seemed to be an intelligent man.

The first witness called was Margaret Skinner, who said: On Sunday week, the 13<sup>th</sup> April, between six and seven o'clock in the morning, I was at Mrs. *Williams's*, in Todd Row, Oldbury. The prisoner was there. He pulled a bottle out of his pocket and showed it to me, and said, 'This is worth a sovereign.' I said, 'Is it?' He said, 'Yes, it is;' he said it was good stuff, but he did not say what it was. He asked to me to have some. I said, 'No; perhaps it's poison;' and he said, 'No, it is not.' Well, I drank some and I felt very giddy, and something came over me that I could not see.

Mr. James Hunt: How much did you drink? – Witness: I drank a good deal of it. A few minutes afterwards I felt very sick and vomited. We sent for Mr. Cooper, and he came about nine o'clock.

The Clerk: Did he say why he wanted you to drink? – No, sir.

Mr. Hayes: Has he ever threatened you in any way? – No, sir.

She identified the bottle and contents produced as similar to those given to her by the prisoner.

George Seymour stated that he was an assistant to Mr. Samuel Roos, chemist, of Oldbury. The prisoner went into their shop at about six or seven o'clock in the evening of Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. The prisoner said he wanted ten grains of corrosive sublimate, threepennyworth of sweet nitre, and the remaining of the bottle was to be filled up with spirits of wine. He (the witness) told him it was poison, and gave him every necessary precaution.

Mr. T. R. Cooper, surgeon, attended the prosecutrix about nine o'clock on Sunday evening. From the symptoms, he concluded that she had taken some active corrosive metallic substance. He prescribed accordingly. The symptoms continued, and up to Wednesday he considered that she was in a dangerous state. In the bottle in question he found, on analysis, the presence of corrosive sublimate in large quantity. There was nearly an ounce gone from the bottle when it was taken to him by Simmonds, the police officer. That must have contained nearly five grains of corrosive sublimate. Five to ten drachms would have been a full and ample dose.

Mr. James Hunt: Should you have prescribed that medicine? – Mr. Cooper: Decidedly not. It is always too

violent in its action, and is never to be depended upon.

Police-inspector Simmons apprehended the prisoner on the same night, at the OLD CROWN, in Oldbury. He charged him with administering poison to Margaret Skinner, with intent to murder her. He said, 'It was not poison; she took it on her own head, and he thought it would do her good.'

*Eliza Williams*, the landlady of the house referred to, gave evidence as to having heard prisoner say the stuff was poison if too much of it was taken. After Skinner had taken the stuff, he said, 'I have given her something – some of that stuff. It would lay the b—— straight if she had taken enough of it.' I asked him if it was poison. He said he didn't give it her; she took it out of his hand. He only asked her to taste. He said he was very sorry it was poison, if she had taken enough of it.

Caroline Palmer, a lodger with Mrs. *Williams*, said that the prisoner threatened to give the prosecutrix some of 'the stuff.'

This being the case, Mr. James Hunt read the usual caution, and asked the prisoner if he had anything to say. Prisoner: I have not anything to say more than what I have said. I am as innocent as a child

Mr. J. Hunt: Upon the evidence that has been taken, it will be my duty to commit you for trial at the Assizes. The prisoner enquired if they would take bail; but Mr. Hunt said it was a very serious charge, and he did not feel justified in taking bail unless it were to such an amount that he (the prisoner) could not offer. The prisoner was then removed."

[At Worcester Summer Assizes the grand jury ignored the bill against Henry Reynolds and he was discharged.]

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/5/1856

"Ben Malpas will fight Fleet, and give him half a stone, or Price of Bilston, or Edmunds, at catch weight, for £50 or £100 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Jones's*, OLD CROWN, Oldbury Green."

#### Birmingham Journal 20/11/1858 - Advert

"OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that old-established and well-accustomed Licensed Public House, known by the sign of the OLD CROWN IN, at Oldbury Green, in the county of Worcester.

The House comprises large Bar, Bar Parlour, extensive Club Rom, four Bed Rooms, large Kitchen, Brew-house, enclosed Yard, with Stabling for seven horses, Bowling Alley, Piggeries, &c, &c.

The present Proprietor having taken the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Hall Street, Dudley, is the reason for giving up the above House.

Applications and to treat for the same to be made to Mr. George Wood, Auctioneer and Appraiser, and Wine and Spirit Merchant, Hall Street, Dudley.

The Licenses and Effects to be taken at a valuation."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1859

"At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday last, before J. T. Chance and R. W. Johnson, Esqrs, *Isaiah Reeves*, landlord of the OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury Green, was charged with refusing to admit the police when requested so to do on the night of Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> instant. Police-sergeant Simmonds deposed that between eleven and twelve o'clock on the night in question he was on duty near the above house, when his attention was called by another officer to the fact that several persons had been seen going in and out of defendant's house. As witness approached the house he saw a man whom he considered the landlord, go in suddenly and shut the door. Witness knocked, and requested admittance, but could get no other reply than, 'We are going to bed.' As it was the first offence, defendant was only fined 2s 6d and costs."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1859 - Advert

"Oldbury Wake and Races will be held on land at the back of the OLD CROWN, and opposite the ENGINERS ARMS, as usual, on Monday and Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 1859.

Mr. Darby, Steward. Mr. Taylor, Judge. Mr. Keeten, Starter.

The Trial Sakes, of 10 sovs, 1 sov entrance.

The Oldbury Stakes of 8 sovs, 1 sov entrance.

A Hurdle Race of 8 sovs, 1 sov entrance.

A Sweepstakes of 5 sovs, 10s entrance.

A Handicap Race for beaten Horses, 10s entrance, with a purse of sovs added.

All entries to be made at Mr. Joseph Underhill's, CROSS ANCHORS, on or before Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1859, and to close at Eight o'clock pm. The first race to commence each day at half-past One o'clock. Any dispute arising to be settled by the committee. Parties entering their horses are requested to state the name of the horse and the colours of the rider. Fictitious entries will be disqualified.

Every information respecting ground for Booth, Shows, Stalls, &c, may be had on application to Mr. Joseph Underhill, or Mr. John Nock, Oldbury; or Mr. H. Keeten, Forge Tavern, Birmingham."

#### Birmingham Journal 21/4/1860 - Advert

"To Parties who are in search of a Good Old-Licensed Public House.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that good accustomed Old-licensed Public House, the OLD CROWN INN, situated and adjoining the Oldbury Race Course, Oldbury Green, which has been successfully carried on for upwards of eleven years by Mr. *W. Jones*, who has taken to an old-established House in Dudley, consequently the valuation may be reduced to the low sum of £20. Such an excellent opportunity seldom presents itself.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill."

#### Birmingham Journal 11/8/1860 - Advert

"A Good Opportunity for any Party wishing to enter the Public Business.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the OLD CROWN INN, at Oldbury, one of the oldest Houses in the town, and situate adjoining to the Race Course, and which said House is now void in consequence of it having undergone a thorough state of repair. £22 only will be required for the Licenses and a few Fixtures. Rent £26 per year.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill."

#### Birmingham Journal 29/9/1860 - Advert

"To be Let, that Old-licensed Public House, the OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury Green, Oldbury, one of the oldest Houses in the town, now doing a good business. The House is roomy, and calculated to do a good trade; with enclosed Yard, Stabling, Coach-house, and Piggeries. Coming-in extremely low.

Apply on the Premises, or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Valuer, &c, New Street, West Bromwich."

#### 1861 Census

Green Street – CROWN INN

- [1] *Joseph Sale* (54), victualler and coal miner, born Bilston;
- [2] *Sarah Sale* (50), wife, born Coalbrookdale, Shropshire;
- [3] *Mary Ann Round* (27), daughter, born Tipton;
- [4] *Thirza Beddow* (24), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [5] *Harriet Sale* (21), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Joseph Sale* (17), son, coal miner, born Tipton;
- [7] *William Sale* (13), son, coal miner, born Tipton;
- [8] *William Round* (30), son-in-law, coal miner, born Tipton;
- [9] *William Beddow* (26), son-in-law, coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [10] *Sarah Beddow* (3), grand-daughter, born Oldbury;
- [11] *Harriet Beddow* (7 months), grand-daughter, born Oldbury;
- [12] *Hannah Sale* (8), daughter, scholar, born Tipton:

#### Sporting Life 21/5/1862

"*W. Watson*, of Oldbury, and *J. Dickenson*, of Westbromwich, are matched to run six score yards, for £5 a side, on Whit Monday, at Aston Cross, as above. £2 a side is already in the hands of Mr. *Moore*, OLD CROWN, Oldbury, to whom this sum must be increased to £3 a side, on Saturday next. The referee to be chosen on the ground. Final stakeholder, Mr. *Moore*."

London Gazette 17/11/1863

“*John Moore*, now and for ten months last past residing in furnished lodgings at Green-street, Oldbury, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, Miner, formerly of the OLD CROWN INN, Green-street, Oldbury, in the said parish of Halesowen, in the said county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Miner, and previously thereto of the SYCAMORE INN, Langley-green, near Oldbury, in the said parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, and carrying on the business of a Charter Master, in co-partnership with Thomas Moore, under the style or firm of Thomas Moore and John Moore, at the Park Hall Colliery, near Oldbury, in the said parish of Halesowen, in the said county of Worcester, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1863, is hereby required to surrender himself to George Steward Watson, Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November instant, at ten of the clock in the forenoon precisely, at his Chambers, High-street, Westbromwich. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, Gentlemen, of Oldbury, are the Official Assignees, and William Shakespeare, of Oldbury, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Birmingham Journal 2/1/1864 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, Order of Discharge, in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury. In the Matter of *John Moore*, formerly of the OLD CROWN INN, Green Street, Oldbury, Miner. Whereas, at a Public Sitting of the Court, held this day, the Court granted an Order of Discharge to the said Bankrupt. Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge will be drawn up and delivered to the said Bankrupt after the expiration of thirty days from this date, unless in the meantime an Appeal be duly entered against the Judgment of the said Court. Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 1863. G. S. Watson, Esquire, Registrar. J. Brooks, High Bailiff.”

Sporting Life 6/4/1864

“The challenge issued by Tom Brown to Hodgson, of Birmingham, to run him six score yards level, appears a mystery, when Brown’s brilliant achievements are well known as second to few in the kingdom; but, as Hodgson’s friends are anxious to test his merits, Brown can have a match by allowing six yards and a half start in that distance, for £10 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Jones*’s, CROWN INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1865 - Advert

“Oldbury Wake and Races, September 4 and 5, 1865, will be held on the Old Race Ground, at the back of the OLD CROWN, and opposite Mr. C. Hickin’s, ENGINEERS ARMS. Application for Booths, Shows, &c, to be made to R. Tilsley and J. Gibbons, at the NEW CART AND HORSES INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 15/9/1866

“The annual licensing meeting of the magistrates was held on Tuesday..... The following licenses were suspended till the adjourned meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst, to enable further enquiries to be made ..... *John Moore*, OLD CROWN, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1866

“At the Public office, on Tuesday, at the close of the usual business, the Magistrates proceeded to determine on the licenses which were suspended at the first meeting, and decided as follows. The licenses of ..... OLD CROWN, Oldbury, kept by *John Moore*, refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/10/1866 - Advert

“The OLD CROWN, Oldbury Green, Oldbury. Unreserved Sale. To Publicans, Brokers, and Others. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, Tomorrow (Thursday), October 18, on the Premises as above (under a Distraint for Rent).

The whole of the Brewing Plant, Public House Fixtures, Furniture, and Effects, comprising a four-pull Beer Machine, Hogshead and Half-hogshead and other Casks, Drinking Tables, Forms, pewter and other Measures; Bedsteads, Chairs; 140-gallon wrought and other Boilers, Ale Vats and Piping to Cellar, large Mash Tubs and other Brewing Vessels; Sofa; large Hanging Sign, and numerous other Effects, which will appear in catalogues.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the Morning.

Auctioneer's and Surveyor's Offices, Wesley Street, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1866 - Advert

"By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at the OLD CROWN, Oldbury Green, Oldbury, This Day (Thursday), at Ten o'clock.

The Brewing Plant, Public House Fixtures, Furniture, and Effects."

Birmingham Journal 21/9/1867 - Advert

"OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury Green, Oldbury. To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Tuesday Next, September 24, on the Premises as above, at Eleven o'clock in the morning (under a Distraint for Rent).

The whole of the Public House Effects; comprising Drinking Tables, Forms, pewter Ale and other Measures, Cups and Glasses, large and small wrought and cast iron Boilers and setting, Wort Vats, Hogshead and other Ale Casks, Chairs, iron and wood Bedsteads, Straw Palliasses, Flock and other Beds, Bed Linen, Fenders and Fireirons, Culinary and Kitchen Utensils, and other Effects, which will appear in Catalogues.

Auctioneer's Offices, Wesley Street, Oldbury."

London Gazette 7/1/1868

"*William Jones*, now and for three months last past living in furnished lodgings at the OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury-green, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Retail Brewer, previously thereto living at the OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury-green, Oldbury aforesaid, Retail Brewer, and previously thereto of the FOUNTAIN INN, Princes End, Tipton, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1868, is hereby required to surrender himself to George Steward Watson, Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at his Chambers, High-street, Westbromwich. George Steward Watson, Esq, of Westbromwich, is the Official Assignee, and Messrs. Shakespeare and Hartill, of Oldbury, are the Solicitors acting in the bankruptcy."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/8/1868

"Billy Jones of Oldbury will run M. Cullem of the same place 80 yards level, or take one in 100, or two yards in 120, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *W. Jones's*, the OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/5/1869

"*John Walters*, landlord of the OLD CROWN, Oldbury Green, was summoned for permitting drunkenness and riotous conduct in his house.

On Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> ult, Police-constable Cartwright had his attention called to a 'row' which was going on at defendant's house. He found the place in a great uproar, and there were three or four men drunk and fighting in the house.

Defendant, who said he had endeavoured to put the men out of his house, was fined 10s and costs."

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 12/5/1869

"*John Walters*, landlord of the OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury Green, was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house. Police-constable Cartwright stated that on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> ult he was called to the defendant's house, where a row had occurred. Upon entering the house, he found 'all in an uproar,' and there were three or four men drunk. One man, particularly anxious of testing his pugilistic powers, was being held down upon a bench, in a state of intoxication, to prevent his fighting.

Defendant admitted that, although he had not been previously convicted, his house had a bad name, but said he could not help that. Fined 10s and costs.

John Aston and Thomas Dearn, both of Church Bridge, were fined 2s 6d and costs for drunken and riotous conduct on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult.”

#### County Express 10/9/1870

“The Court on Wednesday was made special for the adjourned licensing day. Applications for Spirit licenses were made by ..... *John Taylor*, OLD CROWN, Oldbury, supported by Mr. Hayes ..... All were refused.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/3/1871

“*John Taylor*, of the OLD CROWN INN, Green Street, was summoned at the Petty Sessions, yesterday, for getting up in his house, at Christmas last, a ‘Sweep’ for ten sucking pigs, several fowls, quantities of meat, and ale and porter. Several witnesses were called, who deposed to purchasing tickets, and afterwards, being successful, receiving prizes. The magistrates remarked that as a similar case had been previously before them, of which they had taken a lenient view, they would look upon the present case in the same light. The case would be dismissed on payment of costs; but if the defendant was brought before them again on such a charge, he would be convicted.”

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/3/1871

“Young Johnny Welch of Birmingham takes a benefit on Monday, March 20, at *J. Taylor*’s, OLD CROWN INN, Oldbury Green, Oldbury. John Welch and Peter Morris of Birmingham will wind up the sports.”

#### 1871 Census

8, Green Street

- [1] *John Taylor* (47), miner, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Taylor* (47), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Samuel Taylor* (18), son, puddler, born Tipton;
- [4] *Mary Taylor* (22), daughter, born Tipton;
- [5] *John Taylor* (6), son, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Fanny Elias* (14), general servant, born Oldbury:

*John Taylor*, beer retailer, Green Street. [1872]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1872 - Advert

“Oldbury Races will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Next, September 2, 3, 4, on the Course at the back of the OLD CROWN, Oldbury.

For particulars, apply to Mrs. Underhill, CROSS ANCHORS, Oldbury.”

#### London Gazette 13/8/1875

“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 *Emanuel Atkiss*, of No.1, Inkerman-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Rag and Bone Gatherer, and previously thereto of the OLD CROWN INN, Green-street, Oldbury aforesaid, Beerhouse Keeper.

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 WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1875, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1875.

J. B. Smith, Brades Village, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

#### 1881 Census

7, Green Street

- [1] *Edward Harding* (46), blind, basket maker, born Bristol;
- [2] *Eliza Harding* (52), wife, born Aldridge;

- [3] John Harding (19), son, labourer in iron works, born Oldbury  
[4] Edward Harding (12), son, born Oldbury;  
[5] Elizabeth Bailey (22), domestic servant, born Saltley, Staffordshire:

*Edward Harding*, beer retailer, 7, Green Street. [1884]

1891 Census

14, Green Street

- [1] *Joseph Page* (49), beerhouse keeper, born Whiteheath;  
[2] Mary Ann Page (59), wife, born Leeds:

*Joseph Page*, beer retailer and brewer, 14, Green Street. [1896]

County Advertiser 24/6/1899 - Advert

“To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Important Sale of Freehold Licensed Premises, and other Properties, at Oldbury, Titford, Causeway Green, and Bristnall Fields, in the Parish of Halesowen.

H. King and Son are favoured with instructions from Messrs. Hodgetts to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.....

The OLD CROWN INN, Green Street, Oldbury, let to Mr. *Jos. Page* (yearly tenant), and Two Cottages adjoining.....

Plans and particulars may be had of Mr. T. Jarvis Hodgetts, Surveyor, 21, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham; Messrs. Bourne and Co., Solicitors, Dudley; or of the Auctioneers, Stourbridge.”

AND

Smethwick Telephone 24/6/1899

“.....Sale by Auction, on Thursday Next, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899.....

Lot 4. The OLD CROWN INN in Green Street, Oldbury, let to Mr. *Joseph Page*, on a yearly tenancy as a Beerhouse, with the enclosed Yard and Premises adjoining thereto, at the low annual rental of £16. This is a well frequented house, and is in an excellent situation and is doing a large trade.”

1901 Census

14, Green Street

- [1] *Joseph Page* (59), tavern keeper, born Whiteheath;  
[2] Mary Ann Page (69), wife, born Leeds;  
[3] Rebecca Brookes (28), barmaid, born Rowley:

County Advertiser 18/1/1902

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Wine And Spirit Merchants, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Sale of Valuable Freehold Licensed Premises, at Oldbury, Worcestershire.

H. King and Son are favoured with instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. Jarvis Hodgetts to Offer for Sale by Auction at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1902.....

Lot 3. The Freehold and Well-frequented Licensed Premises, known as the OLD CROWN INN, situate in Green Street, Oldbury, let on a yearly tenancy to Mr. *Joseph Page* as a Beerhouse, with the Enclosed Yard and Premises, at the low rent of £16 per annum.

Also the Freehold Dwelling Houses, Nos.12 and 16 adjoining, let to Davies and Richards on weekly tenancies, producing £13 13s 0d per annum....

For Plans and Particulars apply to Messrs. Bourne and Company, Solicitors, Dudley; Mr. T. J. Hodgetts, Land Agent, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham; or of the Auctioneers, Stourbridge.”

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

The license was surrendered on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1906.



## **OLD DISPENSARY**

Causeway Green Road, Langley, OLDBURY

### **OWNERS**

### **LICENSEES**

### **NOTES**

It opened in February 2017 in a former pharmacy.

#### **Express & Star 19/1/2017**

“It used to dispense prescriptions – but a former pharmacy in the Black Country will now be serving up a different kind of tonic as it is on the way to being transformed into a microbar and cafe. School friends Simon Dunne and Will Stephenson are aiming to be pulling pints in their new venture, aptly named the OLD DISPENSARY, on Causeway Green Road in Oldbury, by the middle of February. It comes after planning permission was granted for the build in February 2016 after the building had stood empty for more than a year. At the time of approval, residents raised fears about noise and anti-social behaviour. Now plans for its future have been revealed with Mr. Dunne saying he hopes it will be a ‘place for all the community.’ He explained, ‘We got the keys in December after a lot of obstacles were put in our way. When the pharmacy came up for rent we knew it was always something that we wanted to do. There were a lot of rumours circulating about what we would turn it into – it has been a long drawn out process.’ He continued, ‘We have got a lovely sized garden out the back which will have a smoking shelter there. In the day time we will hope to serve croissants and cakes so that families can come in and then from midday onwards we will be serving drinks. Lot of local breweries will be getting involved with craft and real ales and we will serve buffet food too. We won’t be putting up with any anti-social behaviour we want to be a family friendly place for all the community.’

Mr. Dunne and Mr. Stephenson both work in the construction trade and will be undertaking most the building work by themselves. The bar is licensed to take around 100 people. Sandwell Council planning officers recommended approval for the use of the shop to be converted into a licensed bar with beer garden.

[2021]

## **OLD HOUSE AT HOME**

172, (162), (29), Broadwell Road, (Bromford Road), OLDBURY

### **OWNERS**

Edward Palmer  
Edward Townsend, Broadwell Villa, Oldbury  
William Butler and Co. Ltd.  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

## LICENSEES

Abel Shaw [1858] – [1878]  
Joseph Parkes [1879]  
Noah Parkes Jnr. [1881] – **1886**;  
William Townsend (**1886 – 1900**);  
Louisa (Townsend) Roberts (**1900 – 1906**);  
Mrs. Mary Louisa Brookes (**1906 – 1926**);  
Walter Woolley (**1926 – 1933**);  
Alfred Silvester (**1933 – 1954**);  
Kenneth Lowndes (**1954 – 1956**);  
John Johnson Given (**1956 – 1957**);  
Joseph Edward Evans (**1957 – 1959**);  
Charles Henry Lloyd (**1959 – [1962]**)

## NOTES

Bromford Road [1861], [1871]  
29, Broadwell Road [1881]  
162, Broadwell Road [1901]  
172, Broadwell Road [1911], [1912], [1939]

It had a beerhouse license.

### Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1859

“At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before Captain Bennitt and R. W. Johnson, Esq., Mary Ann Custon was brought up on remand, charged with having on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February stolen one pair of women’s boots, the property of Jonah Jephcott, coal seller and shoe dealer, of Oldbury, who keeps a stall in the Market Place, adjoining Mr. Perrens’ house. The prisoner, it was stated by the wife of the prosecutor, took the boots from the stall between nine and ten o’clock on the night of the 12<sup>th</sup> ult. Prosecutrix concluded that prisoner had taken them, because she saw her standing close to the stall at the time above mentioned, and when she was gone the boots were missing. Prosecutrix further stated, that from information she received on the 18<sup>th</sup> ult, she went to the prisoner’s house and accused her of the theft. Prisoner denied it, and said she had bought a pair of a woman at the bottom of the Market Place, for which she had given 4s 9d. Prosecutrix gave information to the police, and Police-sergeant Simmonds apprehended the prisoner at the house of her father. The boots produced were stated by the prosecutrix to be her property, and identical with the pair she saw on the prisoner’s feet. The above is the substance of the evidence taken at the first examination on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult. Yesterday, Eli Bell, a miner, residing in Oldbury, swore that he saw the prisoner take the boots from the stall on the night in question, put them under her shawl, and walk off with them. He had been walking with the prisoner that night, and after she had taken the boots he went with her to the RED COW INN, when he left her.

This witness was then cross-examined by the prisoner with the view of showing that after the robbery he went with her to several other public houses the same evening, but he distinctly swore that he never went with her into any house but the RED COW. The prisoner, however, swore that Bell had been with her to the FLOWER POT and the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, and several witnesses were accordingly called by the Bench to ascertain which statement was true. These witnesses corroborated the statement of the prisoner, having seen her in company with Bell at the houses above named. One witness also proved that instead of Bell leaving the prisoner in the RED COW, they both left together.

Under these circumstances the prisoner was dismissed on the charge of felony, and admitted to give evidence against Eli Bell, who was forthwith placed in the dock on the charge of having committed perjury.

The various witnesses having been examined, and deposed as above stated, Bell was fully committed to take his trial at the ensuing Worcester Assizes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1859

“Worcester Spring Assizes ..... Bills Ignored.....

Against Eli Bell, charged with perjury at Oldbury, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.”

1861 Census

Bromford Road – Retail Brewer House – OLD HOUSE AT HOME

[1] *Abel Shaw* (45), coal miner, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Martha Shaw (43), wife, born Oakengates, Shropshire;

[3] Joseph Shaw (19), son, forge man, born Oldbury;

[4] Sarah Shaw (16), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Journal 18/5/1861 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury. The 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1861.

Whereas a Petition of *Abel Shaw*, at present and for about three years and four months last past residing at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Bromford Lane, in the township of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Worcester, Beerseller and Dealer in Tobacco, and for six years previously thereto residing at Rounds Green, in the township of Oldbury aforesaid, Milkman, Beerseller, and Dealer in Tobacco, and also during both the above-mentioned periods working as a Miner, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Oldbury, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said *Abel Shaw*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Abel Shaw* is hereby required to appear in the said Court, to be holden at Oldbury aforesaid, before the Judge of the said Court, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1861, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, for his First Examination touching his Debts, Estate, and Effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said Statutes; and Notice is hereby given, that the Choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All Persons indebted to the said *Abel Shaw*, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, the Registrars of the said Court, who are the Official Assignees of the Estate and Effects of the said Insolvent, at their Office at the Court House, in Oldbury aforesaid.

W. C. Maltby, Attorney, Dudley.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 10/7/1861

“Insolvents. In the Oldbury County Court, yesterday, before the Judge ..... *Abel Shaw*, licensed victualler, of Oldbury ..... obtained their final orders.”

*Abel Shaw*, beer retailer, Bromford Road. [1862], [1864], [1865], [1870]

1871 Census

Bromford Road – OLD HOUSE AT HOME

[1] *Abel Shaw* (51), miner and publican, born Dudley;

[2] Martha Shaw (48), wife, born Shropshire;

[3] Sarah A. Shaw (24), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Martha Shaw (4), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Elijah Turner (37), lodger, mine agent, born Dudley:

*Abel Shaw*, beer retailer, 29, Broadwell Road. [1873]

Worcestershire Chronicle 6/7/1878

“Worcestershire Quarter Sessions.....

David Bates (50), labourer, to obtaining by false pretences from Martha *Shaw*, at Oldbury, on the 12<sup>th</sup> April,

two pints of beer, the property of *Abel Shaw*; and from Sarah Farr three pints of beer, with intent to defraud. Fourteen days' hard labour, he having been already three months in prison."

Worcester Journal 12/4/1879

"Worcestershire Easter Quarter Sessions.....

James Adams (49), puddler, was indicted for uttering base coins on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, at Oldbury. Mr. Streeten prosecuted; prisoner was not defended. About seven o'clock on the evening of the day in question prisoner called at the FOUNTAIN INN, and asked for a glass of ale. He was served and tendered in payment a florin, which was refused as base. Prisoner said he had had it in his wages, and produced a genuine half-crown, and paid for it out of that. Ten minutes afterwards the prisoner was at another public house – the OLD HOUSE AT HOME – where he had something to drink, and again attempted to pass a bad florin. Its baseness was immediately detected, and prisoner, when asked how he came by it, said he had changed a sovereign at the APPLE TREE, which was untrue. He then paid for the beer he had had with good money. He was subsequently arrested, and repeated the assertion that he had received the bad coin in exchange. Found guilty, and sentenced to nine months' hard labour."

AND

Worcestershire Chronicle 12/4/1879

"Worcestershire Easter Quarter Sessions.....

James Adams, (49), puddler, was indicted for uttering a false florin to Sarah Jones, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. Mr. Streeten prosecuted.

The prisoner offered the florin in payment for some beer. He pleaded that he did not know it was a bad florin; but it appeared that he afterwards offered the same coin to another publican, *Joseph Parkes*, the same night. *Parkes* bit a piece out of it. Prisoner said that he got the florin in change for a sovereign at the APPLE TREE INN, but the landlord of that house denied that change was given to the prisoner. Now he said he got the coin among his wages.

Guilty; sentenced to nine months' hard labour.

Maria Jones (44), charwoman, with whom the last prisoner lived, was indicted for uttering a counterfeit half-crown. She offered it in payment for some bread, &c, and was identified as the person who had twice endeavoured to pass counterfeit florins.

Guilty; nine months' hard labour."

1881 Census

29, Broadwell Road – OLD HOUSE AT HOME

[1] *Noah Parkes* (57), colliery proprietor &c, born Oldbury;

[2] *Matilda Parkes* (56), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *James Jones* (5), grand-son, scholar, born Oldbury:

*Noah Parkes*, beer retailer, and colliery proprietor, Broadwell Road. [1884]

Birmingham Daily Post 4/8/1886

"*Noah Parkes* (the younger), residing and carrying on business at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Broadwell Road, Oldbury, and lately trading in copartnership with John Jones and Benjamin Withers, as coalmasters, at the Speedwell Colliery, Titford Road, Oldbury, came up for his adjourned public examination yesterday, at the Oldbury County Court, before Mr. Registrar Watson.

The statement of affairs showed total liabilities £343 14s 5d, there being a deficiency of £325 14s 11d. In April 1884, the bankrupt entered into an arrangement with John Jones to work the Speedwell Colliery, and they traded together until June 1885. In that month Benjamin Withers joined the concern, and introduced a capital of £100. In July 1886, being short of funds, it was arranged that the partnership should be dissolved, it being agreed that Withers was to continue the business, and discharge the liabilities.

After being examined at considerable length by Mr. Woollett, Mr. T. Cooksey, and Mr. W. Shakespeare, the debtor was allowed to pass. Mr. Shakespeare represented the bankrupt."

*Noah Parkes* – see also SPRING COTTAGE.

West Bromwich Weekly News 24/9/1887

“Mr. Young, instructed by Mr. Forrest, applied for a full license to be granted to Mr. *William Townsend*, at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME. He explained that they had held a beer license for a long time, and they were not applying for a new license but simply the removing of the license from the ROYAL OAK, in Talbot Street, to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME. He knew it made a difference whether they were making an additional license in the place, or simply removing one in Oldbury. The ROYAL OAK had been purchased for the purpose of having a Conservative Club, and they would not want the license any longer, and if the Magistrates would transfer the spirit license to Mr. *Townsend* they would not apply for the renewal of that license. If this was not done, they would apply for the removal of that license to another place. No objection would be made to the character of Mr. *Townsend*, he being a gentleman who had carried on that house respectably for some time. There was not another full licensed house until they got to the CROSS GUNS, over 300 yards away, and this house being close to the station, where there was no refreshment room, it would be a convenient place where persons coming there on business would be able to take some refreshment and get to the station even after the train was signalled in time to catch it. He then described the accommodation of the premises, and said there were several large works in the immediate neighbourhood, and no other house where spirits were sold. The premises were on a lease at a rent of £46, including the license as a beerhouse. It was let for £30 apart from the license. He presented two petitions in favour of the license, one signed by the members of the Oldbury Conservative Club, the other by a large number of ratepayers and householders in Oldbury.

Mr. *W. Townsend* was then called, and confirmed the statements made by Mr. Young.

Mr. Shakespeare appeared to oppose the license on behalf of Mr. Joseph Parkes of the RAILWAY INN.

Mr. Shakespeare (to witness) [Mr. *Townsend*]: How much are you rated at? – Witness: £29.

Mr. Shakespeare: You are underrated are you not? Why have you not gone and asked the Assessment Committee to increase your rates? (Laughter.) It was nothing but an old barn when you took to it, was it not? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Shakespeare: And they rebuilt it and had the whole work done in a week, beginning at 12 o'clock on the Sunday night, and finishing at the end of the week in time to begin the wake. – Witness: No, sir.

Mr. Shakespeare: How much would you pay for the house if there was no license? – Witness: £20.

Mr. Shakespeare: What, for that hole? – Mr. Young: Oh, don't call it a hole.

Mr. Shakespeare: Now on your solemn oath are you not rated at £19 and not at £29? – Witness: The last rate was £19.

Mr. Shakespeare: Then what do you mean by saying that you was rated at £29? Is this your father's house? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Shakespeare: Does it not belong to Palmer's Trustees? – Witness: Yes.

And does your father pay more than £20 per year for this very house to Palmer's Trustees? – Witness: I cannot say what he pays.

Mr. Shakespeare: Are there not waiting rooms at the Station, where people can be comfortable without going to a public house and being uncomfortable? Is not the RAILWAY INN nearer to the station than your house? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Shakespeare: And is not the FOUNTAIN INN within 100 yards, and the BRIDGE INN within another 20, besides \_\_\_ on the way? – Witness: They are further than that apart.

Mr. Shakespeare: Then is there another beerhouse 70 yards away, called the ROYAL OAK, and the CROSS GUNS, the HARMONIC INN, and the NOAHS ARK, all within 300 yards? \_\_\_ there is the WHITE HORSE.....

John Allen, architect and surveyor, of West Bromwich, gave evidence ..... He thought the house independent of the license was worth 12s per week, and he thought the garden land alone worth £12 per annum out of that.

Mr. Shakespeare, addressing the Bench, said he was quite sure the Magistrates and everybody in Court must have been truly astounded with the statements of the learned council, and he thought that he must have been speaking of some place 100 miles away from Oldbury when he described these handsome premises and the large population, and its being just the place to stop and have a glass extra and get drunk before the train came in. (Laughter.)

He then renewed the evidence in favour of the application, which he considered very vague and misleading, and contended that the requirements of the neighbourhood did not call for a license, and the qualification was not made out.

The Magistrates returned to consider their decision, and after some ten minutes absence returned, when Mr. Avery said the Justices had carefully considered the evidence of all the circumstances in favour of the license to Mr. *Townsend*, and they had decided to refuse it.

Mr. Forrest said the renewal of the license of the ROYAL OAK would in that case be granted as a matter of course.

Mr. Avery: Yes.”

*William Townsend*, beer retailer, Bromford Lane. [1888]

#### 1891 Census

Broadwell Road – OLD HOUSE AT HOME

[1] *William Townsend* (32), rope splicer and publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Louisa Townsend* (32), wife, born Warley;

[3] *Emma Whale* (21), visitor, born Warley:

*William Townsend*, beer retailer, Bromford Road. [1896]

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 21/7/1900

“The death took place on Monday of *William Townsend* (42), landlord of the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Bromford Lane. The deceased was seized with a sudden illness, and vomitted severely, it being thought that the strain on the heart was the cause of death. The Coroner was communicated with, but no inquest was deemed necessary.”

#### 1901 Census

162, Broadwell Road – OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN

[1] *Louisa Townsend* (42), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;

[2] *Annie Louisa Townsend* (12), niece, born Hampton in Arden, Warwickshire;

[3] *Elizabeth Rose* (19), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Louisa Townsend* married *Thomas Roberts* in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1901.

#### 1911 Census

172, Broadwell Road

[1] *Mary Louisa Brookes* (65), widow, license holder, born Oldbury;

[2] *Jane Ann Brookes* (38), daughter, born Oldbury:

Mrs. *Mary Louisa Brookes*, beer retailer, 172, Broadwell Road. [1912]

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/10/1930

“Norton Canes Disaster Fund. More Generous Donations.....

The Subscription list.....

Customers, OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Oldbury, per *W. Woolley*, 10s 6d.”

#### 1939 Register

172, Broadwell Road

[1] *Alfred Silvester*, date of birth 8/1/1886, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Jemima Silvester*, dob 15/10/1883, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Hilda (Silvester) Lang*, dob 11/1/1913, wages clerk, general stampings, single:

[Hilda married Lang in 1966.]

A Full License was granted on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1958 and confirmed on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1958.

Evesham Standard 25/4/1958

“Worcestershire County Confirming and Compensation Committee have approved licenses in respect of public house and other premises granted by Magistrates in various parts of the county.....

*Joseph Edward Evans*, the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Broadwell Road, Oldbury (publican’s license).”

A team from here took part in the Spon Lane Domino League. [1966], [1967]

Closed

Demolished

The HERON was built on the site.

**OLD TALBOT**

4, (2), Birmingham Street, (Market Place), (High Street), OLDBURY

OWNERS

Samuel Hartshorne

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1904]

LICENSEES

Samuel Parish\* [ ];

Harry Downing Gunter\* [ ] – **1850**)

John Fletcher [1851] – [1854]

Henry Farmer [1855] – **1857**)

Thomas York [1859] – [1862]

George Duckhouse [1864] – [1881]

Samuel Hartshorne [1884] – **1889**);

William ‘Bill’ Marigold (**1889 – 1904**);

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (**1904 – 1913**);

Mrs. Nellie Garbett [1911] – [1912] manager

Henry ‘Harry’ Edward Wright (**1913 – 1920**);

Albert Comley (**1920 – 1933**);

Adeline Lilla Comley (**1933 – 1946**);

Thomas Vicars (**1946 – 1949**);

Frederick Ernest Williams (**1949 – 1954**);

Charles Walter Ernest Breese (**1954 – 1955**);

Frank Alfred Pratley (**1955 – 1959**);

Thomas Frank Moore (**1959 – 1960**);

Les Raymond Coupmail (**1960**);

James Reaney (**1960**):

NOTES

High Street [1859]

Market Place [1850], [1885], [1900]

2, Birmingham Street [1871], [1873], [1881]

4, Birmingham Street [1891], [1892], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1939]

TALBOT [1860], [1862]

\*possibly TALBOT, Talbot Street.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/3/1849 - Advert

“To Innkeepers and Others. The OLD TALBOT HOTEL AND LIQUOR SHOP, Oldbury.

To be Sold by private Treaty (in consequence of the death of the late proprietor, Mr. *Samuel Parish*).

All that old-established and well-known Inn and Liquor Shop, situate in the centre of Oldbury; consisting of liquor shop, smoke-room, and kitchen, on the ground floor; sitting-room and three bed-rooms on the chamber floor; with inclosed Yard, and plot of Garden Land at the back, with the use of an excellent Well of water.

The situation of the above Premises is one of the best in the neighbourhood, being in the centre of Oldbury, on the Dudley and Birmingham Turnpike Road, and the junction of five roads of great traffic.

For particulars and to treat for the same apply to Mr. Joshua Hammond, Surveyor, 21, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; or to Mr. John Orme Brettell, Dudley.”

Birmingham Journal 5/1/1850 - Advert

“Sale at Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on Monday Next, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at the PARROT ARMS INN, Oldbury.

The License and Goodwill of that old established House and Premises (which will be put up precisely at Twelve o'clock), a large quantity of Casks, Brewing Vessels, Beer and Spirit Machine, and other Household Furniture, belonging to Mr. *Harry Downing Gunter*, who has no further use for the same, having taken to the OLD TALBOT INN, Oldbury (formerly occupied by Mr. *Parish*). Likewise, a large quantity of Wrought-iron Rails and Sleepers, excellent Pit Scaffolds, Skips, Rings, Pit Chain, and other useful Colliery Ironwork, which will be Sold without reserve.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the morning.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/2/1850 - Advert

“Sale at Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, this present Monday and Tomorrow (Tuesday), the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of February.

The whole of the Household Furniture, Stock in Trade, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Harry Downing Gunter*, OLD TALBOT INN, Market Place, Oldbury.

The whole will be sold without the least reserve, for the benefit of his creditors.

The Goodwill and Licence will be sold precisely at twelve o'clock.

Sale to commence each day precisely a ten o'clock in the morning.”

Birmingham Journal 30/3/1850 - Advert

“OLD TALBOT INN, Oldbury.

W. L. Turner has the Disposal of the Licenses, Fixtures, and Possession of the above named Inn and Liquor Shop, late in the occupation of *H. D. Gunter*, and now temporarily occupied until Let. The House is decidedly in the best situation, being in the centre of the Market and a Road-side House. It has been successfully carried on as an Inn for more than a century, and several fortunes realised. The Licenses and Fixtures only £30. No Stock.

Apply to W. L. Turner, Public House Agent and Appraiser, Oldbury.”

London Gazette 11/6/1850

“*Harry Downing Gunter*, late of Mill-street, Birmingham, Warwickshire, Mine Agent. In the Gaol of



Worcester.”

London Gazette 21/6/1850

“Before the Judge of the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at the Guildhall, Worcester, on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 1850, at Ten o’Clock in the Forenoon precisely.....

*Harry Downing Gunter*, late of No.20, Mill-street, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Mine Agent, living in lodgings, previously of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Mine Agent and Victualler, previously thereto of Dudley, in the county of Worcester, Mine Agent and Victualler, being also during his residence at Oldbury, and part of his residence at Dudley, a Coal Master, carrying on business at Furnace Colliery, Oldbury, aforesaid, in copartnership with John Foley and Henry Foley, trading under the name or firm of Foley and Gunter, as Coal Masters, sued with John Foley and Henry Foley.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 17/7/1850

“At the sitting of Worcester Insolvent Debtors’ Court, on Wednesday last, the following insolvents’ cases came before his Honour.....

*Harry Douring [sic] Gunter*, late of Oldbury, mine agent and victualler. He was opposed by Mr. Holland, solicitor, Westbromwich, and supported by Mr. Rea. Ordered to be discharged in two months from the date of vesting order.”

Birmingham Journal 20/7/1850 - Advert

“To Persons of Small Capital wanting a Liquor Shop.

The OLD TALBOT INN, Market Place, Oldbury. On Sale by Private Treaty, by J. Gilbert.

The Licenses and immediate Possession of the above excellent Liquor Shop, desirably situated in the centre of Oldbury, doing a capital business.

Valuation about £40. Rent, Rates, and Licenses moderate.

For particulars, apply on the Premises; or to J. Gilbert, Appraiser, &c, 120, Bordesley Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Journal 1/10/1853 - Advert

“Sale at the OLD TALBOT INN, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. William Green, upon the Premises, on Monday Next, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Eleven o’clock in the morning.

The valuable Public House Fixtures, Furniture, Brewing Utensils, &c, belonging to Mr. *John Fletcher*, who is leaving in consequence of other engagements.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession will be Sold at the commencement of the Sale.

Gas Fittings, Screens, and Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 19/10/1853

“At the Public Office, before John Green, Esq, on the 11<sup>th</sup> instant, two young men, named Charles Taylor and Richard Sanders, were brought up on a charge of breaking into a house, the property of Mr. *John Fletcher*, with intent to commit a felony, on the night of Saturday week; and also with stealing an iron bucket, the property of Mr. John Hewes, of the FLOWER POT, Oldbury. The house of Mr. *Fletcher* has been unoccupied for several days, as that individual had just changed his residence. In the cellar there were several hogsheads of ale, and it was doubtless with a view of obtaining some of this that the prisoners broke into the house. They were, however, interrupted in their proceedings by Superintendent Simmons, who, with another officer (the appearance and movements of the prisoners having excited their suspicion) watched them to the house. On finding that their midnight adventure threatened to involve them in very serious difficulty, the prisoners at once precipitated themselves from the house, but were finally captured. They had no ale with them, but about fifteen gallons had been previously missed. The bucket, which was left behind, was found to be the property of Mr. Hewes. Committed to the Sessions on both charges.”

Worcester Journal 22/10/1853

“Worcestershire Michaelmas Sessions.....

Charles Taylor was charged with having, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October instant, stolen ale, the property of *John*

*Fletcher*. Prosecutor formerly kept the OLD TALBOT INN, and on the day named locked the house up, and left a quantity of ale in the cellar. He also secured a trap-door to the cellar. Next morning the trap had been disturbed, and about fifteen gallons of ale was gone. ....”

[Charles Taylor, who had been previously convicted, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. Richard Sanders was found not guilty. The charge of stealing a bucket was withdrawn.]

*Henry Farmer* died in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1857.

#### Birmingham Journal 1/4/1857 - Advert

“To be Disposed Of, immediately, the OLD TALBOT INN, Oldbury, in consequence of the death of the Proprietor, the late Mr. *H. Farmer*.

Apply to H. L. Whitehouse, Tipton.

All claims against the late Proprietor to be sent in to Mr. Whitehouse immediately.”

*Thomas York* = Thomas Yorke

#### Birmingham Journal 8/1/1859 - Advert

“Sale at the OLD TALBOT INN, High Street, Oldbury.

To Miners and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Detheridge, on Monday Next, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thirty Iron and Wood Thin Mine Skips, several tons of Iron Rings and Squares, Eight dozen of Pikes, Driving Hammer, Iron Bows for Skips, several sets of Thiller and other Gearing, set of Harness, Two Spring Traps, Narrow-wheel Cart, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Thomas York*, who has no further use for the same, and removed to the OLD TALBOT INN for convenience of sale.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 28/3/1861

“Lawrence Owen, bricklayer, was, on Tuesday, brought up to answer a charge of obtaining five quarts of ale under false pretences, from *Thomas York*, of the OLD TALBOT, Oldbury. In October last, the prisoner went to prosecutor's house and obtained the ale under the pretence that his master wanted it for the men at work. This was proved to be untrue, and it was also proved that the prisoner drank it. The Bench at that time dismissed the charge upon the understanding that the prisoner should pay all costs incurred, and appear when called upon to answer the charge. He refused to pay the costs after he was liberated, and continued refusing till eventually he was brought up yesterday, when the Bench gave him the alternate of paying or being committed to hard labour for one month.”

#### 1861 Census

Birmingham Street – OLD TALBOT INN

[1] *Thomas York* (47), charter master and victualler, born Madley Wood, Shropshire;

[2] *Mary York* (45), wife, born Brierley Hill;

[3] *Elizabeth Ann York* (19), daughter, born Brierley Hill;

[4] *Sarah York* (17), daughter, born Brierley Hill;

[5] *Thomas York* (14), son, born Brierley Hill;

[6] *James William York* (12), son, scholar, born Brierley Hill;

[7] *Mary Maria York* (9), daughter, scholar, born Brierley Hill;

[8] *Albert York* (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[9] *John P. York Baker* (3), grand-son, born Brierley Hill;

[10] *Mary Morris* (17), niece, born Brierley Hill:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1862 - Advert

“By Private Contract. Extraordinary Opportunity. TALBOT INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

By A. G. Atree. To be Disposed Of, by Private Contract, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the capitally-situated and well-known old-licensed Inn, together with the Stock, Brewing Plant, and the usual

Requisites for carrying on the business.

Apply upon the Premises; or to A. G. Altree, Auctioneer and Valuer, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.”

London Gazette 1/4/1862

“*Thomas Yorke*, formerly of the OLD TALBOT INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Charter Master, but now of Robins Farm, Newberry-lane, Oldbury aforesaid, Charter Master, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1862, is hereby required to surrender himself to George Steward Watson, a Registrar at the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April instant, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely, at his Chambers, High-street, West Bromwich, Stafford. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, Gentlemen, are the Official Assignees, and William Cole Maltby, of Dudley, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/5/1862

“Bankrupts. At Oldbury County Court, on Saturday last.....

*Thomas York*, of Oldbury, charter master, supported by Mr. Maltby, applied to pass his last examination, and for his discharge. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Shakespeare opposed for creditors.

The bankrupt was subjected to a lengthened examination both by Mr. Shakespeare and Mr. Jackson, in the course of which he stated that he formerly resided at the OLD TALBOT INN, Oldbury. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March he sold the whole of his stock in trade and brewing utensils to a person named *Duckhouse* for £153, and out of that amount he paid £141 12s 9d to his landlord for rent, although he was not asked for it by his landlord, but paid it voluntarily. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March he sold his household furniture for £50, and paid the proceeds to his father-in-law, and at that time he knew he was unable to meet his engagements. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of March he filed his petition and his assets were nil. The tools and horses at the pit at which he was employed as charter master were valued to him at the time he took the pit; he had not given any account of them in his schedule, because he had never paid for them, and therefore he did not consider they belonged to him. He had not paid anything for the hire of them, but had paid for the keep of them during the whole time.

Upon these facts Mr. Jackson and Mr. Shakespeare submitted that the bankrupt had been guilty of a misdemeanour under the 221<sup>st</sup> section of the Bankruptcy Act, 1861, and asked the Court to suspend the order of discharge, and direct that the bankrupt be prosecuted. The learned Judge said he thought it his duty to order a prosecution, and asked the bankrupt if he would be tried by him, and whether he would have a Jury. The bankrupt consented to be tried by his Honour, without a Jury, and the 21<sup>st</sup> day of June next was appointed for the hearing.”

Birmingham Journal 28/2/1863 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. Order of Discharge.

In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury.

In the Matter of *Thomas York*, formerly of the OLD TALBOT INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, in the Parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Charter Master.

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 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1863.

G. S. Watson, Esq, Registrar. J. Brooks, High Bailiff.”

Birmingham Journal 28/11/1868

“East Worcestershire Election.....

The polling at Oldbury commenced with great vigour punctually at eight o’clock. The booth, which was a double one, was erected upon some ground opposite to the church in Birmingham Street, and in front of the JUNCTION INN. Every exertion was used to bring the voters to the poll, and as the day advanced, persons interested in the election began to assemble till they numbered several thousands. In case of any distur-

bance – fears of which were for some days prior to yesterday entertained – a number of special constables were sworn in. In addition to Sergeant Simmonds and the regular police force belonging to the town, thirty constables, under the direction of Superintendent Wollaston, of West Bromwich, and twenty from Hanley, under Superintendent Baker, were also in attendance throughout the day. Beyond plenty of chaffing, nothing worthy of notice occurred until about half-past four o'clock in the afternoon, when a 'row' was commenced by some 'roughs' – whether they belonged to the town in uncertain, but rather doubtful – who started a song of 'The Tory House' meaning the TALBOT HOTEL (Mr. Amphlett's committee rooms), which was taken up by others, who at once made a rush to the top of Birmingham Street, when they halted in front of the TALBOT. Stones and brick-ends &c, were hurled by the roughs, and a large number of the panes of glass in the windows were broken. The lamp over the front was also smashed and rendered almost useless. For half an hour stones were hurled in all directions, and several persons are alleged to have sustained serious bodily injury. The windows in the OLD TALBOT, kept by a person named *Duckhouse* (which was also another 'Tory house'), were also smashed. As things were assuming rather a serious aspect the assistance of the police was procured, and they paraded some of the principal streets, headed by Mr. F. Adkins, JP. A charge was made upon the crowd by them, and during the skirmish a man named Gibbs is known to have received a violent blow upon the forehead. He was taken into Mr. Holland's surgery, and his wound dressed. Most of the shops during the day were closed.

The state of the poll at the close (five o'clock) was as follow: Lyttelton, 373; Martin, 347; Amphlett, 171."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/7/1870

"Violent Assault On A Publican And His Wife.

A collier named Reuben Collins, residing near the Whimsey Bridge was charged with assaulting *George Duckhouse*, landlord of the OLD TALBOT INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. A few days ago the defendant went into the complainant's house and called for two glasses of rum, and when they were supplied, called for a pint of ale for another person there at the time. He refused to pay for the ale, and when the landlady remonstrated with him he took up the glasses and threw them and their contents at her, thereby severely injuring her hand, which she put up to ward off the blow. The landlord interfered, and the defendant then struck him a violent blow in the face, breaking his nose. Defendant was further charged with wilful damage to the glasses, and upon conviction was fined for the assault 10s and costs, and for the other offence 1s and costs, with the alternative of twenty-one days' imprisonment."

#### 1871 Census

2, Birmingham Street – OLD TALBOT

[1] *George Duckhouse* (52), publican, born Huntington, Staffordshire;

[2] Sarah Duckhouse (50), wife, born Adderbury, Oxfordshire;

[3] George Duckhouse (19), son, wire drawer, born Oldbury;

[4] Mary S. Markwick (18), barmaid, born Adderbury, Oxfordshire;

[5] Sarah Toungue (20), domestic servant, born Tipton;

[6] William Hey (49), brewer, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1872 - Advert

"Found, a White Dog. If not claimed in 3 days will be Sold.

Apply, *George Duckhouse*, OLD TALBOT INN, Oldbury."

#### Dudley Herald 11/1/1879

"*George Duckhouse*, of the OLD TALBOT INN, Oldbury, was charged with being drunk whilst in charge of a horse and trap. The defendant, whilst drunk, drove through Dudley Port at a furious rate, and knocked down a girl named Mary Ann Moore, of Horseley Heath.

A fine of 40s and costs was imposed, and defendant was told that he ought to give the child some compensation.

Inspector Harrison stated that the girl was not yet out of danger."

#### County Advertiser 17/5/1879

“Dudley County Court.....

Mary Ann Moore, by her next friend, Abraham Moore, her father, sued *George Duckhouse*, publican, Oldbury, for £50, as damages for permanent injuries. Mr. Stokes was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Wright for the defendant.

Mr. Stokes stated that on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December the defendant, who was very drunk, ran over the girl as she was crossing the road at Dudley Port. The girl was injured on the neck and back, her eye was disfigured, and she had lost control of the nerves affecting it. Evidence was called in support of this, and it was shown that the defendant had been fined for the drunkenness, and that after he ran over the girl he appeared to have no knowledge of the occurrence.

Defendant’s solicitor admitted the legal liability of *Duckhouse*, and this shortened the case.

Mr. Messiter, surgeon, described the injury to the eye as permanent, and said the twitching movement was likely to continue.

Mr. M. S. Allen agreed with the evidence of the last witness.

Mr. Wright addressed the Court in mitigation of damages, and said that his client threw himself on the Court entirely, and this was shown by his admission and his regret. The girl was one of a number playing in the road, and she was run over before the defendant could pull up.

Dr. A. Underhill was then called, and said the scars would be permanent, but there was no permanent injury to the child’s health or eyesight.

After a further examination of the girl by all the surgeons engaged Dr. Underhill modified his opinion a little.

The Judge, in summing up, said the medical evidence was strongly in favour of the permanency of the injury, and he gave a verdict for the full amount – £10 to the father, and the balance to be invested in the name of the girl in the Post Office Savings Bank.

After the case was over, the Judge intimated that if Mr. Stokes and Mr. Wright could agree upon a surgeon, and it was not permanent, it might be made the ground of an application to reduce the damages.”

#### 1881 Census

2, Birmingham Street – OLD TALBOT

- [1] *George Duckhouse* (63), widower, publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *George Duckhouse* (29), son, publican, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Mary Jane Duckhouse* (28), daughter-in-law, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Florence Duckhouse* (8), grand-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Ellen E. Duckhouse* (6), grand-daughter, scholar, born Warwickshire;
- [6] *Sarah L. Duckhouse* (4), grand-daughter, scholar, born Warwickshire;
- [7] *Alice Duckhouse* (2), grand-daughter, born Warwickshire:

*George Duckhouse* issued tokens from here.

*George Duckhouse* – see also CHEMICAL INN, Seven Stars Road.

#### Smethwick Telephone 12/9/1885

“Benjamin Morris (43), Blackheath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and refusing to quit the OLD TALBOT INN, Market Place, on the 31<sup>st</sup> March last.

*Samuel Hartshorne*, the landlord of the house, said the defendant was very drunk in his house and made use of obscene language. He refused to leave and had to be ejected.

In defence, the defendant, who admitted being drunk, urged that he was locked up on the night in question, and had already undergone 14 days’ imprisonment for drunkenness.

Fined 10s and costs.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 4/2/1887

“On Wednesday night a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. *Hartshorne*, landlord of the OLD TALBOT INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Police-constable Buggins, who was on duty in Birmingham Street about midnight, noticed that the floor in the front liquor shop was on fire. He immediately raised an alarm, and

in a short time the flames were extinguished. It is supposed that the fire originated through a spark igniting some sawdust which was strewn on the floor. Fortunately very little damage was done.”

#### Birmingham Mail 15/1/1891

“A numerously attended meeting of temperance workers was held in Chance’s Schools, Oldbury, last night, to consider what action should be taken to counteract any influence that might have been excited by the deputation from the Licensed Victuallers’ Association at the last meeting of the Local Board, when that body was asked to rescind their decision to adopt Section 4 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, which provides for the regulation of music and dancing in public houses.

The Rev. H. McKean said the object of the Local Board was to regulate the music in public houses, and not to stop it, and to see that the music in licensed houses was not of evil tendency. As he walked about the town he was horrified to notice cards in the windows of public houses stating that sacred music was supplied on Sundays.....

Last evening at a meeting of the Licensed Victuallers’ Association, held at the OLD TALBOT HOTEL, a discussion arose with reference to the action of the Local Board, and the secretary was authorised to distribute copies of an appeal to join the association amongst the publicans in the district.....”

#### 1891 Census

4, Birmingham Street – OLD TALBOT

[1] *William Marigold* (43), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;

[2] *Julia Marigold* (41), wife, born Bridgnorth;

[3] *Florence Marigold* (8), daughter, born Oldbury:

*William Marigold* was a trustee of the Oldbury Licensed Victuallers Association. [1894/5]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1895

“An inquest was held on Saturday, before Mr. A. H. Hibbert (deputy coroner), at the OLD TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, respecting the death of Charlotte Brown, aged fourteen years, whose parents reside in Market Street, Oldbury, who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near Bromford Lane, Oldbury, on Thursday last.

The mother of the deceased stated that the girl had lived with a relation at Swansea, and recently that relation died. She had of late appeared to be rather strange in her manner, and last week she talked a good deal about that relative.

Elizabeth Brown, sister of the deceased, said the latter told her to tell her mother that she would find her body in the Birmingham Canal under the Cross Guns Bridge. She kissed witness and asked her not to be afraid, adding that she should soon be with her uncle in heaven.

William Carter, of Kates Hill, Dudley, said about seven o’clock on Thursday morning a boy informed him that someone was in the canal near the Bromford Lane Bridge. Witness went to the place indicated, and heard a splashing in the water. It was very foggy and dark at the time, but he could hear the struggling in the water. He obtained some piece of wood, with which he tried to reach the object in the water, he being at that time under the impression that it was a dog. At length he heard the scream of a human being, and then all was quiet. The police were informed of the occurrence.

Police-sergeant Higgins deposed to finding the body in the middle of the canal, near the Cross Guns Bridge, and he conveyed it to the mortuary.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased Committed Suicide whilst in an Unsound State of Mind.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 5/5/1900

“On Tuesday morning an inquest was held at the OLD TALBOT INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, by Mr. E. Docker (coroner), concerning the death of Louisa Smith (63), the wife of Joseph Smith, formerly living at Hirons Lodging House, Church Street, Oldbury, which took place on Saturday. Emma Hirons, the keeper of the lodging house, stated that deceased and her husband, who was a traveling umbrella and chair mender, had lodged with her for the last nine months, and she had known them for twenty years past. Deceased was

very much addicted to drink, and so was her husband, and during the last week she had been drinking more heavily than usual ..... deceased had fallen downstairs ..... The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

AND

Smethwick Telephone 5/5/1900

“.....on Friday morning she was found lying unconscious at the bottom of the stairs. Her husband came down and assisted to lift her up, but afterwards disappeared, and no trace could be found of his whereabouts. Dr. Lyddon said death was due to apoplexy, accelerated by drink, and a verdict was returned to that effect.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/12/1900 - Advert

“During Christmas Time Don't Forget Old *Bill Marigold*, OLD TALBOT, Market Place, Oldbury.

Butler's Famous Ales (Springfield, Wolverhampton).

Hennessey's and Martell's Brandy.

Noted Brands of Whiskies; Uam-Var, a famous Scotch; John Dewar (Perth); John Walker, and Rhoderick Dhu.

Irish Whiskies, Dunville, Irishargy, &c.

Cigars of the Finest Quality.”

1901 Census

4, Birmingham Street

[1] *William Marigold* (53), licensed victualler, born Oaken, Staffordshire;

[2] *Julia Marigold* (49), wife, born Arley, Shropshire;

[3] *Florrie Marigold* (18), daughter, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/1/1908

“Hector Henry Richards (50), of no fixed abode, was at Oldbury Police Court yesterday charged with being drunk and disorderly and assaulting Richard Beddow, employed at the OLD TALBOT INN, Market Place, Oldbury, on Friday, January 24.

Sergeant Stanley said that the defendant was ejected from the premises because of his drunken condition. It was alleged that while being put out the defendant struck Beddow.

In reply to Mr. A. M. Chance, chairman, the officer stated that he was informed that the prisoner had not been supplied in the house.

Prisoner, when interrogated, said he had half a pint of ale there.

Mr. Chance said the evidence was not satisfactory. The officer should have definitely ascertained whether or not the man was served there, so that if there was any blame upon the landlord they could deal with him.

There were hundreds of drunken men convicted every year, and they never found out who supplied them.

The Bench wanted the police to use more common-sense, and be sure of their facts and evidence.

Superintendent Hill pointed out that it was very difficult for the police to obtain evidence in such cases.

They could hardly expect publicans to incriminate themselves. They had more difficulty with strangers that came into the town than with their own townsmen.

The Bench imposed a fine of £1 0s 6d, or fourteen days in default.”

1911 Census

4, Birmingham Street – OLD TALBOT INN

[1] *Nellie Garbett* (38), married, manageress, licensed house, born Blackpool;

[2] *Blanche Garbett* (15), daughter, student, born Birmingham;

[3] *Emily Bussell* (26), bar waitress, born Birmingham;

[4] *Fanny Tipper* (21), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Henry Edward Wright* – see also JUNCTION.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/7/1938

“The Clubman's Diary.....

About a month ago I mentioned that my old friend Jack Judge, the composer of 'Tipperary,' was ailing. Yesterday I received the sad news that he was dead.

For some time he had been suffering from a ravaging disease for which there was no cure, but until a week or two ago he had maintained excellent spirits, and each day he called at his favourite rendezvous, the OLD TALBOT, at Oldbury.

Although Jack was never a serving soldier, I should imagine that efforts will be made to accord him a military funeral. Soldiers all over the world sang his famous song – it was their battle anthem. His contribution to the fighting spirit of the boys deserves some recognition.”

#### Birmingham Mail 11/5/1939 - Advert

“Bar General, at once, good home, good wages, 18 to 30.  
Mrs. *Comley*, OLD TALBOT, Oldbury.”

#### 1939 Register

4, Birmingham Street (3 of 5)

[1] *Adeline L. (Comley) Naylor*, date of birth 30/7/1898, public house manageress, widowed;

[3] John E. Comley, dob 28/11/1922, office clerk, single;

[4] Marjorie (Jukes) Murray, dob 24/11/1922, bar general, single;

#### Birmingham Mail 17/2/1941 - Engagements

“The engagement is announced, February 11, between H. Hayward, Esq, of City Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, and Mrs. *A. L. Comley*, OLD TALBOT INN, Oldbury.”

#### Evening Despatch 14/12/1944

“Oldbury appears to have produced another song writing genius in 23-year-old Bert *Comley*, but the extraordinary thing is that while he composes the most tuneful music and also writes the words for all his songs, he has never had a music lesson in his life. This gifted young man, who is a metallurgist in charge of a laboratory at a Halesowen works, resides at the OLD TALBOT, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, of which his widowed mother is licensee. He has just finished his third show, organised by the YPF, in aid of the funds of Oldbury Parish Church and his song writing achievements have made him one of the most talked-of young men in the town.....

In an endeavour to ascertain if there was any explanation for young *Comley*'s unique gifts, I learned that his father was an accomplished pianist and banjoist, and that his mother came from a family which at one time was well known on the music halls. She and her sister (they were known as Addie and Doris Skipp) were dancers of repute and performed in most of the world's capitals and leading cities. His mother was with the original troupe which included Wee Georgie Wood and Stan Laurel. She told me that one of her ancestors, the Rev. John Skipp, was a Bishop of Hereford, and he was known as a brilliant musician.

It would seem that once Bert *Comley* can get a 'break' he is likely to make a name for himself in song writing. He paid a tribute to Mr. 'Sam' Johnson, organist of the Regent Cinema, Dudley, who has helped him to get his melodies on to paper, and also to Mr. Herbert Page, the verger at the Parish Church.”

*Adeline Lilla Comley* married James W. Naylor in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1946 at Kidderminster.

*Frank Alfred Pratley* – see also DOG AND PHEASANT.

It closed at 10pm on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1960.

It was demolished c.1980

## OLD THATCHED COTTAGE

Langley Green, OLDBURY



## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

Thomas Lowe [1851] – 1869);  
Thomas Stanley (1869 – [1871])

## NOTES

*Thomas Lowe*, retailer of beer, Langley Green. [1851]

### Worcestershire Chronicle 22/9/1852

“Oldbury Petty Sessions.....

*Thomas Lowe*, beerhouse keeper, was fined 20s and costs, for having his house open during the hours of divine service, on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> August.”

*Thomas Lowe*, beer retailer, OLD THATCHED COTTAGE, The Green. Langley. [1855]

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/11/1870

“A match has been made between W. Nicholls and R. Bennett (both of Langley) to run 120 yards, for £5 a side. £1 a side is now in the hands of Mr. Stedmore of Langley, who is final stakeholder, and they are to run on Nov 28. Mr. Nuttall is referee.”

AND

“A match has been made between W. Nicholls of Langley, and W. Baker of Blackheath to run 120 yards, for £10 a side, Nicholls to have two yards start, on Dec 5. £1 a side is now in the hands of Mr. Wright of Langley, who is final stakeholder, and Mr. Nuttall referee.”

AND

“Young Nicholls of Langley will run G. Whitehouse of Great Bridge 100 or 120 yards, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready any time at the THATCH COTTAGE, Langley, win or lose with Bennet and Baker.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/11/1871

“W. Nicholls (late of Tipton) will run Boucher of Westbromwich 100 yards, for £15 or £20 a side. Nicholls is surprised at Taylor of Oldbury asking for a start. If Taylor wants a match Nicholls will run him 100 yards, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Stanley*'s, THATCHED COTTAGE INN, Langley.”

Closed

## OLDE BULLS HEAD, YE

18, (9), (10), Birmingham Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Edward Cheshire (leased [ ] – 1811)  
John Cheshire (leased 1811 – [ ])  
John W. Johnson, Brades, Oldbury

Frederick Thompson, Langley, Oldbury  
J. A. and A. Thompson, maltsters, Oldbury  
Thomas Bedworth [1900]  
Mary Bedworth, Birmingham Street, Oldbury  
Nathaniel Sadler, Rounds Green, Oldbury (acquired in 1904)  
Thomas Alexander Sadler, brewer, Dingle Street, Rounds Green, Oldbury  
Grigg and Brettell Ltd. (acquired on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1927)  
Holt Brewery Co. Ltd.  
Ansells Ltd.  
Calco Pubs Ltd. [2012]

## LICENSEES

Edward Cheshire **(1793 – [ ])**  
Richard Duce [1829]  
William Brookes [1841] – [1859]  
Joseph Brookes [1861]  
John William Johnson [1862] – **1868**);  
Charles Thomas **(1868 – [1873])**  
John William Johnson [1870]  
John Baker [1880]  
William Edmund Sankey [1882]  
Walter Enoch Middleton [1884] – **1886**);  
George Jerrams **(1886 – 1887)**);  
Charles Humphries **(1887)**);  
Henry Walton **(1887 – 1894)**);  
Mrs. Catherine Baker **(1894 – 1895)**);  
Thomas ‘Tom’ Smith **(1895 – 1898)**);  
Thomas Bedworth **(1898 – 1904)**);  
Nathaniel Sadler **(1904 – 1910)**);  
Thomas Jones [1908] manager?  
Growcott [1909] manager?  
John Thomas Iddles **(1910 – 1911)**);  
James Silvester **(1911)**);  
John Taggart **(1911 – 1913)**); manager  
Thomas Septimus Stevens **(1913 – 1921)**);  
Edwin Nutt **(1921 – 1922)**);  
Jonah Debney **(1922)**);  
Edmund John Hickin **(1922 – 1924)**);  
John Berry **(1924 – 1930)**);  
Arthur Harvey **(1930 – 1944)**); manager  
Charles Stephen Eccles **(1944 – 1950)**);  
Percy Thomas Brindley **(1950)**);  
Douglas Stanley Robertson **(1950 – 1952)**);  
Albert Smith **(1952 – 1953)**);  
Albert William Henson **(1953 – 1955)**);  
Clifford Ambrose Slater **(1955 – 1956)**);  
Arthur Pennington **(1956 – 1957)**);  
Gilbert William Underwood **(1957 – 1961)**);  
Samuel Hinett **(1961 – [1962])**  
Billy Lowe [ ]  
Frank William Moore [1983] – **1986**)

John D Dooley (1998 – [2003]  
Paul A Warwick [2009] – [2012]

## NOTES

10, Birmingham Street [1871], [1873]

9, Birmingham Street [1881], [1888]

18, Birmingham Street [1891], [1892], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939], [1998]

It was originally the BULLS HEAD.

There was a malthouse at the rear.

*Edward Cheshire*, hinge maker of Oldbury, entered into an indenture to lease land in Oldbury, from Thomas Willetts, on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1793, on which he built the pub. It was given the name BULLS HEAD in 1803. He transferred the lease to his son, John, in 1811.

*Edward Cheshire* was also a maltster. [1818]

### Worcester Journal 13/1/1825 - Married

“At Wednesbury, Mr. *Richard Duce*, of London, to Miss Mary Cheshire, of Oldbury.”

Mary Cheshire was the daughter of John.

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/9/1825

“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, Waggons, 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.....

Catalogues will be ready a week prior to the sale, and may be had at ..... the BULLS HEAD, Oldbury.....”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/6/1829 - Advert

“Votes for Staffordshire. Freehold Houses and Premises.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Round, on Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July next, at the BULLS HEAD, in Oldbury, in the county of Salop, in such lots and subject to conditions as will be then and there produced. All those nine Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with the Out-offices and Appurtenances to the dame belonging.....”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/11/1837 - Advert

“Votes for East Worcestershire and South Staffordshire

Valuable Freehold Properties at Smethwick, Dudley and Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. Fallows, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury, on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> day of December next, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

*William Brookes* = William Brooks

*William Brookes* married Mary Duce on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1834.

### 1841 Census

Birmingham Street

[1] *William Brookes* (45), publican;

- [2] Mary Brookes (35);
- [3] Joseph Brookes (1);
- [4] Richard Duce (15);
- [5] Precilla Duce (11);
- [6] George Thompson (20), ms;
- [7] Phebe Parkes (15), fs;
- [8] Maria Skiden (15), fs:

*William Brookes* was also a pawnbroker. [1845]

Birmingham Journal 18/10/1845

“An inquest was held on Saturday last, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, at the BULLS HEAD, Oldbury, on the body of Charles Godfrey, a barber, who was found lying dead in his bed-room on that morning. From the evidence of John Hadley, a neighbour, who resided next door, it appeared that the deceased was very much addicted to drinking, and had for some days previously complained of illness. Not making his appearance as usual on Friday, Hadley went into his house about one o’clock, and on going up stairs, found him lying on the floor quite dead and cold. He was dressed, but whether he had fallen down dead the night before, or in the morning when he got up, there was no means of ascertaining, as he had no bed, and slept on the floor. He appears to have led a wretched life, muddling in drink from morning till night. He seemed to have had some presentiment of his end, as he told a person at the BULLS HEAD on Thursday, where he went to take his drop, as usual, that ‘he feared he would not get over it.’

Mr. Cooper, surgeon, who had attended the deceased about three months, said the unfortunate man was suffering from determination of blood to the head, and that his habitual drinking accelerated the disease, which terminated in apoplexy.

There being no marks of violence on the body, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 2/2/1850 - Advert

“Worcestershire. Clay Mine, Brick Yard, and Plant, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright (by direction of the Mortgagee, with power of sale), at the BULLS HEAD INN, in Oldbury, on Friday Next, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February instant, at Four o’clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions as will then be read.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1850

“An inquest was held at Mr. *Brooks*’s, BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury, on Saturday, on the body of Michael Nary, aged 27, who had been killed almost instantaneously by a fall of coal in a pit near Bromford Lane, belonging to Captain Bennitt. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1851 Census

Birmingham Street

- [1] *William Brookes* (55), victualler and farmer of 18 acres employing 1 man;
- [2] Mary Brookes (46), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] William Brookes (16), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] Catharine Brockwell (20), general servant, born Dudley;
- [5] Mary Shaw (21), general servant, born Oldbury;
- [6] George Thompson (32), servant, born Harborne;
- [7] Harriet Hartill (27), servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Journal 3/10/1857

“A man named Charles Rogers, of Rounds Green, a collier, about twenty-five years old, is now in custody at the Oldbury Police Station on suspicion of having caused the death of George Rogers, also a collier, who was about forty years of age, and the prisoner’s uncle. It would seem that on Saturday night, the 15<sup>th</sup> of August last, the parties were drinking at the BULLS HEAD public house, Oldbury, kept by Mr. *W. Brooks*, and that about eleven o’clock they had a quarrel, which terminated in blows, the deceased fell upon some

flagstones near the door, and was taken up insensible, in which state he remained for a short time. He afterwards found it necessary to consult Mr. Beatty, surgeon, who found several injuries on the head. He continued ill until Wednesday last, when he expired, it is presumed, from the effects of the blows. Hearing of what occurred. Police-constable Tilsley apprehended the prisoner on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, and the case of assault was heard by the Oldbury Magistrates on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> instant, when George Rogers appeared. It was then proved that the deceased was the aggressor, and the case was dismissed. But in consequence of the man's death Tilsley again apprehended the prisoner on last Wednesday night. A Coroner's inquest will be held on the body."

AND

Birmingham Journal 7/10/1857

"An inquest was held on Friday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst, at the house of Mr. Edward Perrins, the WAGGON AND HORSES, before W. Hayes, Esq, Deputy Coroner, on the body of a man named George Rogers, who died a few days previously, as alleged, from the effects of blows he received in a fight with his nephew, Charles Rogers, on a Saturday night in August. Charles Rogers was in custody on the charge of manslaughter. The evidence, however, showed that the prisoner had not acted in such a way as to warrant a verdict of manslaughter; and although it was clear that the deceased died from the effects of injuries he had sustained by a fall, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Brierley Hill Advertiser 24/4/1858

"Sale at Mr. *Brookes's*, the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday Next, April 26<sup>th</sup> 1858, a large quantity of Wearing Apparel....."

Birmingham Journal 14/5/1859 - Died

"On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, Mrs. *William Brookes*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury, in the 55<sup>th</sup> year of her age."

Birmingham Journal 19/11/1859 - Advert

"Worcestershire. Freehold Houses, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday Next, the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, at the house of Mr. *W. Brookes*, the BULLS HEAD INN, at Oldbury, at Six o'clock in the evening....."

Birmingham Journal 31/3/1860 - Advert

"Oldbury, Worcestershire. Leasehold Blue and Red Brick Yard, called The Coppice, Titford, near Oldbury. To be Sold, by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1860, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read (by order of the Trustees under the will of the late Mr. *William Brooks*).

All that well-arranged Brick Yard as above-mentioned, with the Plant and Erections thereon; consisting of a 16-horse high-pressure Steam Engine and Boiler, with the Gearing, Shafting, Pug Mill, Rolls, and hot-air Stove complete, and brick-built and slated Engine-house and Office adjoining the same; five large Brick-kilns, excellent slated Drying Stove, 108 feet long, 52 feet wide, capable of drying 12,000 bricks per day; Hot Stuff Stove, 59 feet long, 20 feet wide, brick-built and slated roof, with Blacksmiths Shop adjoining same.

The above Brick Yard is capable of making 60,000 bricks per week, besides Cress-tiles, Quarries, Paving Bricks, Barn Floors, Soft Bricks, and Garden Tiles; and has a Wharfage of two boats' length to the Titford Canal.

The Property is held for a term, of which two years were unexpired at Lady-day, 1860; with a right of renewal by the Lessees, if not fully worked out, for the term of three years.

The area of Land comprised in the lease was 1A 3R 10P, but the greater part of the Clay has been worked, and the Brick Yard is now in good working order and condition.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Joseph Brooks, Oldbury; Messrs. Coldicott and Canning, Solicitors, Dudley; or the Auctioneer, Brierly Hill."

*Joseph Brookes* = Joseph Brooks

### 1861 Census

Birmingham Street – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Joseph Brookes* (29), unmarried, publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Brooks* (23), sister, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Emma Whitehouse* (23), housemaid, born Greet's Green;
- [4] *Elizabeth Parks* (16), servant, born Oldbury:

### Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/1/1862 - Marriages

“On the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, at Oldbury Church, by the Rev. H. B. Bowlby, Mr. *John William Johnson*, of The Brades, to Mary, the surviving daughter of the late Mr. *William Brookes*, of Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 23/9/1864 - Advert

“To be Sold, Cheap, Three Counters, fitted with Drawers, Shelving, and Fixtures, suitable for a Draper or Hosier.  
Apply at the BULLS HEAD, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 2/9/1865 - Advert

“Brades Village, Oldbury. Valuable Freehold Property.  
To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. S. Parkes, at the house of Mr. *John Johnson*, the BULLS HEAD INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, on Monday, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September.....”

*John William Johnson* issued tokens from here.  
He was also a boat builder. [1870]

### 1871 Census

10, Birmingham Street – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Charles Thomas* (34), victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Selina Thomas* (32), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Sarah E. Thomas* (12), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *John Owen Thomas* (6), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Sarah Ann Plant* (23), general servant, born Oldbury:

### 1881 Census

9, Birmingham Street – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Pamber Baker* (45), married, publican's wife, born Worcestershire;
- [2] *William Baker* (16), son, fitter, born Worcestershire;
- [3] *Ellen Baker* (16), daughter, born Worcestershire;
- [4] *Elizabeth Bishop* (21), barmaid, born Worcestershire:

### Birmingham Daily Post 9/1/1882 -Advert

“Girl. Wanted, a strong active Girl, a plain cook and who can wait at table. From the country preferred. Used to public-house work. Good character.  
Apply, BULLS HEAD, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 21/11/1882

“Mr. *Edmund Sankey*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, Birmingham Street, was charged with keeping his house open during illegal hours on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst.

Police-sergeant Cope said on the night in question he was passing the defendant's premises about 11.40, when he saw a man coming from the back premises with a jar containing three quarts of ale. In reply to witness, the man said it was paid for before closing time by a Mr. Morgan, who lodged with defendant. Witness spoke to the landlord about it, when he said the ale was paid for at nine o'clock.

Mr. Shakespeare, who appeared for the defence, contended that the sale was effected to Morgan before the closing time, and that the transaction after eleven o'clock was not with the publican (his client), but with the

man Morgan, who purchased the ale.

Mr. Avery, presiding magistrate, said the Bench were of opinion that the delivery of the ale after eleven o'clock was an illegal transaction, and quite contrary to the statute.

Defendant was fined 10s and costs."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/8/1883

"A petition for liquidation was filed in the Oldbury County Court yesterday by *William Edmund Sankey*, residing in furnished lodgings at No.1, Dudley Road, Brades Village, Oldbury, out of business, formerly of the BULLS HEAD INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, licensed victualler, with liabilities estimated at £600."

#### London Gazette 18/9/1883

"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 *William Edmund Sankey*, residing in furnished lodging at No.1, Dudley-road, Brades Village, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, out of business, formerly of the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury aforesaid, 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. William Shakespeare, 51, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 1883, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1883.

William Shakespeare, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Solicitor for the said Debtor."

#### Birmingham Mail 27/8/1883

"The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held this afternoon at the Police Court.....

Police Superintendent Hardman presented his report.....

Since the last meeting 12 licensed persons had been summoned and convicted for offences against their licenses ..... *William E. Sankey*.....

The Bench decided that all the applications for renewals made by those prisoners who had been convicted during the year should be postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, with the exception of two whose conviction took place on licensing day last year and who were then called up and cautioned. The persons whose renewals were refused would be required to attend and show reasons why their licenses should be renewed."

#### Birmingham Mail 24/9/1883

"Today the adjourned Licensing Session for the Oldbury Division was held at the Court House.....

The persons whose names were included in the 'black list' presented by the superintendent of police at the annual meeting, and whose applications for renewals were consequently postponed, were called before the Bench to show cause why their licenses should be renewed.....

The license held by ..... *William E. Sankey*, formerly of the BULLS HEAD INN ..... were all renewed, the applicants being cautioned by the presiding magistrate as to their future conduct."

#### Smethwick Telephone 23/2/1884

"Oldbury Police Court. Priscilla Little fined 10s and costs, or 14 days hard labour for being drunk and disorderly on the premises of *W. E. Middleton*, BULLS HEAD on 6<sup>th</sup> February."

#### 1891 Census

18, Birmingham Street – BULLS HEAD

[1] *Henry Walton* (53), general labourer, born Burslem;

[2] *Phoebe Walton* (49), wife, born Brockmoor;

[3] *James Walton* (18), son, general labourer, born Tividale;

[4] *Isaac Walton* (16), son, general labourer, born Tividale;

[5] *Thomas Walton* (14), son, born Tividale;

[6] *Phoebe Walton* (13), daughter, scholar, born Tividale;

[7] Harry Walton (10), son, scholar, born Tipton;  
[8] Frank Walton (8), son, scholar, born Tividale:

Huddersfield Daily Chronicle 28/3/1894

“The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890. Receiving Orders. ....

*Henry Walton*, BULLS HEAD INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, publican and cinder burner.”

[The dividend was 5s in the £.]

*Henry Walton* – see also NOAHS ARK, Tipton.

At the Annual Licensing Sessions held in 1895, the police objected to the renewal of *Catherine Baker's* license, on the grounds that she was fined £5 and costs for permitting betting on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Gloucester Journal 27/6/1896

“*Thomas Smith*, a married man, and landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury, was summoned by Elizabeth Strange to show cause, &c.

Mr. Frank Treasure (for Mr. Langley-Smith) appeared for the complainant, who is a single woman living in Gloucester, and formerly at Whitminster. The child was born in July, 1892, and defendant had made intermittent payments to the mother.

An order was now made on defendant to pay 2s 6d a week until the child should reach the age of 14 years, and to pay costs.”

An application was made to rebuild the premises.

This was granted in August 1898.

The new building opened in 1900.

Dudley Herald 10/9/1898

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Oldbury, were held on Tuesday. ....

Mr. J. S. Sharpe applied on behalf of *Thomas Bedworth*, for permission to make structural alterations to the BULLS HEAD INN, Birmingham Street. Some of the magistrates had visited these premises, and the Bench were prepared to approve the plans subject to one or two alterations.

There was another condition which would apply to all the plans the magistrates had sanctioned, which was that their consent to alterations was only to remain in force until the next Licensing Sessions, so that if the alterations were not carried out before that time the approval of the plans would be void and could not be acted upon.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 7/1/1899

“On Tuesday, at Oldbury, before Messrs. G. Heaton, T. Lavender, and E. Danks, *Thomas Bedworth*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, was summoned for selling a quantity of gin not of the nature and quality demanded, it being alleged that it was two degrees under the proof allowed by law.

Mr. Tyler (Birmingham) defended.

Mr. Cecil Cooke Duncan, Public Analyst for Worcestershire, said he was unable to give the exact percentages of water and alcohol, with the quantity of added water, as the same was insufficient for that purpose.

Mr. Tyler said his client had come to answer the charge on its merits. He (defendant) had tested the sample with a hydrometer, and also caused the sample to be analysed by Dr. Alfred Bostock Hill, Public Analyst for the county of Warwick. His report was that the gin was 33-45 degrees under proof, and was, therefore, over the minimum standard of proof required by law. He (Mr. Tyler) submitted that Mr. Duncan's certificate should have given the percentages of water and spirit, and therefore he contended that there was no case, as the certificate did not comply with the requirements.

Mr. Heaton said the Bench had no alternative but to dismiss the case, as they considered the certificate was insufficient, and the evidence in support of it was also insufficient.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1899



“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Division were held at the Court House, Oldbury yesterday.....

Mr. Sharpe supported applications by ..... *Thomas Bedworth*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, Birmingham Street, for sanction to certain alterations.....

Several other applications for alteration of premises were made .... The whole of the applications for approval of alterations were postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, to enable the magistrates to inspect the houses.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1899

“Yesterday, the adjourned licensing sessions for the Oldbury Division were held at the Court House, the magistrates present being Messrs. G. Heaton, A. M. Chance, T. Lavender, and H. Heaton. A long time was occupied in the consideration of applications for sanction to make alterations in licensed premises..... After deliberating in private, Mr. Heaton said the license of the WHITE HORSE would be granted ..... and the Bench wished it to be understood that in future alterations of licensed premises should not be made without plans being submitted and proper sanction of the justices being obtained. The other licenses were renewed, and the applications for alterations were approved, with the exception of the case of the WHY NOT INN, which was refused.”

#### County Advertiser 18/8/1900

“*Thomas Bedford* [sic], BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury, applied for a license to sell intoxicating liquors in a field at Old Hill, on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of August, the occasion of the flower show and sports, from 12am to 10pm. The license was granted.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 18/8/1900 - Advert

“BULLS HEAD, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Mr. *T. Bedworth*, Proprietor.

Having Re-built the above with every Up-to-date requirement, the Proprietor begs to announce that the Premises Are Now Open.

His Home-Brewed Ales Are Noted For Purity.

Give him a call and you will come again.”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 12/1/1901 - Advert

“BULLS HEAD, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Mr. *T. Bedworth*, Proprietor.

His Home-Brewed Ales Are Noted For Purity.

Special attention given to the Choice Of Spirits, Wines, Etc.

Give him a call and you will come again.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 19/1/1901

“On Thursday evening, Mr. J. French, gave an oyster supper to the Oldbury Town football team at Mr. *Bedworth's* BULLS HEAD, when the players and committee (numbering 24) sat down to an excellent fish repast.....”

#### 1901 Census

18, Birmingham Street

[1] *Thomas Bedworth* (58), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary Bedworth* (58), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Mary Bailey* (35), daughter, born Blackheath;

[4] *William Henry Bailey* (37), son-in-law, brewer, born Harborne;

[5] *Winnifred May Bailey* (2), grand-daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] *Muriel Bailey* (1), grand-daughter, born Oldbury;

[7] *Elizabeth Taylor* (14), niece, nurse, born Birmingham;

[8] *Eliza Bennett* (23), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 8/6/1901

“Mr. H. Harper (builder) and Mr. T. Merryfield (architect) gave a supper to the workmen engaged on re-building the BULLS HEAD, and 44 sat down to a splendid repast.

After the usual loyal toasts, Mr. Merryfield proposed the toast of ‘Success to the proprietor and proprietress,’ which was suitably responded to by Mr. Bailey, on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. *Bedworth*. Harmony was afterwards indulged in till closing time. At the conclusion Mr. Bailey paid a very high compliment to both the builder and architect on the manner in which the work had been executed.”

A team from here took part in the Langley and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

*Thomas Bedworth* – see also ASH TREE, Tividale.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/12/1908

“George Bettany (50), labourer, of no fixed abode, a native of Langley, was at Oldbury Police Court yesterday sent to prison for 14 days for stealing a glass valued at 4d, the property of *Thomas Jones*, the licensee of the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury, on December 15.”

*Thomas Jones* was born on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1872 in Aspull, near Wigan, Lancashire.

He was the son of Robert Jones (brick setter / furnace builder) and Phoebe Charlton.

He married Mary Ann Chambers on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1902 at Harborne Parish Church.

See also ALBION, CROSSWELLS and WHITE SWAN.

He died in 1925.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/2/1909

“Considerable alarm was caused in West Bromwich yesterday by a runaway horse. The animal, which belongs to Mr. *Growcott*, of the BULLS HEAD, Oldbury, was attached to a trap, and was left standing in High Street, Hill Top. In some way the horse was startled, and, taking fright dashed off at full speed in the direction of West Bromwich. It had not proceeded far when the trap swung into collision with a tram-pole in the centre of the road. Both shafts were broken, and the vehicle was considerably damaged. The force of the impact smashed the harness, and the horse continued its career, minus the trap, for another mile and a half, until it reached the middle of High Street, West Bromwich. Here it ran into a horse and wagon belonging to Homes and Co., size manufacturers, of Oldbury, which stopped its further career. Both horses were knocked down, and the runaway was secured. Though much excitement was caused no one was injured.”

*John Thomas Iddles* – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR.

#### 1911 Census

18, Birmingham Street – BULLS HEAD INN

[1] *John Taggart* (40), licensed victualler, manager, born Belfast;

[2] *Elizabeth Taggart* (33), wife, married 15 years, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Gladys Taggart* (14), daughter, born Walsall:

*John Taggart* – see also WAGGON AND HORSES.

#### Birmingham Mail 29/4/1916

“Intimation has been received from the Royal Humane Society that the society’s life-saving certificate has been awarded Mr. *Thomas S. Stevens*, licensee of YE OLDE BULLS HEAD, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, for the rescue of a boy named James Walton, Park Lane, Oldbury, from drowning in the canal. In a heavy snowstorm the boy was caught by a tow-rope and dragged under a barge in the canal near Sandwell Park Colliery, but *Stevens* plunged in and succeeded in effecting a rescue, the boy being unconscious when dragged out of the icy water.”

*Edward John Hickin* was in occupation at the time of the Licensing meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1922.

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Central Darts League. [1939]

### 1939 Register

18, Birmingham Street

[1] *Arthur Harvey*, date of birth 12/8/1888, public house manager, married;

[2] *Martha Harvey*, dob 12/4/1886, housewife, married:

A plan for the erection of new lavatory accommodation at the rear of the premises was approved on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1955.

### Sandwell Evening Mail 23/4/1986 - Deaths

“*Frank William Moore*, aged 58 years of the BULLS HEAD, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, passed away April 22, 1986, beloved husband of Moreen and dear father of Gary. Funeral to take place on Monday, April 28, at 3.30pm, at West Bromwich Crematorium. Sadly missed.”

### Black Country Bugle 24/12/1998 - Advert

“YE BULLS HEAD, 18 Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Now Under New Management.

Wendy, Tony and Staff wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Come and enjoy a friendly relating atmosphere – at the oldest pub site in Oldbury.

Now undergoing Major Refurbishment to be ready for Christmas and the New Year.

Traditional Banks’s and Bass Beers served here also bottled beers, cider and light drinks with a varied selection of spirits.

Spirits – All doubles only £1.70

Carling – Pint only £1. 60

Banks’s Bitter – Pint only £1.40

Hot and Cold Food served daily 12-2pm, 6-8pm

When the major refurbishment has taken place beginning mid-January through to March, Full Dining Facilities will be available. Bed and Breakfast will also be available from March 1999.”

### Dudley News 30/9/2011

“A drunken man was stopped by police from inflicting a deadly revenge attack on an Oldbury pub which he planned to set on fire, along with the people inside. Kevin Gutteridge was carrying a can of petrol and smoking a lighted cigarette when police saw him approaching the door of the OLD BULLS HEAD pub, Birmingham Street. The 42-year-old told them he was going to set the pub and all those inside it on fire, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Gutteridge said he had been ejected from the premises after an argument and claimed the door staff had given him a ‘good hiding.’ The unemployed construction worker said he was going to burn the pub down out of revenge, said Edward Soulsby, prosecuting. He said it was clear Gutteridge was equipped to carry out the threat and a concerned taxi driver who dropped him off had also contacted police about his threats to burn the pub down.

Gutteridge, now living in Willenhall Road, Wolverhampton, admitted possessing petrol with intent to commit arson.

Sentencing was deferred for six months to give him chance to complete a rehabilitation programme or face being sent to jail.

Jon Roe, defending, said Gutteridge had not been thinking straight at the time after drinking heavily, but was now taking steps to deal with his alcohol problem.”

[2012]

It closed in 2013.

*Samantha Angela Jones*, 10 Grace Road, Tividale, unemployed, lately residing at 16 Greenhill Road, Dudley, and lately carrying on business as the GEORGE, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, the BULLS HEAD,

Birmingham Street, Oldbury, the OAK AND IVY, Oxford Street, Bilston, the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Sandwell Street, Walsall, the PRINCE BLUTCHER, Stafford Street, Walsall, the ROYAL OAK, Daw End Lane, Rushall, and the SPRING MEADOW, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, filed for bankruptcy in the County Court at Dudley on 1 March 2016.

It was converted into an estate agents. [2016], [2021]

## **OXFORD TAVERN**

Trinity Street, Tat Bank, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

Sarah White [1861] – [1865]

### NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

#### 1861 Census

Trinity Street – OXFORD TAVERN

[1] *Sarah White* (47), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Inkberrow, Worcestershire;

[2] Elizabeth S. White (20), daughter, born Abbots Moreton, Worcestershire;

[3] Agnes S. S. White (15), daughter, scholar, born Stoke Prior, Worcestershire;

[4] Fanny A. White (12), daughter, scholar, born Stoke Prior, Worcestershire;

[5] Thomas A. White (10), son, scholar, born Stoke Prior, Worcestershire;

[6] Anna Shaw (18), general servant, born Oldbury:

*Sarah White*, retailer of beer, Tat Bank. [1862]

*Sarah White*, beer retailer, Trinity Street. [1864], [1865]

## **PARK HALL TAVERN**

Titford Lane, Langley, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

Joseph Jackson [1861]

## NOTES

### 1861 Census

Titford Lane – PARK HALL TAVERN

- [1] *Joseph Jackson* (32), iron roller and victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Mary Jackson (31), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Mary Jackson (6), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Betsey Jackson (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Ann Jackson (4 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Emily Lowe (16), general servant, born Langley:

*Joseph Jackson* – see also FOUNTAIN, Langley.

## PEAR TREE

99, Dudley Road, TIVIDALE

## OWNERS

John Rolinson and Son Ltd.

## LICENSEES

John Webb [1835] – [1841]  
Samuel Jukes [1841] – [1842]  
John Webb [1845] – [1871]  
Cornelius Jones [1880]  
John Webb [1881]  
Thomas Mills [1891] – [1900]  
John William Blewitt [1901]  
Hannah Bowater [ ] – **1903**;  
Samuel Edward Hingley (**1903 – 1904**);  
Isaac Brayden (**1904 – 1906**);  
John Frisby (**1906 – 1907**):

## NOTES

It was situated opposite to Hill Road.

*John Webb*, beer retailer, Tividale. [1835], [1841]

### 1851 Census

Tividale

- [1] *John Webb* (55), widower, victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] Eliza Webb (22), daughter, domestic, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Lavinia Webb (17), daughter, domestic, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Edwin Webb (13), son, domestic, born Rowley Regis:

### 1861 Census

Dudley Road

- [1] *John Webb* (65), innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Moah Webb* (64), wife, born Stretton, Shropshire:

### 1871 Census

Dudley Road

- [1] *John Webb* (76), widower, licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] *David Mills* (51), lodger, widower, miner, born Tipton:

### County Express 15/5/1880

“Last week two pigs belonging to Mr. *Cornelius Jones*, PEAR TREE INN, Tividale, were discovered to be suffering from swine fever. One died, and the other was shortly afterwards slaughtered by order of Mr. Blakeway, veterinary surgeon. The pigs are believed to have come from St. Ives with a number of others, most of which have been affected with the disease.”

### 1881 Census

99, Dudley Road

- [1] *John Webb* (87), widower, publican, blind and deaf, born Dudley:

### 1891 Census

99, Dudley Road – PEAR TREE INN

- [1] *Thomas Mills* (71), widower, licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Phoebe Johnson* (36), daughter, married, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Thomas Johnson* (17), grand-son, labourer in iron works, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Rose Hadley* (16), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

### Birmingham Daily Post 24/11/1892

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, *John Briscoe* (10), *George Hawley* (13), and *Samuel Griffin* (13), all of Tividale, were charged with stealing six fowls, value 12s, the property of *Thomas Mills*, landlord of the PEAR TREE INN, Tividale, on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst.

The fowls were seen safe by complainant on the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. During the night Briscoe and the other two prisoners broke into the pen and abstracted the fowls, having two apiece. They were killed by them, and one was thrown into the canal.

There was a further charge against Briscoe of stealing his father’s watch.

The parents of the boys said they were bad boys. Briscoe was sent to a reformatory school, and the other two were ordered to be birched.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 26/4/1900

“At Old Hill, yesterday, *Frederick Whale*, of Tividale, was summoned for assaulting a man named *Abraham Corbett* on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst.

Defendant was ejected from the PEAR TREE INN, Tividale, when he declared his intention of killing the first person who left the house. Witness was the first one to leave, and he had no sooner got outside than defendant struck him a violent blow on the head, rendering him partially unconscious. Defendant followed this up by kicking him whilst he was on the ground, and he also bit a piece out of his thumb.

Prisoner, who had a bad record, it was stated, left for New Zealand when the summons was served upon him. He was fined £5 15s, including costs, or one month’s imprisonment.”

### 1901 Census

Dudley Road – PEAR TREE INN

- [1] *John William Blewitt* (35), engine worker and publican, born Dudley;
- [2] *Mary A. Blewitt* (34), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *William Blewitt* (11), son, born Dudley;

- [4] Harold Blewitt (6), son, born Dudley;  
[5] Doris Blewitt (3), daughter, born Dudley:

County Express 14/9/1901

“Albert Meredith, Burnt Tree, Tipton, was charged with a like offence [drunk and disorderly] on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst, at Tividale. Police-constable Edwards said defendant had been refused at the PEAR TREE INN, and created a disturbance. The defendant, speaking on his own behalf, made an allegation that the officer stated he would prosecute him the first opportunity he had. The allegation was strongly denied. Defendant also alleged it was a malicious prosecution. Defendant was fined 10s.”

County Advertiser 12/5/1906

“Licensing Business.

Mr. Marshall applied for the transfer of the license of the WAGON AND HORSES, Tividale, from Phoebe Smith to *Isaac Brayden*, and also for the transfer of the PEAR TREE INN, Tividale, from *Isaac Brayden* to James Frisby.

He explained that at the general licensing sessions the WAGON AND HORSES INN was one of the houses scheduled to be considered on the ground of redundancy. It was deferred, in order that the owners might do something within the next twelve months. Mrs. Smith, the late licensee, succeeded her husband, who died twelve months ago, and though his clients, Messrs. Rolinson and Son, did not desire their houses to be kept by women, under the exceptional circumstances they agreed to allow her to remain in charge of the premises. She had since been conducting herself other than in the way his clients desired, and she had been persuaded to leave.

Under the circumstances he applied for the transfer of the WAGON AND HORSES INN to *Brayden*, and for the transfer of the PEAR TREE INN to *Brayden's* step-son.

Frisby was placed in the witness box, and in reply to Superintendent Johnson admitted that he had been twice convicted for gambling at West Bromwich, and that on the last occasion he went to gaol in default of paying the fine.

Superintendent Johnson contended that a man who had been convicted twice for gambling, and who had been in gaol, was not a suitable person to hold a license.

Mr. Marshall said it was only expected to be of a temporary character, and his clients proposed to submit the PEAR TREE INN to the Bench on the ground of redundancy, instead of the WAGON AND HORSES INN. Ultimately the Bench granted the transfer of the WAGON AND HORSES INN to *Brayden*, but refused the other application.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench were content to allow *Brayden* to hold two licenses temporarily.”

County Advertiser 12/5/1906

“Licensing Business.

An application was made by Mr. Marshall for the transfer of the license of the PEAR TREE INN, Tividale, from *Isaac Brayden* to *John Frisby*, which was granted.”

County Advertiser 9/2/1907

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday at the Police Court.....

Three license holders ..... *John Frisby*, of the PEAR TREE INN, Tividale ..... had been warned to apply personally for the renewal of their licenses, attended before the magistrates, and Mr. Bassano informed them that they had decided to consider these licenses upon the ground of redundancy.”

County Advertiser 9/3/1907

“The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday at the Police Court.....

Mr. Marshall, of Dudley, applied for the permission of the Bench to rebuild the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Old Hill, and the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale. He mentioned that at the annual sessions he submitted plans for the alteration of the houses, but the consideration of them was deferred until that day.

Since his clients had put in amended plans which had received the approval of the police. The owners were Messrs. J. Rolinson and Son, of Netherton, and they proposed to rebuild upon the site of the old houses, and not to increase the drinking area. The alterations would afford better facilities for police supervision, provide improved sanitary accommodation, increase the rateable value, and also the amount to be contributed from the trade for compensation purposes. The PEAR TREE INN, Tividale, another of his client's houses, was being dealt with on the ground of redundancy, and if the present applications to rebuild were favourably considered they would offer no opposition to the non-renewal of the license of the PEAR TREE INN.

Mr. Bassano said the plans were satisfactory, and subject to agreement for the PEAR TREE INN to be sent for compensation they would be approved.....

The police objected to the license of the PEAR TREE INN, Tividale, on the ground that it was not required. Police-constable Heatherly stated that the premises had been badly damaged by mining operations. Within a distance of 200 yards there were four licenses. Mr. Marshall, representing the owners, offered no opposition, and the Bench decided to refer the house to the compensation authority."

#### Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1907

"The principal meeting of the County Compensation Authority under the Licensing Act, 1904, was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford on Tuesday.....

In the Rowley Regis division ..... the PEAR TREE, Dudley Road, Tividale (*John Frisby*) ..... were referred. Mr. Lawrence appeared for the justices, and, there being no opposition, the committee upheld the refusal to renew the licence in each instance."

#### 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..... PEAR TREE, Dudley Road, Tividale, fully licensed (owner, John Robinson and Sons 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..... PEAR TREE, Tividale, £900."

£825 compensation was paid in 1908.

It closed c.1908.

### **PEDESTRIAN TAVERN**

Church Street, OLDBURY

### **OWNERS**

### **LICENSEES**

H Bayley [1852]



William Bayley [1853] – [1855]

## NOTES

*H. Bayley* issued tokens from here.

*W. Bayley* issued tokens from here.

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

“Harry (the tailor) of Oldbury having been idle a long time, wishes to have another match with his old opponent, *William Bayley*, of the PEDESTRIAN TAVERN, Oldbury, to run 100 or 120 yards, for £15 or £20 a side. Man and money ready at Mr. William Clift’s, JOLLY COLLIERS, Oldbury, any night next week.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/12/1853

“J. Bailey will run J. Billecock a quarter of a mile, T. Harvey 220 yards, or G. Darbey of Westbromwich 200 yards, for £5, £10. Or £15 a side. The money is ready at *W. Bailey*’s, PEDESTRIAN TAVERN, Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/12/1853

“Ben Groves of Halesowen having been lying idle since he was defeated by Bolton Phillips, he wishes to run *William Bailey*, of the PEDESTRIAN TAVERN, Thomas Street, Oldbury, eight score yards, in which distance he will give him three yards start, or he will run Evans of West Bromwich the same distance level. Money ready on Monday night next, at Mr. William Cleft’s, the KINGS ARMS INN, Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/12/1853

“John Bailey will run B. Horton or T. Harvey from 100 yards to a quarter of a mile, for £5, £10, or £15 a side. Money ready at *W. Bailey*’s, PEDESTRIAN TAVERN, Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/2/1854

“John Bailey of Oldbury will run John Wilcox or William Whitehouse of Oldbury, from 100 to 440 yards, for from £5 to £25 a side; or his brother, *William Bailey*, will take two yards start in 100 of James Hadley of Rounds Green, or run him 200 yards level, for a small stake. The money is ready at *William Bailey*’s, PRESTANE [sic] TAVERN, Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 9/4/1854

“William Slim will run Joseph Tromans of Rowley 200 yards, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *William Bailey*’s PEDESTRIAN TAVERN, Oldbury, any night next week.”

*William Bailey*, beer retailer, PEDESTRIAN, Church Street. [1855]

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/5/1855

“Samuel Smith of Oldbury will run John Stone or G. Darby (both of Westbromwich) 100 yards, or John Wilcox of Oldbury 140 yards, or Thomas Bird of Brades Village 100 yards level, or will take 15 yards start in 200, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *William Bailey*’s, PEDESTRIAN TAVERN, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 4/7/1863 - Advert

“Oldbury. A Capital Opportunity. The PEDESTRIAN Old-Licensed Inn and Wine and Spirit Vaults, fronting Church Street, in the centre of the Town of Oldbury, and the main Turnpike Road leading from Hales Owen through Oldbury to West Bromwich, in a most populous thoroughfare, in the junction of four main Streets, and near most important Works, and three minutes’ walk of the Oldbury and Bromford Lane Railway Station.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, that capital Old-Licensed Inn and Wine and

Spirit Vaults, doing a most important in and out-door Business.

The House and Premises consist of Front Spirit Shop, large Tap Room, Smoke Room, Cooking and Servants' Kitchen, large Concert Room to hold 500 people, fitted up complete with Stage, Orchestra, Scenery, and Dressing Room; with Bar and Snuggery, four Bed Rooms, two Capital Cellars, Larder, excellent Brewery, Malt and Hop Room, Coach-house and Stabling, Piggeries, covered-in Marble and Skittle Alley, with a good supply of Water, with a large and enclosed Yard, with folding Doors. The Proprietor is leaving solely in consequence of other engagements.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply, Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, Estate Agent, and Hotel Valuer, Wesley Street, Oldbury."

Check HARMONIC.

## **PERROTT ARMS**

2, (1), Birmingham Road / Flash Road, (Birmingham Street), (Oldbury Green), OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Jarvis Hodgetts

Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. (leased) [1899]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (leased) [1902]

Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd. (acquired c.1903)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (leased) [1912] (acquired c.1919)

Enterprise Inns [1993]

## **LICENSEES**

William Collins [1834] – [1836]

William Horton [1838]

James Horton [1839] – [1843]

Stephen Turner [1840]

Benjamin Grayston [1844]

Charles Allison Grayston [1844] – [1847]

W H Shipway (**1847** – [ ])

Harry Downing Gunter [1849]

William Willoughby [1850]

William Turner [1850] – [1854]

Thomas Darby [1855] – [1861]

Simeon Adams [1862]

Samuel Adams [1864] – [1865]

Simeon Adams [ ] – **1868**);

Philip Nock (**1868** – [1869]

John Stiles [ ] – **1871**);

Daniel Nightingale (**1871** – [1873]

Mrs. Harriet Nightingale [1880]

William Marigold [1881]

Henry Hirons [1884] – **1885**);

Thomas Barwell (**1885** – **1886**);

Joseph Shaw (**1886** – **1887**);

George Herbert Crabtree (1887 – 1896);  
Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd. (1896 – 1902);  
Richard White [1901] manager  
Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd. (1902 – 1905);  
Edward Lawrence (1905 – 1909);  
John Groom [1905]  
George Herbert Crabtree [1907] manager  
George Valentine Turton (1909 – 1910);  
Frederick Turner (1910 – 1912);  
Edward Woodcock (1912 – 1913);  
John Thomas Williams (1913 – 1918);  
Frederick Smallwood (1918 – 1928);  
Harriet Maria Smallwood (1928 – 1930);  
Charles Henry Bradley (1930 – 1933);  
Samuel George Evans (1933 – 1938);  
John Goode (1938 – 1945);  
Albert Horace Parkes (1945);  
William Percival Pickin (1945 – 1947);  
Frank Walton (1947 – 1951);  
Charles Harvey Field (1951 – 1959);  
Alfred William Freer (1959 – [1962]  
June Marie Reid [1983]  
John Hopkins [1993]

## NOTES

Birmingham Street [1851], [1861]  
1, Birmingham Road [1873]  
2, Birmingham Street [1891]  
2, Birmingham Road [1892], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1916], [1921], [1939], [1990]

PARROTTS ARMS [1850], [1862]  
PARROTT ARMS [1842], [1845], [1854], [1855], [1871], [1880]  
PARROT ARMS [1864], [1865]

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/2/1834 - Advert

“Cavalry Ball.

The First Annual Ball of the Oldbury Division of the Dudley Troop of Worcestershire Yeomanry Cavalry will be held at the PARROTTS ARMS INN, Oldbury, on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of February inst.

Stewards. Mr. T. Nock, Mr. T. Morriss, Mr. J. Collins, Mr. T. Hurley.

Gentlemen's Tickets 5s; Ladies' ditto 4s each, Tea and Supper included, to be had at the Bar of the Inn, or of H. W. Crane, Tower Street, Dudley.

Dancing to commence at eight o'clock.”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/6/1834 - Advert

“Dudley, Birmingham, and Wolverhampton Turnpike Road, through Oldbury and Smethwick.

Notice is hereby given, that the next Meeting of the Trustees of the above Road will be holden at the PARROTT ARMS INN, in Oldbury, on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June instant, at twelve o'clock at noon.

Bourne and Sons. Clerks to the Trustees. Dudley, June 2, 1834.”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/9/1834 - Advert

“Freehold and Copyhold Building Land and Mines, at Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by F. & C. Robins, on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September inst, at three o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Collins*, the PERROTS ARMS INN, Oldbury.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/8/1835 - Notice

“Oldbury Inclosure.

I, Dugdale Houghton, of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Land Surveyor, the sole Commissioner named and appointed in and by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the tenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled An Act for Inclosing Lands in the Manor of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, do hereby give notice that I shall hold my next sitting for the further execution of the said Act at the house of *William Collins*, known by the name or sign of the PARROTT ARMS, situate in Oldbury aforesaid, on Wednesday the twenty-sixth day of August, 1835, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and shall then proceed to the perfecting and defining the Boundaries of the said Manor.

Dated this twenty-fifth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five.

Dugdale Houghton, Commissioner.”

[These meetings continued until 1845.]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/8/1836 - Notice

“All Persons having claims against the Estate of the late Mr. *William Collins*, of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, Innkeeper, deceased, are requested to send in their claims to Mrs. *Catherine Collins*, of the PARROTT ARMS INN, in Oldbury aforesaid, that the same may be discharged; and all persons debtors to the said estate are required to pay the amount of their respective debts to the said Mrs. *Collins* within one month from the date hereof.

Oldbury, July 28, 1836.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/11/1836 - Advert

“PARROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the above desirable situation, the present occupier leaving solely on account of other engagements.

Application to be made on the premises.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/8/1838

“Cricket. .... The Birmingham Albion Club Challenge.

In answer to the challenge in our paper of Sunday last, from the Albion Club, Birmingham, we are requested to state that the Oldbury Club will be happy to accommodate them in a match home and home, for £50 or a higher amount. They are to be seen any Monday evening, at the PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury; and, should any of the Birmingham party choose to attend, the Oldbury will endeavour to come to an arrangement.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/7/1840 - Advert

“Newly erected and substantially built Freehold Messuages, and a piece of Freehold Building Land, lying between Nixon's Bridge and Seven Stars Bridge, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Septimus Davis, at the PARROTT ARMS INN, in Oldbury, on Tuesday, July the 21<sup>st</sup>, at five o'clock in the afternoon, in one of the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, and subject to such conditions as shall be then and there produced.....”

1841 Census

Birmingham Street

[1] *James Horton* (40), brewer;

[2] *Elizabeth Horton* (40);

[3] *Elizabeth White* (15);

[4] *Eliza Perry* (15);

[5] *Elizabeth Walker* (15), f s;

[6] William Freeman (20), m s;

[7] Mary Coxfield (20), f s;

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/12/1841 - Advert

“PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury.

The Annual Ball will take place on Tuesday Evening the 4<sup>th</sup> of January next.

Stewards. Mr. Ashmall, Mr. Davis, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Griffiths.

Ladies' Tickets, Five Shillings; Gentlemen's, Seven Shillings and Sixpence; refreshments included.

Dancing to commence at eight.

Mr. Hayward's Quadrille Band is engaged for the occasion.

Oldbury, December 23, 1841.”

Aris' Birmingham Gazette 11/9/1843 - Advert

“The PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury, with or without a Brewery attached, selling about five barrels of Ale, besides Beer, and doing one of the most extensive Trades in Wines and Spirits in the town or neighbourhood. Will be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Robert Massey (unless previously disposed of by private Contact) the middle of September inst, the Goodwill and Possession of all the above Premises.

The Brewery is fitted up with every convenience, and capable of brewing 250 bushels per week.

The House and Premises have every convenience for carrying on the extensive business, which has been established for many years. The Club-room is 40ft by 20ft and there are two old-established Money Clubs, and one Odd Fellows' Society of about 150 strong.

The coming-in, including the Brewery and Premises, would be about £400; but without the Brewery can be reduced to £200.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Robert Massey, Land Surveyor, Auctioneer, and Appraiser, 6, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/8/1844 - Advert

“Town of Oldbury. Freehold Building Land, free from any expense for Conveyance or Title.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins and Co. (by order of the Commissioner for the Inclosure and Sale of the Waste Lands at Oldbury, in the county of Salop), on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> day of September next, at the house of *Benjamin Grayston*, the sign of the PARROT ARMS, in Oldbury – about Twenty very desirable Lots of Freehold Land, at Oldbury Green, Rounds Green, and Wood End.

Lithographic plans and particulars may be had on application at the office of Mr. Dugdale Houghton, Land Agent, Paradise Street, Birmingham; Messrs. Carter and Sons, Solicitors, Oldbury; or of the Auctioneers, New Street, Birmingham.”

*Charles Allison Grayston* = Charles Allison Graystone

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/11/1844

“At the Housewarming at the PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday last, a very numerous and highly respectable company sat down to a most excellent dinner provided for them by Mr. *Grayston*. On the removal of the cloth, the Chairman gave ‘The Queen,’ which was most enthusiastically responded to. The National Anthem was then given in superior style. ‘Prince Albert and the rest of the Royal, Family,’ and other loyal and customary toasts followed, and were duly honoured; after which the Chairman proposed the health of the worthy Host, who in a neat speech returned his best thanks. Many other toasts followed, and were responded to; and the excellent singing of the gentlemen of the Oldbury Glee Club and others, and the fine flavour of the wines, added so much to the pleasures of the evening as to induce the company not to separate until a late hour.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/1/1845

“The Annual Ball at the PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury, was held on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult, and was very numerously attended by a highly respectable company. Dancing to a full quadrille band commenced at ten o'clock; and at a later hour a cold collation was served up in the best style. On the company returning to

the assembly-room dancing was re-commenced with increased animation, and kept up with much spirit until a late hour. Refreshments were served in the ante-room, and the whole passed off to the entire satisfaction of all parties, and much to the credit of the hotel.”

Birmingham Journal 26/7/1845

“The members of the Oldbury Bowling Green Club celebrated their anniversary by an excellent dinner, at the house of Mr. *Graystone*, the PARROTTS ARMS, on Wednesday last. The entertainment was on the most sumptuous and liberal scale, and the wines, &c, were of the very best description. The whole entertainment reflected the greatest credit on the worthy host and hostess. A good muster of the members were present, including several friends from Birmingham and other adjoining towns. The usual loyal and convivial toasts were given, and the harmony of the evening was sustained by some excellent songs and recitations. Mr. *Graystone* has made great improvements in his bowling green, at the rear of his premises; having overcome, by great energy and perseverance, the natural difficulties presented by situation and the inequalities of the ground. The green is now as true and level as a billiard table, and cannot fail in another season to prove a source of great attraction and enjoyment.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/11/1845

“An inquest was held at the PARROTTS ARMS, Oldbury, on Tuesday, on the body of a child named John Franks, five years old. The little fellow and his sister, who is some years older, were sent with their father’s dinner to the mine in which he worked, on the Saturday previous. When near the chemical works the little boy complained of illness, and lay down in the middle of the road; his sister went on with her father’s dinner, and in her absence Mrs. Bradley, the wife of a labourer, came up, and seeing the child, went to its assistance, and found the little fellow in the last agonies of death; she conveyed him to his parents’ house, where he expired shortly afterwards. The jury, after hearing the evidence, returned a verdict of Died by the Visitation of God.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 1/12/1845 - Notice

“Oldbury Inclosure.

I, Dugdale Houghton, of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Land Surveyor, the sole Commissioner named and appointed in and by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the tenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled An Act for Inclosing Lands in the Manor of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, do hereby give Notice that I shall hold my next Sitting for the further execution of the said Act at the house of *Charles Alison Grayston*, known by the name or sign of the PARROTT ARMS, in Oldbury aforesaid, on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1845, at ten o’clock in the forenoon, and then shall then proceed to read over and settle the Draft of the Award relating to the said Inclosure.

Dated this fourteenth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

Dugdale Houghton, Commissioner for the Oldbury Inclosure.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 29/12/1845 - Notice

“Tithe Commission. Notice.

The Tithe Commissioners for England and Wales hereby give notice, that a Copy of the Draft of Apportionment of the Rent Charge agreed to be paid in lieu of Tithes in the Townships of Oldbury and Langley, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, has been deposited at the PARROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury, near Birmingham, for the inspection of all Persons interested in the Lands or Tithes of the said Townships. And the Commissioners further give Notice that, pursuant to the Act for the Commutation of Tithes, a Meeting will be holden for the purpose of hearing any objections to the intended apportionment by any Person interested as aforesaid, and that such Meeting will be held at the PARROTT AMS INN aforesaid, on Wednesday the thirty-first day of December, 1845, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon.

Signed by order of the Board.

J. E. Hoverden, Secretary. 9, Somerset Place, Somerset House, London.”

Birmingham Journal 17/1/1846

“The annual ball at Mr. *Graystone*’s, the PARROTTS ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury, was attended by between seventy and eighty of the respectable inhabitants of Oldbury and the neighbourhood. The services of a very efficient band, and the excellence of the arrangements, made the company feel quite at home, and dancing was kept up with much spirit till a late hour. About one o’clock refreshments were provided, and all present expressed their gratification at the attention they had received, and the unalloyed pleasure of the evening’s enjoyment. There is every prospect, from the success of the ball, that next year’s festivity will be still more numerously attended.”

Birmingham Journal 18/7/1846

“The anniversary dinner of the Benevolent Lodge of Odd Fellows, MU, took place at the house of Host *Graystone*, PARROTTS ARMS, Oldbury, on Monday last, when the members, numbering upwards of sixty, together with a few friends, sat down to a dinner embracing all the delicacies of the season. The chair was very ably filled by PG Robert Cooper, whose urbanity of manners and attention to the wishes and wants of the party, gained for him ‘golden opinions.’ After the customary loyal toasts, the chairman, in a clear and eloquent address, gave ‘Success and prosperity to the Odd Fellowship of the Manchester Unity;’ which was loudly applauded and seconded by the Odd Fellows’ fire, and three times three. The health of the surgeon, T. R. Cooper, Esq, was then given, and responded to by him in a neat and effective speech. After the health of ‘Mr. *Graystone*, senior, and his Wife and Family’ had been given and responded to, the party broke up, highly satisfied with the celebration.”

Birmingham Journal 5/12/1846

“On Wednesday last, an inquest was held on the body of John Chambers, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, at the PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury. It appears that the poor little boy was only about twelve years of age, and was at work at one of Mr. Williams’s coal pits, situate near Oldbury. He was in the habit of driving the horse on the bank, and the day before he appears to have gone to the mouth of the pit, laid hold of the skip, and missing his grasp, the unfortunate boy fell to the bottom, his body being literally dashed to pieces. When taken up, his remains presented a most frightful appearance. No blame being attributable to any other person, a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Journal 27/2/1847 - Advert

“Sale at the PARROT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Danks, on Monday and Tuesday Next, March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1847.

All the Household Furniture, Beds, Linen, &c; also the large Stock of Ale and Porter, Liquors, Wines, Malt, Hops, Casks, Brewing Utensils, Four-pull and Two-pull Beer Machine, and other Effects, belonging to *B.* and *C. A. Grayston*, of the PARROT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury; the whole of which will be sold without reserve.

The Sale to commence at Ten o’clock each morning.”

*Charles Allison Grayston* – see also UNION, Church Street.

Birmingham Journal 28/8/1847

“The new landlord of the PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury, Mr. *W. H. Shipway*, had his housewarming dinner on Tuesday last, which was most respectably attended. The chair was occupied by T. R. Cooper, Esq. The dinner, which was got up in the first style, was greatly eulogised. The wines also, and dessert, were of the best description. Thanks were voted to Mr. and Mrs. *Shipway*, for the splendid manner in which the whole was served; and the company testified their approbation by expressing a hope that Mr. *S* would make it an annual meeting. During the evening several pieces were performed by a band of instrumentalists engaged for that purpose.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 6/3/1848 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the PARROT ARMS INN, Oldbury, of the Licences, Goodwill, and Possession, Household Furniture, Brewing Vessels, &c.

To be Sold by Auction, by W. Holmes, as above Tomorrow (Tuesday), March 7.

The whole of the neat Household Furniture; comprising four-post and tent bedsteads, feather beds, bed-clothing, chairs, tables, gas-fittings, excellent Bagatelle Board, with slate bottom, equal to new; capital Five-Pull Ale Machine, mash-tub, coolers, barrels, furnaces, &c; also about Five Tons of Carrots, and other effects; particulars of which appear in catalogues, to be had at the place of sale; and at the Auctioneer's offices, 39½, Cherry Street, Birmingham.

Sale to commence at half past ten o'clock, with the Licences, Goodwill, and Possession."

Worcester Journal 9/3/1848

"Worcestershire Lent Assizes.....

Allsop and Others v *Shipway*.

An action of debt, brought by the noted pale ale brewers, Allsop and Co, against the defendant, who kept the PARROT ARMS, Oldbury, in this county, for recovery of £21 for ales and beer supplied to the defendant.

The delivery of the goods was proved by the plaintiffs' servants, and there being no defence to the action, a verdict was given for the plaintiffs for the amount sought to be recovered, with execution in a fortnight. Mr. Phipps was Counsel for the plaintiffs; attorney, Bloxham. The defendant was not represented by Counsel."

Birmingham Journal 17/11/1849 - Advert

"PARROT ARMS INN, Oldbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the present Tenant being obliged to leave in consequence of other engagements, the above well-accustomed Road-side Public House. Coming in may be reduced to as low as £120.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Jesse Wright, Auctioneer, Dudley."

Worcestershire Chronicle 12/12/1849 - Advert

"PARROT ARMS INN, Oldbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the present Tenant being obliged to leave in consequence of other engagements.

The above Well-Accustomed Road-side Public House is situate in the centre of the thriving Town of Oldbury. No position can suit a Corn and Hay Dealer better."

Birmingham Journal 5/1/1850 - Advert

"Sale at Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on Monday Next, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at the PARROT ARMS INN, Oldbury.

The License and Goodwill of that old established House and Premises (which will be put up precisely at Twelve o'clock), a large quantity of Casks, Brewing Vessels, Beer and Spirit Machine, and other Household Furniture, belonging to Mr. *Harry Downing Gunter*, who has no further use for the same, having taken to the OLD TALBOT INN, Oldbury (formerly occupied by Mr. Parish). Likewise, a large quantity of Wrought-iron Rails and Sleepers, excellent Pit Scaffolds, Skips, Rings, Pit Chain, and other useful Colliery Ironwork, which will be Sold without reserve.

Sale to commence at Ten o'clock in the morning."

Birmingham Journal 27/7/1850 - Advert

"Fishing and Gipsy Party, on Monday and Tuesday Next, July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Fish Pond upon the Farm of Mrs. Birch, Shirley Street, five miles from Birmingham, on the Stratford Road.

The spot has been selected as one of the most picturesque and rural for many miles round; the Pool is an Acre, and abounds with Pike, Perch, Roach, Carp, Tench, and Eels, being stocked upwards of five years, and strictly preserved the whole time. Each Person will be entitled to Angle or Troll, and attend as early as they think proper each day.

Plain and Economical Provisions will be provided on the Ground.

A Quadrille Band is engaged to attend in an adjoining Field.

The Water will be drawn off on the Tuesday, when the whole of the Fish will be taken and sold at a low price, upon the spot; any Person wishing for Stores may apply as below, or on the Ground at the time.



Tickets, 1s 6d each, may be had of Mr. *Turner*, PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury; Mr. Page, Grand Turk, Bell Street, Birmingham; or at the Farm House. Early applications should be made, as only a limited number of Tickets will be issued.

Conveyances will leave the PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury, each morning at Seven, Eight, and Nine o'clock."

#### Birmingham Journal 24/8/1850

"An inquest was held at Mr. *Turner*'s, the PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, on Wednesday, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, and a respectable Jury, of which Mr. Cooper, senior, was the foreman, upon the body of an infant, named Alfred Bridge, three months old, son of Mr. William Bridge, grocer, which was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning last. The deceased was subject to fits. After the examination of Mr. Beattie, the surgeon, the Jury returned a verdict that the deceased had died suddenly in a fit of convulsion."

#### Birmingham Journal 24/8/1850

"The Races, Wake, &c. Among the amusements provided for the ensuing holidays, we perceive the announcement of Mr. Ginnett's equestrian troupe, who intend performing in a marquee adjoining the PARROTT ARMS HOTEL."

#### Birmingham Journal 7/9/1850 - Advert

"Lodge Regalia for Sale.

A Complete Set of the above-named Articles, consisting of two Pedestals, two large Boxes, Dispensation in rosewood frame and mahogany case, Death Scene, Gowns and Caps. They have been used by a Lodge of Druids, and will be Sold a bargain, as the room they occupy is required.

Application to be made to Mr. *Turner*, Appraiser, &c, PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury."

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/12/1850

"An adjourned inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Turner*, PARROT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday last, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, and a respectable jury, of which Mr. Samuel Clifton was the foreman, on the body of James Kenny, an Irishman, aged 27. This was the third time the jury had met, in consequence of the owners of the pit not giving proper notice of the accident to the Secretary of State. It appeared that the unfortunate man had only worked in the pit three days, when what is called a 'black bat,' or mass of coal, fell upon him, and he died in a few hours after he had been taken home. The pit is worked by Messrs. Haines and Hartland, and their 'doggy' proved it was managed properly. Verdict, Accidental Death."

#### 1851 Census

Birmingham Street on Oldbury Green – PARROTT ARMS

- [1] *William Turner* (38), hotel keeper, born Allesley, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Eliza Turner* (42), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Frank Turner* (10), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Redfern Turner* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *William L. Turner* (7), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Hannah Hadley* (48), widow, house servant, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Mary Mann* (18), house servant, born Birmingham;
- [8] *John Hoges* (18), hostler and brewer, born Worcester;
- [9] *Ellen Gray* (25), visitor, dressmaker, born London;
- [10] *Thomas Brown* (49), visitor, commercial, born Stroud:

#### Birmingham Journal 30/8/1851 - Advert

"Oldbury Races, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Next, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

To start at twelve o'clock each day.

First Day.

A Galloway Stakes of Four Guineas. Entrance, 10s 6d. Heats.

A Handicap Sweepstakes of One Guinea each, with Three added; for Horses of all denominations. Heats. Twice round.

A Pony Race for a Silver Cup. Entrance, 7s 6d. Not to exceed 12½ hands. Heats. Once round.

Second Day.

The Ladies' Purse of Four Guineas. Entrance, 10s 6d. For Horses the property of Residents of Oldbury. Heats. Twice round.

A Hurdle Race for £5. Entrance, 10s. To carry 8st 7lb. The Winner to be sold for Thirty Guineas, if demanded in the usual way. Heats.

A Silver Cup; for Horses not thorough-bred. Entrance, £1. Heats. Twice round.

Third Day.

A Match for £10. Gentlemen riders. Mile and a half Course.

A Pony Race for a Bridle and Saddle. Not to exceed 12½ hands. Entrance, 5s 6d. Heats. Once round.

To run over the Old Course adjoining the PARROTT ARMS.

All Entries for First and Second Day to be made on this day Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, at Mr. *Turner's*, PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, where Ground for Booths, &c, will be let. The committee have determined upon letting but a limited number.

All Stakes and Demands will be paid on Wednesday, at the above Hotel."

#### Birmingham Journal 12/3/1853 - Advert

"Pigeon Shooting, at the PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury.

A Fine Fat Pig, and several Sweepstakes, will be Shot For on Tuesday Next, March 15<sup>th</sup>. First Match to commence at Eleven o'clock precisely, when the attendance of any Gentleman will oblige.

*W. L. Turner.*"

#### Birmingham Journal 19/3/1853 - Advert

"Notice. Oldbury Fair and Statutes will be held on the Race Course, on Easter Monday and Tuesday. In the course of each day a variety of Rural Sports will take place. The spacious Albion Theatre will be erected on the ground, under the management of Messrs. Loon and James.

Application for Ground to be made to Mr. *Turner*, PARROTT ARMS."

#### Birmingham Journal 4/6/1853 - Advert

"The PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Private Contract, the above House of Business, now doing a fair trade, and held at a moderate rent, the expenses having been considerably reduced within the last three years by the present occupier, who is leaving entirely on account of taking another House and Business left to him by a deceased relative.

The Stock and Fixtures, with the whole or part of the Furniture, to be taken to at a fair valuation.

The House consists of spacious Smoke Room, Commercial Room, Bar, Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, five Bed Rooms, and the largest Club Room in the town; good Stabling, Coach-house, Piggeries, Brewhouse, and extensive Cellaring; two Bowling Alleys; large Walled-in Piece of Ground, with or without Four Acres of Grass Land at the back, which forms the principal portion of the Race Course. The House is centrally situated in the main thoroughfare, and contiguous to the extensive Alkali Works of Messrs. Chance and the Oxford Works, &c.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *Turner*, upon the Premises. No Auctioneer is engaged."

#### Birmingham Journal 16/7/1853 - Advert

"To Innkeepers and Capitalists.

Desirably Situated Freehold Inn & Premises, the PARROTTS ARMS, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, upon the Premises as above, on Monday, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 1853, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced, and either in one or such other lots as may be determined upon.

All those excellent and most desirable Freehold Premises, the PARROTTS ARMS INN, Oldbury, in the occupation of Mr. *Turner*; consisting of convenient corner House, Stabling, spacious Yard, and Premises, in the centre of, and in one of the best Business situations in the fast improving town of Oldbury, and fronting the Turnpike Road from Dudley to Birmingham.

Further particulars, with plans, may be obtained from Messrs. Bourne and Wainwright, Solicitors, or the

Auctioneer, all of Dudley.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 17/8/1853

“Sporting Intelligence.....

Oldbury Races will take place on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, August 29, 30, and 31, under the superintendence of Mr. *Turner*, of the PARROTT ARMS.”

Birmingham Journal 3/12/1853 - Advert

“Sale at the PARROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright and Son, on Monday and Tuesday Next, December 5 and 6, upon the Premises, PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury, belong to Mr. *William Turner*, who has taken to another Establishment, in Birmingham.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above-named old-established House; also the whole of the Household Furniture, Public House Fixtures, Brewing Utensils, and Effects, comprising four-post Bedsteads, moreen hangings; feather Beds, Chimney and Looking Glasses, Dressing Tables, large Linen Chest, Chests of Drawers, and five Chamber Suits, Sofas, Chairs, Dining Tables, Drinking Tables, capital Bagatelle Board, capital Six-pull Beer Machine, nearly new, Spirit Fountain, the whole of the Bar Fittings, several excellent Oil Paintings, gilt frames, Gas Fittings, Bells, Drinking Cups, Glassware, Boilers, Vats, Mash Tub, Ale Barrels, &c, capital large Marquee or Tent, excellent Gray Pony, Spring Trap, Three Narrow-wheel Carts, Handcart, Harness, Fourteen Store Pigs, one Carpenter’s Bench, Tools, Ironwork, &c, &c.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession will be offered for Sale precisely at Twelve o’clock on Monday, if not previously disposed of by Private Contract, of which notice will be given.

Descriptive catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale; the TALBOT INN, Oldbury; *Journal* Office, Birmingham; and of the Auctioneers, Dudley.

Sale to commence each morning at Ten o’clock.”

Birmingham Journal 21/1/1854 - Advert

“Unreserved Clearing-Out Sale, at the PARROT ARMS, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by W. Green, on Monday Next, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The remaining portion of useful Household Furniture, Paintings, Wines, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *W. L. Turner*, who has taken to the Fighting Cocks Public House, Lichfield Street, Birmingham. Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had at the Auctioneer’s, District Fire Office, Oldbury.”

In October 1853 Samuel Johnson killed Mary Johnson, otherwise Walsh, with whom he cohabited at Smethwick. He was arrested at the PARROT ARMS, Oldbury. He appeared at Staffordshire Lent Assizes 1854 charged with wilful murder; the jury found him guilty of manslaughter, and he was sentenced to be transported for life.

[Staffordshire Advertiser 18/3/1854]

Birmingham Journal 8/4/1854 - Advert

“Oldbury Annual Fair, Easter Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

This Fair will be held as above, on part of the Race Course, which has been Drained and Levelled for the occasion. Applications for Stalls, Booths, &c, to be made at the PARROT ARMS, Oldbury, and at the Fighting Cocks, Lichfield Street, Birmingham.

There will be several Foot Races to come off. Apply as above.”

London Gazette 16/6/1854

“*William Turner*, trading and known as William Lines Turner, of Lichfield-street, Birmingham, Warwickshire, Retail Brewer, late of the PARROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Licensed Victualler, Appraiser, Broker, and Licensed Postmaster, previously of Hales Owen-street, in Oldbury aforesaid, Appraiser, Broker, Haberdasher, and Cabinet Maker, and at the same time carrying on business as an Appraiser at the junction of Freeth-street and Church-street, in Oldbury aforesaid.”

*Thomas Darby*, PARROTT ARMS commercial and family hotel, Birmingham Street. [1855]

Birmingham Journal 7/4/1855 - Advert

“Birmingham County Court. ....

Booth Money at Oldbury Races. *Welch v Turner*.

In this matter, plaintiff, a Walsall publican, sued defendant, following a like trade in Birmingham, for one guinea, under the following circumstances. Defendant in September of last year kept the Cross Guns, Lichfield Street, Birmingham, and was, it would appear, himself the great promoter of the Oldbury Races of that period. In this professional capacity he let ground for a booth to plaintiff at the usual charge of two guineas. The spot for the race course was in a field adjoining the PARROT ARMS INN, kept by Mr. *Darby*. By one of those casualties common in mundane affairs, disagreements arose as to races and race course, and these ended in the desertion of the PARROT ARMS field for a more favoured spot. Mr. *Welch* acted as others act, deserted the old and took to the new racing arena, and as he said, as a matter of right, demanded back his two guineas from *Turner*. The latter gave him back one, and told him to be content with that – had *Welch* built up his booth on the old ground, perhaps the sports would have come off there as usual. Besides there was a practice to forfeit part of the deposit in such cases. Plaintiff said this was not so, as he had been told the opposition party were prepared to return all booth money if the running did not come off on their new course.

Verdict for plaintiff.”

AND

“Oldbury Fair and Statutes will be held on the Race Course, on Easter Monday and Tuesday.

In the course of each day a variety of Rural Sports will take place.

The Albion Theatre will be erected on the ground, also a variety of Booths, Shows, Stalls, Bazaars, &c.

Arrangements are being made with a large Menagerie and Circus.

Amusement at all the principal Inns on the Green.

All applications for Ground to be made to Mr. *T. Darby*, PARROT ARMS, Oldbury.”

Worcester Journal 28/4/1855

“*Thomas Darby*, of the PARROT ARMS, was fined 10s and costs, for keeping his house open for the sale of beer, &c, otherwise than for the reception of travellers, on the forenoon of Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> inst.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 30/9/1855

“At Mr. *Darby*'s, the PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury, on Monday, October 8, three pigeon guns will be shot for, value £15; 20 tickets at 10s each; 3 birds each, gun  $\frac{3}{4}$  bore, 2oz shot, 21 yards rise, 80 boundary; the best shot to take his choice of the guns. Shooting to commence at one o'clock.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/10/1855

“At the PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury, on Monday, the match for a pigeon gun, value £5, was shot by 11 members, at 5 birds each, when Messrs. Rose, Hart, Hadley, and Parkes tied, killing all. They shot off bird for bird up to the eighth, when they again tied, killing all, but owing to the darkness coming on the match was deferred, they agreeing to shoot it out on November 5.”

Worcester Journal 5/7/1856

“Worcestershire Midsummer Sessions. ....

Jane Parkes, 38, tailoress, Sarah Jane Parkes, 13, tailoress, Mary Ann Hodgetts, 39, dressmaker, and Eliza Hunt, 39, brickmaker, were indicted for uttering counterfeit coin at Oldbury on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Streeten prosecuted, and Mr. Richards defended the prisoner Hodgetts.

Mary Ann Basford, wife of the keeper of the BLACK BOY beershop, Oldbury, stated that on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult, about eight o'clock in the evening, the four prisoners came to her house; Jane Parkes had a pint of ale; Hodgetts and Hunt left about ten minutes afterwards; one of them said they should not be long before they came back. Jane Parkes stayed till after eleven o'clock. Sarah Jane Parkes left the house several times during the evening; on two occasions of her return bringing with her some cakes and flowers; she gave some

coppers to Jane Parkes, who put them into her basket. During the evening the latter asked witness to give her three half-crowns for some small change, which she did. Hodgetts and Hunt were strangers, but the Parkeses were known to witness. Hodgetts and Hunt were not in the house during any of the transactions stated.

Mary Deakin was at her daughter's shop at Oldbury, on the 11<sup>th</sup> ult, when Sarah Jane Parkes came in and asked for a pennyworth of cakes, tendering a shilling in payment. Witness gave her the change, but before witness could pick up the shilling Parkes decamped, and the shilling was given to PC Simmonds on the following morning, as counterfeit.

On the evening in question the prisoners Hodgetts and Hunt went to another house, the BROWN LION, Oldbury; there was a third person with them, whom the landlady, Sophia Portman, could not identify. In payment for some port and sherry a shilling was tendered, change being given in coppers. The shilling was on the following morning found to be counterfeit, and given to PC Simmonds.

John Smith, landlord of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Oldbury, stated that on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>, the prisoners Hodgetts and Hunt went to his house, and in payment for some sherry, Hunt tendered a shilling, which witness returned to her as bad. She then went to Hodgetts, returned, and gave witness half-a-crown. Witness afterwards went to the PARROT ARMS, and there saw Hodgetts and Hunt, whom he asked if they knew him. They replied 'Yes.' On asking them if they recollected trying to pass a bad shilling at his house, Hunt said she did not know it was bad. Witness gave the change for the half-a-crown to Hunt, who he believed passed it to Hodgetts.

At the PARROT ARMS the prisoners had two glasses of sherry, a shilling being tendered in payment by Hunt. Fanny Proctor, waitress, gave the shilling to the landlord.

Sarah Jane Parkes went to the shop of Reuben Green, and in payment for some cakes produced a shilling. Green told her it was bad, when she said she had it from her mother's. It was returned to her. In consequence of what he had heard, Green went to the BLACK BOY, where he saw the prisoner Parkes.

Daniel Darby, a constable, was at the PARROT ARMS, about half-past ten at night, when the prisoners came in. A person also came in and said the prisoners had been passing a bad shilling at John Smith's. The landlord then produced the shilling he had taken from them, and it was found to be counterfeit. Witness then asked them how many more they had like that; they said none – they did not know it was bad. On asking them if they had been at Smith's, they said they had not, but on Smith being sent for they admitted being at his house. Darby received the shilling, and thereupon took the prisoners into custody.

PC Simmonds went to the BLACK BOY and found the prisoners Parkes there. He charged them with passing counterfeit coin. He said he should search them and told them to get up. When Sarah Jane Parkes got up and walked across the kitchen a handkerchief was dropped, which on being picked up was found to contain nine bad shillings and a crown-piece. Jane Parkes gave Tilsley a small bag containing 11d. Moved her on one side and found in her hand a purse, containing three bad shillings and five good sixpences. There was a basket on the screen, which prisoner said at first was not hers, but subsequently said it was her daughter's (Sarah Jane Parkes). Took them to the station house and there Sarah Jane Parkes said she picked the handkerchief up in a field at Rowley. Hodgetts said that Parkes lodged with her. While in the station Jane Parkes said she came from Dudley, and that Hodgetts gave her the purse to hold for a little while.

Mr. J. M. Skarratt proved the money passed and found in the possession of the prisoners to be counterfeit. Jane Parkes's statement taken before the Magistrates was read, which was to the effect that she received the purse and its contents from her daughter. The statement of the latter was that she picked the handkerchief up in a field, but did not let her mother know anything about it.

A victualler, named Harper, of Dudley, spoke to the excellent character of Hodgetts, whom he had known for 20 years, and she had worked for his family ten years. Hunt also produced two letters as to her character. The chairman minutely summed up the evidence, and the jury found all the prisoners guilty, but recommended Hodgetts and Hunt to mercy on account of their previous good character.

Hodgetts was sentenced to nine calendar months, Jane Parkes to twelve months, Sarah Jane Parkes to twelve months, and Hunt twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour, each."

*Thomas Darby* issued tokens bearing PARROTT ARMS, Ales, Wines and Spirits.

“At the Oldbury County Court on Friday last, before A. M. Skinner, Esq, Judge, the following case was tried.

*Darby v Clift.* Mr. H. Plunkett, of West Bromwich and Oldbury, was retained for the plaintiff; and Mr. H. Jackson, of West Bromwich, for the defendant.

This was an action brought by the plaintiff, who is the landlord of the PARROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury, against the defendant, to recover the sum of £5 10s, the balance claimed to be due from him upon a promissory note for a larger amount which had been signed by him as a surety, and had been paid to the plaintiff as treasurer of a money club held at his house. By the rules of the society the money due from the members was to be paid by instalments, and on each club night a payment of 6d was to be made by each member, whether present or absent, in return for which a quart of ale was to be supplied by the landlord – this being to remunerate the landlord for the use of his room and for furnishing fire and candles. Whatever the number present, as many quarts of ale were supplied by the landlord as there were members actually on the books of the club, the members present being entitled to consume this as a reward for their punctual attendance. It appeared by the evidence that the defendant had been present on several occasions (he admitted to six) and partaken of the ale, but on each of these occasions he said he had paid 6d for his share. This was admitted, but his account was debited with ale for the full number of nights on which the club had been held, and he was credited with the payments made by him, and he had also been credited with his share of the profits made by the club. In this state of things Mr. Jackson contended that the amount charged for the ale on those nights when the defendant did not attend the club must be deducted from the amount claimed, forming as it did a considerable part of the present claim, as defendant could not legally be charged with of which he had not partaken, and the rules of the club were not binding upon him, it being unenrolled.

Mr. Plunkett, in reply, referred to a case which had been decided in the Court of Exchequer, in which it had been expressly ruled that where, as in the present case, a promissory note had been given to the treasurer of a money club for money advanced to one of its members, and the note was made payable to him in his own name simply, and not such as such treasurer, an action would lie against a surety who joined in such note for the full amount named in it, and that even payments which had been made to the club could not be claimed as deductions. How much less, then, could the present defendant claim any exemption, when only part of the amount secured by the note was sought to be recovered, credit being given for all the payments actually made, but the account being debited with the ale which had been supplied, as above mentioned, to the members of the club? If the defendant had not been present on every club night, he had been there, by his own admission, on several such nights; and on those occasions no doubt he had partaken of the ale supplied on account of the absent members, as well as of that supplied for himself and the other members present; and, therefore, independently of the law of the case, it was fair that he should pay.

After hearing the evidence, his Honour decided that the defendant could not claim a deduction of the amount charged for the ale supplied under the above circumstances, and judgement was therefore given for the plaintiff for the full amount claimed.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 16/8/1860 - Advert

“Oldbury Races will take place on Monday and Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 1860.

Stewards: Mr. *T. Darby*, Mr. J. Knock, and Mr. J. Underhill; Judge, Mr. T Taylor; Starter, Mr. H. Keeten.

Trial Stakes of 10 sovs, one sov. Entrance, for Galloways not exceeding 14 hands.

The Oldbury Stakes for Silver Cup, value 8 sovs, for Hacks the property of gentlemen residing in Oldbury; entrance 10s.

A Sweepstakes of 6 sovs, 10s entrance, for Galloways not exceeding 14 hands.

Innkeepers' Stakes of 8 sovs, half-sov. Entrance, for Hacks. Open for all.

A Ladies' Purse of 4 sovs, 5s entrance, for Ponies, not exceeding 12 hands high.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. *T. Darby*, PARROT ARMS; Mr. J. Underhill; or Mr. J. Knock, Oldbury; or Mr. H. Keeten, Birmingham; and for further information see handbills.

The Draw for the Booths will take place on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the PARROT ARMS, Oldbury.”

#### 1861 Census

Birmingham Street on Oldbury Green – PARROTT ARMS

- [1] *Thomas Darby* (44), farmer, victualler and carter, 30 acres, employing 6 men, born Smethwick;
- [2] *Fanny Darby* (27), wife, born Corley, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Daniel Darby* (22), son, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Thomas Darby* (18), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Denis Darby* (16), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Elizabeth Darby* (12), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Fanny Darby* (9), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [8] *Maryann Davis* (17), house servant, born Bilston;
- [9] *George Meris* (17), carter, born Smethwick;
- [10] *Arthur Woodward* (19), carter, born Stanton, Gloucestershire;
- [11] *William Williams* (26), carter, born Shropshire;
- [12] *Arthur Cook* (16), carter, born Gloucestershire:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/6/1862

“An adjourned meeting of the committee for the suppression of the Chemical Nuisance was held on Friday evening, at the PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury. There were present. Messrs. J. Collings (chairman), Underhill, Savage, J. Underhill, J. Downing, Parks, J. Collins, D. Thompson, C. Thompson, T. Darby, S. Underhill, &c, &c. The Chairman said they had met there to protect themselves against the devastation and destruction to which every one present could bear witness. He entered into a detailed description of the nuisance caused by the works of Messrs. Chance, after which other gentlemen having addressed the meeting, it was ultimately proposed by Mr. Pope, seconded by Mr. Savage, that every person desirous of becoming a member of the committee, should subscribe one guinea, and every one, either rented for, or owner of, more than twenty acres, should pay one shilling per acre. The motion was carried unanimously. Mr. L. Pope was elected secretary, and Mr. W. Underhill was appointed treasurer.

The following communication was read from Major-General Studd.

Weymouth, June 10.

Sir. Your letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst has just reached me. I can readily understand the mischief to a great extent is done to the vegetation of Smethwick and its neighbourhood by those pernicious gases exhaling from the different works established there, and I should be glad to co-operate with others who are interested in any measure likely to prevent or put a stop to it.

Perhaps you will be so kind as to let me know more in detail the plans, &c, of the society about to be formed, and the course it is proposed to pursue to remedy the nuisances at present existing.

I should wish, also, to see a list of your subscription.

I am Sir, your obedient servant. Edward Studd.

A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1864 - Advert

“For Sale, cheap, a Bay Cob, 13½ hands high; also, Two Gelts, in pig.

Apply at the PARROT ARMS, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/1/1865

“At Mr. *Adams*'s, the PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury, on Monday, January 16, a fat pig, weighing 24 score, will be shot for by 24 members at 10s each. Conditions: 3 pigeons each, ¾-bore guns, 1¾oz of shot, 21 yards rise; double guns 1½oz of shot, 19 yards rise, 60 yards boundary. The winner can either take the pig or money. The best blue rocks will be provided. Shooting at twelve o'clock.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/5/1865

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, before Messrs. Chance and Moore, Hannah Skelding, a prostitute, residing in Stone Street, was charged with stealing a pair of women's boots, value 5s, the property of James Walton, carriage builder, Nelson Street. The prosecutor stated that on Saturday night about half-past eleven, he was in the PARROTT ARMS, with a man named Ward, to whom he was showing the boots. The prisoner came up and asked to look at them, after which Ward gave them to her, and she decamped. He followed her to the racecourse, but she refused to give up the boots. She was subsequently apprehended at her residence by Po-

lice-constable Bing, to whom she stated that the prosecutor gave her the boots for an immoral purpose. Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, urged that such was the case, and that the men were drunk at the time. The Magistrates, after a lengthened consultation, decided to discharge the prisoner.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/7/1868 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable young Person as Barmaid and Waitress, who would not object to make herself generally useful.

Address, the PARROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/10/1868

“A public meeting of the electors of Oldbury was held in the large room at the PARROTT ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, at which a considerable number of electors were present . . . . The meeting was addressed by several local gentlemen; and a resolution to the effect that Mr. Amphlett was a fit and proper person to represent East Worcestershire in Parliament was passed unanimously.”

*P. Nock* issued tokens bearing PARROT ARMS.

It had a quoits club. [1869]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/2/1869

“Yesterday, at the PARROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury Green, before Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, an adjourned inquest was held touching the death of Joseph Sale, 63 years of age, who formerly resided in Hall Street, Oldbury, but died on Tuesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, from injuries received on the 15<sup>th</sup> June last.

John Walleth stated that he was employed at the Millfield Colliery, Hateley Heath, West Bromwich, belonging to Mr. Thomas Millership. On Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup> June last, they were engaged together down the pit in a new gate-road, the roof of which was composed of ‘cob’ and coal. Deceased and himself had occasion to carry a ‘bar’ about 6 feet long, and very thick, when it accidentally dropped and fell upon deceased’s left hand, which was seriously injured thereby. He never worked after.

Sarah Sale, wife of deceased, stated that when her husband came home on the evening in question he complained of having hurt his hand, and she poulticed the same. On the following Sunday it was much worse, and he died on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. In reply to the foreman of the jury, witness said her husband never complained about anyone one having injured him, but said Walleth ought not to have thrown the ‘bar’ down.

Mr. Sainsbury, surgeon, of Oldbury, stated that he attended the deceased prior to his death. He was very much prostrated. Soon after his first visit inflammatory fever set in, resulting from a contused wound in the palm of the hand. That wound had been lanced by Mr. Sansome, surgeon, of West Bromwich, but the discharge suddenly ceasing the blood became poisoned, and deceased gradually sank and died on the above-mentioned day. It was his (Mr. Sainsbury’s) opinion that deceased was in a very low condition before the accident, having been out of work some time. Deceased never complained to him about any one having injured him.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/3/1869

“Two other of the men injured by the explosion at the tar distillery works of Messrs. Demuth and Company, at Oldbury, have succumbed to their injuries, which, in both cases, were of a frightful nature. Henry Forrest, son of the manager of the works, expired about six o’clock yesterday morning, and Simon Rollason died on the preceding evening about seven o’clock.

Forrest, it will be remembered, was the man who swam, or rather waded, across the canal and then ran home. It is said by several people who saw him as he ran towards his home that he presented a sickening spectacle, the flesh hanging from him as he ran. He was thirty-seven years of age, and leaves a widow and six children.

Poor Rollason’s is a particularity distressing case. He was only twenty-six years of age. He had given notice and was going to leave the works on Saturday, his intention being to be married on the Sunday, and on



the following day he was going into possession of a business at Dudley.

This makes four deaths.

The lad Bastable, who was injured, states that he was blown a considerable distance by the force of the boiler which exploded, but that he closed his eyes and thinking it was safer anywhere than where he was thrown, he ran with all his might, and so escaped with his life, but not without very severe injuries. It is confidently hoped, however, that his injuries will not result fatally. The other persons injured are receiving every attention necessary, and are gradually recovering.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. R. Docker, Coroner, opened the inquest on the bodies of the four men who had been killed, at the PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury. Mr. Martineau, solicitor, Birmingham, appeared to represent Mr. Demuth, who was also present personally.

The Jury went to view the remains of the deceased, and afterwards went over the works of Mr. Demuth, being shown over by that gentleman. On their return, Mr. Martineau expressed the desire of Mr. Demuth, who had such a painful interest in that inquiry, to offer every facility possible to conduct it.

The Coroner said he was glad Mr. Martineau was present, and should be happy to receive any suggestions. He did not propose to do more that day than to take evidence of the identity of the bodies, and he should then adjourn to a future day, in order that scientific evidence might be given as to the cause of the accident.

Henry Forrest, foreman of the works, then identified the body of his son, Joseph (37), stiller.

George Ellement identified the charred remains lying at the police station as those of his brother, James Ellement (22), labourer. He knew the remains by the big frame and by the clogs, which were extraordinarily large.

William Pickerill identified the remains lying at the works as those of his son, Samuel Pickerill (22), stiller. He could tell them by a clog. He was satisfied they were the remains of his son.

Phoebe Shaw identified the body of Rollason.

The Coroner then adjourned the inquiry till Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, at ten o'clock in the morning, and in the meantime the services of a competent person would be engaged to view the place, and ascertain, if possible, the cause of the accident, and so satisfy the jury, and enabling them to come to a conclusion. This would be done as soon as possible, so that work might be resumed at the works at the earliest moment.

We have been requested to state that Mr. Cooper, surgeon, and Dr. Brown, were on the spot shortly after the catastrophe, and rendered efficient aid to the sufferers.

The amount of damage has not yet been ascertained, nor can an approximate estimate even be given.

Owing principally to the exertions of Mr. A. Chance and Mr. Sainsbury, a fund for the permanent relief of the families of the deceased and for the temporary relief of the injured has been started. Messrs. Chance and Co. have promised to head the subscription list liberally, and no doubt there will be no lack of donations, for the appalling nature of the catastrophe and the horrible deaths of the deceased have produced a profound effect in the neighbourhood. An additional reason for giving, not only liberally, but early, is that the money is required at once, and prompt aid is doubly welcome."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/3/1869

"Yesterday an adjourned inquest was held at the PARROT INN, Oldbury, before Mr. Ralph Docker, one of the coroners for the county of Worcester, respecting the circumstances attending the death of the four unfortunate men, James Ellement (24), Samuel Pickerill (19), Simon Rollason (26), and Joseph Forrester (38), who were killed by the explosion which occurred at the works of Mr. L. Demuth, tar distiller, &c, Oldbury, last week....

The Coroner then proceeded to sum up the facts of the matter. He remarked that in a neighbourhood like that, where, unfortunately, occurrences of a like distressing nature to the one they had under consideration were so frequent, it was necessary to carefully examine the case, in order to ascertain if there was any blame attaching to anyone for negligence, and at the same time to avail themselves of all the assistance they could from scientific men to enable them to prevent, if possible, such disasters arising.

He then reviewed the evidence, and observed every precaution appeared to have been taken, and if blame was to be attached to anybody, it must be to one of the poor fellows who had lost his life. However, they would not say anything upon that point. They had heard the evidence, and it was for the jury to consider as to what verdict should be recorded. He had no doubt that the verdict of so intelligent a jury would satisfy the public mind upon the matter. In conclusion, he said that after all the precautions that were taken it

was found that where trades involving dangerous processes were carried on accidents frequently happened, which, although they might have been prevented, they could not but consider in the light of accidents. After a brief consultation, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, coupling with it the following: 'We unanimously recommend that the owners of such works direct their serious attention to devise some contrivance for indicating the stoppage in the condenser, and the excess of pressure in the still; the jury are also of opinion that the man in charge of the stills should not have too many stills to attend to at one time.' Since the accident an active canvass has been made in Oldbury and the district, which has already resulted in a fund amounting to £250 for the relief of the sufferers. The committee, consisting of the principal promoters of this fund, intend to meet next Tuesday morning to consider the best means of employing it to the greatest advantage."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/7/1869

"Yesterday afternoon an inquiry was opened before Mr. Ralph Docker (coroner) and a respectable jury, at the PARROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury Green, into the circumstances attending the death of Simon Rudge (29), of Portway Road, Oldbury, and Joseph Bowater (22), of Yates Lane, Cakemoor, who were killed whilst working in a pit at the Whiteheath colliery, belonging to Mr. Thomas Price, on Tuesday last, as reported in yesterday's *Gazette*. The only evidence adduced was that with reference to the identification of the bodies, after which the inquest was adjourned, in order that the inspector of collieries (Mr. Baker) might be communicated with, and an examination of the pit made. Little hope of the recovery of the poor man Birch is entertained."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1869

"Yesterday evening the inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Simeon Rudge (29), of Oldbury Road, and Joseph Bowater (22), of Yates Lane, Cakemoor, who were killed while working at the Pressure Pits on the 29<sup>th</sup> June last, was resumed before Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, at the PARROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury Green. Mr. Baker, Mines Inspector, and Mr. Price, the proprietor of the pits, were also in attendance.

It will be remembered that the inquiry was adjourned in order that two men, named Burch and Pool, who received injuries by the accident, might attend.

Daniel Pool said that he, with Burch and Bowater, were engaged in filling a skip, when a 'bump' was heard, followed immediately by the fall of nearly a boat-load of coal from the side, by which four of them were smothered. They were got out in the course of fifteen minutes. Timber was fixed at about four yards from where the fall took place.

By Mr. Baker: A short time before the accident he saw Rudge 'knock' the place to see if it was secure. They were about to put up a 'tree' to secure an 'ugly corner,' but the fall took place before they had done so. The doggy always examined the pit before the men proceeded to work, and had upon several occasions ordered the men to leave off work in places which he considered dangerous until the same had been rendered safe. Edward Twigger, doggy, said he examined the pit before the men went to work on the day in question, and considered it quite safe.

Henry Burch, one of the injured men, said he had been a miner for a number of years, and had seen similar accidents in places quite as narrow as the one in question. He cited one which occurred at the Tiger Pits, near Oldbury, some time ago, when three men were killed.

There was no other evidence of importance adduced, and the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 16/8/1869

"Quoits..... The return match between the BLUE BALL, Brades Village, and the PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury, was played, as previously arranged, on the BLUE BALL grounds, on Wednesday last, when the BLUE BALL Club again became winners, Mr. J. W. Johnson scoring the greatest number of points. Although the weather was anything but favourable, a great many visitors were present....."

[BLUE BALL won by 80 to 62.]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1869 -Advert

"PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury.

To be Let, the above well-frequented Inn, comprising front Smoke Room, Parlour, Commercial Room, Hall Entrance, Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, five Chambers, large Club Room, five Cellars, lock-up Coach-house, Stabling for twenty horses, and large enclosed Yard.

There are four Clubs held at the House, and a most excellent business is being done.

Illness of the landlord is the sole cause of leaving. Rent £30.

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

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/3/1870 - Advert

“Wanted, by a respectable young Man, a Situation as Groom (out-door). Thoroughly understands his duties. Age 22 years.

S. B., PARROT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/5/1870 - Advert

“Wanted, by a respectable Young Man, a Situation as Ostler or Groom. Thoroughly understands his duties.

S. B., PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury.”

*John Stiles* = John Styles

London Gazette 20/1/1871

“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 *John Stiles*, of the PARROTT ARMS, Birmingham-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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. Arthur Wright, in Church-street, in Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1871, at four o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1871.

Arthur Wright, Attorney for the said *John Stiles*.”

1871 Census

1, Birmingham Street

[1] George Price (16), shopman in charge of house, born Oldbury;

[2] Samuel Nightingale (10), son, scholar, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/6/1872 - Advert

“Trap (Covered) for Sale, and Set of Harness, suitable for a Baker.

Apply, PARROT ARMS, Oldbury.”

*Daniel Nightingale* died on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1874.

West Bromwich Weekly News 29/10/1881 - Advert

“PERROTT ARMS HOTEL, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

The above House having undergone Very Extensive Alterations, visitors and the public of Oldbury, generally, may rely upon finding the same replete with every convenience.

The Smoke Room is elaborately fitted and arranged, and will be Opened on Monday Evening Next, the 31<sup>st</sup> inst. Entrance, Flash Road.

The Club Room, being very large and well furnished, claims the attention of Auctioneers, Societies, and persons requiring a good Room for the purpose of holding Meetings &c.

The Stock comprises Wines and spirits of the choicest Brands and Vintages, and are guaranteed pure as imported, which, together with Ales & Stouts, Cigars, &c, are supplied by the well-known firm of H. Mitchell and Co, Brewers.

Special care has been bestowed upon the convenience of Out-Door Customers, Entrances being in Flash Road and Birmingham Street.

Strict and courteous attention will, at all times, be paid to the requirements of the public, and their favours are respectfully solicited, and will oblige *William Marigold*, Proprietor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/4/1887

“Last night Mr. E. Docker (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the PERROTT ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, respecting the death of Martha Farrington, aged 17 months, whose parents reside in Perrott Street. According to the evidence of Eliza Murray and Hannah Hamer, who witnessed the accident, the child on Wednesday night ran down the entry into the street, and was run over by a dray belonging to Messrs. W. Showell and Sons, which happened to be passing. The driver of the cart pulled up immediately, but it was too late, as one wheel of the vehicle had passed over the child’s body, and inflicted shocking injuries, from which she died about twenty minutes afterwards. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and exonerated the driver from all blame.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/7/1889 - Advert

“General (respectable), about 20; good character; used to the business preferred. Apply, PERRROTT ARMS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/4/1890

“On Saturday evening the quarterly meeting of delegates representing the various friendly societies belonging to the Smethwick and West Bromwich district of the Ancient Order of Foresters was held at the PERROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury, Mr. G. Bishop, DCR, presiding. Mr. J. Cotterill (district secretary) presented the report and balance sheet, which showed that there were at the present time 3,333 members in the district, being an increase of about 100 during the quarter. The financial statement was also of a satisfactory character, showing that the funeral fund amounted to £725 3s 10d, reduced sick pay fund to £237 19s 7d, and benevolent fund to £64 8s 7d. There was invested in West Bromwich Corporation Stock £500, in the Post Office Savings Bank £487 4s 3d, and in the treasurer’s hands £56 4s 8½d. Messrs. E. B. Bourne (Court Battle Oak) and J. Henley (Chevy Chase) were appointed auditors. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Hill Top, West Bromwich, in July.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/5/1890

“Last night the annual meeting of the members of Oldbury Town Football Club was held at the PERROTT ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury; Mr. W. Round presiding. Mr. J. H. Swallow (secretary) read the report, showing the matches played by the club during the year. Mr. Corbett (financial secretary) reported that the subscriptions amounted to £44 14s 6d, and the receipts at the gate to £164 6s 5d; the total income of the club being £323 15s 3d, an increase of about £80 compared with last year. The assets were valued at £187 10s; and after making allowance for outstanding liabilities, there was a balance of £100 9s 6d in favour of the club, an increase of £24 over last year. The Chairman and other members commented on the satisfactory character of the report and balance sheet, after which they were unanimously adopted. Mr. H. Garbett was elected general secretary, and Mr. J. Allbrooke treasurer. The election of president, vice-presidents, and financial secretary was referred to the committee.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1890

“On Saturday evening Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the PERROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury, touching the death of Ann Sillitoe (72), of Perrott Street, who died on Saturday morning from the effects of burns received on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. It was supposed that whilst deceased was on the hearth her clothes caught fire. George Long, who happened to be in the locality, heard the old woman’s screams, and ran in and extinguished the flames. She was found to be badly burnt about the body, and died on Saturday as stated. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1891 Census

2, Birmingham Street

- [1] *George Herbert Crabtree* (30), licensed victualler, born Sutton Coldfield;
- [2] *Mary Crabtree* (34), wife, born Ireland;
- [3] *Lucy Crabtree* (4), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *John Archibald Crabtree* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Mary Hodgkiss* (17), domestic servant, born Rounds Green;
- [6] *Lizzy Cutler* (13), nurse, born Oldbury:

County Express 20/6/1891

“An inquest was held on Saturday, at the PERROTT ARMS INN, before Mr. Docker (coroner), concerning the death of John Perry (50), an iron-bundler, who died last Thursday from the effects of injuries sustained whilst employed at the District Ironworks, Smethwick, on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. J. W. Thompson attended the enquiry on behalf of the District Iron Company.

Deceased was carrying a bundle of iron on his shoulder, when he caught against another pile of iron, which fell upon him.

Dr. Battey said death resulted from injuries to the chest.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1891

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. A.H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest, at the PERROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury, relative to the death of Thomas Perry (71), of John Street, who died on Thursday last. It appeared that on Saturday morning, as deceased was getting out of bed, he fell on to the floor, breaking his collar bone. Dr. McMillan said death was due to bronchitis, and the jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.

Mr. Hebbert also held an inquest at the same place respecting the death of William Weston (70), who formerly lodged in Birmingham Road, who was found dead in bed on Wednesday morning last. About three weeks ago deceased fell down in a fit, and had not been well since. He went to bed as usual on Tuesday night, and when Ann McGuire, his landlady, entered his room on Wednesday morning she found him dead. It was stated that deceased earned about 5s or 6s per week by hawking fish, out of which he paid 2s per week for his lodgings. Dr. Lyddon said death was due to heart disease, and the jury returned a verdict to that effect.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/8/1891

“Last night a special general meeting of the members of the Oldbury Town Football Club was held at the PERROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury, for the purpose of considering the advisability or otherwise of carrying on the club. There was a numerous attendance; Mr. H. Garbett presiding. The secretary (Mr. D. Corbets) explained the financial position of the club, and pointed out that they could not afford to play professionals as they had done in previous seasons, and the only course open to them was to run a purely amateur team. He also mentioned that a certain sum must be raised to enable the club to start on a firm basis for another season. After some discussion the amount required was subscribed in the room. It was decided to play an amateur team during the ensuing season. It was stated that the club had been entered for the Birmingham League, and fixtures had already been arranged with several local clubs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1891 - Advert

“General (clean, quick); good character; about 20; plain cooking. PERROTT ARMS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/4/1892

“On Saturday evening a meeting of delegates from the twenty-eight lodges belonging to the Smethwick and West Bromwich District of the Ancient Order of Foresters, was held at the PERROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury; Mr. G. Plant (DCR) presiding. ....”

Smethwick Telephone 4/11/1893 - Advert

“To Let. Part of a Large Yard, situate at the rear of the PERROTT ARMS, Oldbury; would suit a builder or others for a stock yard. Rent, 5s per week.

Apply, on the premises, or Cape Hill Brewery, Smethwick.”

Smethwick Telephone 1/9/1894

“On Tuesday Mr. A. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the PERROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury, respecting the death of Thomas Underhill (63), farmer, of Birmingham Road, Oldbury, who died on Friday night from the effects of injuries receive the same day.

Dr. Buttery said he was called in to see deceased on Friday evening. He found him struggling for breath. Deceased’s neck was partially dislocated. Deceased told witness that he was driving down a lane three miles beyond Wolverhampton when his horse stumbled and fell, and he was thrown out of the vehicle on to his head. When he recovered he found his horse lying between the shafts, and he got him up and drove home. Deceased expired about 9.15 on the same night, the cause of death being compression of the brain and spine. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/10/1894

“On Saturday Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the PERROTT ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, respecting the death of Sarah Jane Kettle, aged 13 months, whose parents reside in New Street, Oldbury, who died on Friday from the effects of scalds. The evidence showed that on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst deceased was playing near the breakfast table, when she accidentally upset a cup of boiling tea over her, the result being that she was scalded badly about the face and breast, which resulted in her death.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Smethwick Telephone 19/1/1895

“On Saturday the quarterly meeting of the delegates representing the 27 Foresters’ Courts in the Smethwick and West Bromwich District was held at the PERROTT ARMS, Oldbury, Mr. William Southall, D C R presiding.....”

Smethwick Telephone 30/3/1895

“The annual dinner in connection with the West Bromwich, Oldbury, and District Branch of the Typographical Society took place at the PERROTT ARMS, HOTEL, Oldbury, on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst, when about forty sat down to an excellent repast. After dinner, a short interval was taken. The harmony of the evening commenced with a selection by the Band, and followed by the loyal toast, ‘The Queen and the Royal Family.’ Other toasts, including ‘The Typographical Association, West Bromwich, Oldbury, and District Branch,’ ‘Our Employers,’ ‘Visitors,’ and ‘The Host and Hostess,’ were given and responded to. A capital programme of vocal and instrumental music was efficiently rendered by Messrs. J. T. Dagley, H. Owen, J. Ward, J. Ingram, G. Robinson, C. Clarke, E. C. Box, T. H. Beaumont, Mills, an L. Teagle. The company dispersed at eleven o’clock, after having spent a most enjoyable evening.”

County Advertiser 24/6/1899 - Advert

“To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Important Sale of Freehold Licensed Premises, and other Properties, at Oldbury, Titford, Causeway Green, and Bristnall Fields, in the Parish of Halesowen.

H. King and Son are favoured with instructions from Messrs. Hodgetts to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, at Three o’clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.....

The PERROTT ARMS HOTEL, situate at the corner of Birmingham Street and Flash Street, the Town of Oldbury, held under lease by H. Mitchell and Co. (Mitchell and Butler Limited), expiring March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1902. Building Site, with Range of Stabling, fronting Flash Street, adjoining the above, and included in the said lease.

Three Front Shops, Nos.4, 6, and 8, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, also adjoining the Hotel.....

Plans and particulars may be had of Mr. T. Jarvis Hodgetts, Surveyor, 21, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham; Messrs. Bourne and Co., Solicitors, Dudley; or of the Auctioneers, Stourbridge.”

AND

Smethwick Telephone 24/6/1899

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Highly Important Sale of Freehold Licensed Premises, and other Properties, at Oldbury, Titford, Causeway Green, and Bristnall Fields, all in the Parish of Halesowen, in the County of Worcester.

H. King and Son are favoured with instructions from Messrs. Hodgetts, to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Thursday Next, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced – the following Freehold Licensed Premises, Front Shops, Building Land, &c, namely.

At Oldbury. Lot 1. The Freehold and Fully-Licensed Premises the PERROTT ARMS HOTEL, situate at the Corner of Birmingham Street and Flash Road, in the immediate vicinity of important works, and occupying a commanding and central position, doing an extensive and lucrative trade, and possessing ample accommodation for increasing the same. The Hotel contains a large and handsome Bar, 31½ft by 14½ft, having two entrances; side Hall Entrance, Smoke Room, 23½ft by 11ft; Lavatory, Sitting Room, Larder, Kitchen, Back Kitchen, Public Room, 44ft by 15ft; Spirit Room, and 4 Bed Rooms, Beer and Wine Cellars, with Rolling Way; there is also enclosed Yard with w.c.

The Property is held on a repairing Lease by Mr. Henry Mitchell (now Mitchells and Butlers Limited), which Lease expires on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1902.

This Sale offers a rare opportunity of acquiring one of the best business premises in this populous and busy neighbourhood, and which falls into possession within a short period.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 28/4/1900

“An inquest was held by Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner), at the PERROTT ARMS, Birmingham Street, on Tuesday, concerning the sudden death of Florence Jane Lissimore (8), who lived with her parents, Albert and Mary Lissimore, at 22, Low Town. It appeared that on Sunday night the child was put to bed at about 8.30, apparently in good health, and at 11 o'clock she was alright. About 6.30 the following morning she was found dead in bed, and Dr. Nutter stated that the child's liver was enlarged, and her lungs were also weak, the effects of a bad cold. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

#### 1901 Census

2, Birmingham Road – PERROTT ARMS

- [1] *Richard White* (58), hotel manager, born Langley;
- [2] *Hannah White* (49), wife, born Warley;
- [3] *Nellie White* (27), daughter, barmaid, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Nancy White* (24), daughter, barmaid, born Warley;
- [5] *Alice White* (22), daughter, barmaid, born Oldbury;
- [6] *John White* (20), son, assistant to architect and surveyor, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Mable White* (18), daughter, barmaid, born Warley;
- [8] *Lizzie White* (13), daughter, barmaid, born Warley;

#### Birmingham Mail 25/6/1901

“This morning Mr. A. H. Hibbert (Deputy Coroner) held an inquest at the PERROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury, respecting the death of Agnes Richards, aged one year and ten months, whose parents reside in Stone Street, who expired yesterday from the effects of scalds sustained on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst. It appeared that on the last-named date the infant upset a can containing boiling broth, which ran over her body, inflicting shocking injuries. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 9/11/1901

“The annual dinner in connection with the National United Order of Free Gardeners, West Bromwich and Smethwick District, May Flower Lodge, No.1472, was held on Saturday evening last, at the lodge house, PERROTT ARMS, when a good number of members and friends sat down to an excellent repast. After dinner Bro. Charles Pigott, Lodge Master, was voted as chairman, and Bro. Thomas Powell as vice chairman.....”

#### County Advertiser 18/1/1902

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Wine And Spirit Merchants, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Sale of Valuable Freehold Licensed Premises, at Oldbury, Worcestershire.

H. King and Son are favoured with instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. Jarvis Hodgetts to Offer for Sale by Auction at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1902.....

Lot 1. The Freehold and Fully-Licensed Premises, known as the PERROTT ARMS HOTEL, situate at the Corner of Birmingham Street and Flash Street, Oldbury, and now in the hands of Messrs. Mitchells and Butler, whose Lease is expiring, so that Possession on the 25<sup>th</sup> March Next may be had, Absolutely Free from any Trade Ties whatever.....

For Plans and Particulars apply to Messrs. Bourne and Company, Solicitors, Dudley; Mr. T. J. Hodgetts, Land Agent, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham; or of the Auctioneers, Stourbridge.”

AND

Smethwick Weekly News 1/2/1902

“H. King and Son are favoured with instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. Jarvis Hodgetts, to offer for Sale by Auction ..... on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1902.....

Lot 1. The Freehold and Fully-licensed Premises known as the PERROTT ARMS HOTEL, situate at the corner of Birmingham Street and Flash Road, Oldbury, in the immediate vicinity of important works, occupying a commanding and central corner position, with ample accommodation for increasing the present lucrative trade. It is now in the hands of Messrs. Mitchell and Butler, whose lease is expiring, so that possession on the 25<sup>th</sup> March next may be had, absolutely free from any trade ties whatever.

The Hotel contains a large and handsome Bar 31½ x 14½, with two entrances, side hall entrance, Smoke Room, Lavatory, Sitting Room, Larder, Kitchens, Public Room, 44 x 15, Spirit Room, 4 Bedrooms, Beer and Wine Cellars, with rolling way. There is also an enclosed Yard with WC.....”

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

*Edward Lawrence* was already in possession at the time of the licensing meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1905.

Bridgnorth Journal 19/3/1910

“In connection with the bankruptcy of Edward Lawrence, formerly of Wolverhampton, but now living at Kidderminster, two motions were heard on Friday by his Honour Judge Howard Smith at the Wolverhampton County Court. Mr. J. S. Sharpe (West Bromwich) mentioned that the first motion was by Mrs. Lawrence, the wife of the debtor, in respect to maintenance.....

The second motion had reference to a claim against the estate of £51 3s by *John Groom*, formerly of the PERROT ARMS, Oldbury, in respect of the maintenance of his daughter, Mrs. Lawrence, and several of her children, from July to December, 1905.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/9/1906

“John Plant, an ironworker, of Albert Street, Oldbury, died in West Bromwich District Hospital yesterday under singular circumstances. On the previous day he was engaged in cleaning the windows of the PERROTT ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, and it is alleged that he obtained access to the spirit room and drank some of the contents. The neat spirit apparently overcame him, and after leaving the room he fell downstairs, receiving severe injuries to his head. He was taken home and medically attended, but his condition was so serious that he was removed to the hospital, where he died yesterday, his skull being fractured.”

AND

Birmingham Mail 25/9/1906

“Today Mr. Lyon Clark (Deputy Coroner) held an inquest at the Law Courts, West Bromwich, concerning the death of John Plant (48), of no fixed abode, who died in the West Bromwich District Hospital on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst. Deceased had lived with a woman for 25 years, but for eighteen months they had separated. He was stated to be an intemperate man. On the 20<sup>th</sup> inst Plant was engaged to clean windows at the PERROTT ARMS INN, Oldbury. About six o'clock deceased was found lying across a bed asleep. He was aroused, but upon coming downstairs he fell heavily to the bottom, and his head struck one of the steps. When picked up deceased was unconscious, and he remained in this condition until his death in the hospital the following day. He sustained a fracture of the base of the skull, which resulted in his death. It transpired that deceased



had drunk a pint of Irish whisky neat out of the spirit room where he was cleaning windows. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/12/1907

“Several points of importance in connection with the operations of money societies were raised in a case which came before Judge Smith at West Bromwich County Court yesterday. This was an action by George William Spittle and William E. Hunt, trustees of the Oldbury Permanent Money Society, to recover from Robert Holling, master cabinet maker, of Simpson Street, Oldbury, and *George Herbert Crabtree*, public house manager, of the PERRATT ARMS, Oldbury, the sum of £25 7s, being the balance of a promissory note for £50, of which defendants were joint signatories with two other persons. Mr. H. Jeffries appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. C. H. Darby for the defendants.

The case had been before the court on a previous occasion, when it was stated that the society advanced a sum of £50 to Lizzie Parrock, of Oldbury, the security being a promissory note signed by her father and the two defendants. A portion of the money had been repaid, and the society now sued to recover the balance. Mr. Darby contended that the defendants were not liable because the principal, Lizzie Parrock, was an infant in law, being under twenty-one at the time the loan was obtained, and, therefore, it was not a legal transaction. He also argued that the money was obtained by Lizzie Parrock, on behalf of her father, who signed the promissory note, but who had previously obtained from the society the maximum amount the rules permitted, and that as it was not a recoverable transaction it must be held to be illegal.

Mr. Jeffries now produced a certified copy of the rules of the society, which, he said, was registered under the Friendly Societies Act.

Judge Smith said the case was one of considerable importance to money societies which were not registered under the Companies Act. He wished to know whether the society had power by these rules to lend money to non-members. His Honour said he should like to have further information on the point whether the society could lend money to an infant, and, if so, whether in this case it was a recoverable transaction, and that the money was really advanced to the infant for the purpose of being handed over to the father. If that were so, the society had advanced to one person more than their rules allowed, and in these circumstances the point then arose whether the sureties were liable in respect of what was an illegal transaction.

He adjourned the case until January 21 in order that he might hear further argument upon the points raised.”  
[At the adjourned hearing, the Judge found for the defendants and granted them ordinary costs.]

*George Herbert Crabtree* – see also DOG AND PHEASANT.

*George Valentine Turton* – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE.

#### Birmingham Mail 17/3/1911 - Advert

“Bar-Potman Wanted, with good references.  
Apply, PERROTT ARMS, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.”

#### 1911 Census

2, Birmingham Road

- [1] *Frederick Turner* (39), hotel manager, born Bordesley, Birmingham;
- [2] *Emily Turner* (39), wife, married 16 years, hotel manageress, born Balsall Heath, Birmingham;
- [3] *John Lawrence Turner* (13), son, school, born Sparkbrook, Birmingham;
- [4] *Harold Wilfred Turner* (12), son, school, born Sparkbrook, Birmingham;
- [5] *Cyril Turner* (5), son, school, born Sparkbrook, Birmingham;
- [6] *Frederick Turner* (1), son, born St. Georges, Hockley, Birmingham;
- [7] *Gertrude Edith Lane* (17), domestic servant, born St. Martins, Birmingham:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/1/1934

“Fines totaling £20 were imposed at Oldbury Court yesterday in connection with midnight drinking at a local licensed house. Among the defendants were two men well-known in Midland snooker circles – Alec Mann and Fred Lawrence.

*Charles Henry Bradley*, licensee of the PERROTT ARMS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, was summoned on five counts alleging selling of intoxicants during prohibited hours. There were five other summonses against him – alleging aiding and abetting in consumption.

Summonses for alleged consuming were heard against Frederick Lawrence, 9, Langley Road, Small Heath, Birmingham; Alexander Edward Mann, SEVEN STARS HOTEL, Cape Hill, Smethwick; Joseph William Sealey, 781, Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham; Frank Howard Pearce, 51, Apollo Road, Rood End, Oldbury; and Fred Lewis, 249, Heath Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham.

Mr. J. T. Higgs (prosecuting) explained that at 11.25pm on 22 November, Sergeant Green saw a motor car standing outside the public house, and upon going into the yard at the rear of the premises saw a light in the living room.

There was a space of about 2½in between the blind and the window frame, and upon looking through he saw reflected in a mirror *Bradley*, Mann and Lewis on a settee. He saw them drink what appeared to be beer from half-pint glasses. The voices of others were heard, some of them belonging to women. One man was heard to say, 'I'll pay for drinks round, Harry,' whereupon *Bradley* exclaimed 'Sh\_\_ The police are hot stuff round here,' but the first voice replied, 'There's no one about.'

The sergeant went away and returned about 12.10am, with PG Grubb. Again he saw the men sitting on the settee. About 12.20am a man said, 'Have a gin and peppermint, May. I'll pay.'

The sergeant then heard a man say, 'Bring three gins and peppermints and three halves. How much will that be?' *Bradley* answered, '3s 6d,' but a woman interposed with the remark, 'No. 2s 6d.'

Later the sergeant heard the sound of coins, and then the two officers went round to the Flash Road entrance to the premises and knocked at the door. Four minutes elapsed, however, before it was opened. Asked if he cared to explain why he was selling and supplying intoxicating drinks during non-permitted hours, *Bradley* said, 'I haven't sold and I haven't supplied.'

When the five men were asked the same question Mann replied that he was not consuming any intoxicants. Lewis said he had been to a snooker match, and had called at the house with them as a friend.

*Bradley* was fined £4 on each of the summonses for selling to Lawrence, Mann, Sealey, and Lewis, with £5 5s costs.

Lawrence, Mann, Sealey and Lewis were each fined £1 for consuming drinks during non-permitted hours. The summonses alleging aiding and abetting against *Bradley* were withdrawn, as was the summons against Pearce for alleged consuming."

*Charles Henry Bradley* – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR.

*Samuel George Evans* – see also BROWN LION.

### 1939 Register

2, Birmingham Road – PERROTT ARMS Public House

[1] *John Goode*, date of birth 17/10/1901, innkeeper, married;

[2] *Olive R. Goode*, dob 30/9/1903, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Doris M. Goode*, dob 19/2/1927, at school, single;

[5] *Annie (Ellis) Lilley*, dob 23/10/1909, bar general, single:

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/10/1953

"One of the finest finals of the Farcroft floodlight charity bowls tournament for many years was won last night by 34-year-old *Charlie Field*, licensee of the PERROTT ARMS, Oldbury, who, bowling for the Old Oak House, beat 31-year-old *Jim Williams* (Old House at Home, Harborne), a member of Fisher and Ludlow's inspection department, 21-16.

*Williams* won the jack and immediately took the lead, scoring three singles in the first three ends, but *Field* levelled the score two ends later.

The bowling was brilliant, and the scores had been equal twice by the twelfth end, when it was seven-all. From this point, however, *Field* slowly increased his lead.

The end seemed likely at the 29<sup>th</sup> end, but *Williams* fired and removed one of the shot woods, and then added three to his own score, but at the 32<sup>nd</sup> end *Field* put one nearer than *Williams* to win a sporting match 21-

16.”

Plans for alterations were approved on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1961.

Birmingham Daily Post 18/4/1963

“More often than not they play to a background roar of conversation, clinking glasses and shouted orders; they – the public house pianists of the Midlands – came into their own last night, however, when at the White Horse, Congreve Street, Birmingham, the semi-finals were held of a competition to choose the best ivory basher of the saloon bar.

The talk was muted, the orders were discreetly placed and music held the floor. One after another, 14 pianists from public houses from all parts of the Midlands took their places on the music stool and with a variety of styles, depending obviously on the tastes of their local patrons, each hammered out a five-minute non-stop medley of tunes ..... The judges were looking for the best style of presentation, personality, and the type of music that set the customers singing.....

Another strong contingent came from the PERROTT ARMS, Warley, in support of Mr. Ben Plevin, whose stylish maroon dinner jacket put him ahead sartorially, if nothing else. In addition his energetic foot-tapping set the glasses tinkling.....

The seven pianists who go forward to the final are.....

Ben Plevin, PERROTT ARMS, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/4/1963

“Mr. Ben Plevin, aged 35, of the PERROTT ARMS, Oldbury, winner of the public house pianist competition organised by the Birmingham Hospitals’ Broadcasting Association and Mitchells and Butlers, Ltd., at the White Horse, Congreve Street, Birmingham last night. Mr. Plevin works at Accles and Pollock Ltd., Oldbury.”

A team from here took part in the *Sports Argus* Inn Quiz competition. [1974/5], [1977]

Two teams from here took part in the *Sports Argus* Inn Quiz competition. [1978]

Sports Argus 20/5/1978

“Sport-Inn Quiz ..... The draw for the second round is.....

PERROTT ARMS (B), Birmingham Road, Oldbury, Warley v JOLLY SAILOR (A), Oldbury Road, Greets Green, West Bromwich.”

Sport Argus 17/6/1978

“The PERROTT ARMS won a fantastic finish in their Sport-Inn Quiz battle against the JOLLY SAILOR last week. With one question remaining they need seven points to draw as the score was 27-34. The dart thrower notched the required number of points and the question was: Who preceded Alan Dicks as the Bristol City manager? Answer: Fred Ford – and they got it right.

With the score 34 each the match went to a tie break. All players had to throw three darts and the team with the highest total were the winners. The JOLLY SAILOR looked home and dry with 147 scored and the PERROTT with a meagre 62 with three throws gone. But then up stepped Wilmot Hancock and he slammed in a sensational winning ton.”

A team from here took part in the Smethwick and District Charity Darts League. [1986/7]

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/2/1990

“Angry families will meet tonight to decide what action to take against Sandwell’s £425 a year poll tax.

They fear hundreds of council tenants will be evicted because they cannot afford to pay.

Sandwell Labour councillors announced a £425 tax after warning they would have to sack 10 per cent of teachers and close 14 homes for the elderly if the figure had been less. Finance committee chairman Councillor John Edwards (Labour, Greets Green and Lyng) has blamed big Government cuts in subsidies for

pushing up the figure.

But Mr. Mike Peckmore, chairman of Sandwell Tenants Steering Committee, a group representing tenants' associations in the borough, said, 'Everyone is horrified and devastated by the £425. The prospects are frightening for many families, who fear there will be hundreds of evictions because they cannot afford such a high amount.'

Mr. Peckmore said a steering committee meeting would be held tonight at the PERROTT ARMS pub, Oldbury, and discussions on the poll tax would take place. 'I cannot say at this stage what the tenants will propose at the meeting,' he said. 'But the initial reaction is that they are horrified by the figure.'"

Sandwell Evening Mail 13/12/1993 - Advert

"Fancy Running a Pub in the Birmingham Area?

Could one of the following houses be of interest to you?

PERROTT ARMS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, Warley.....

Enterprise Inns Limited now have a number of opportunities available for licensees to run their own business. Investment level required is between £10,000 - £20,000, dependent on the house....."

Closed [1995], [2021]

An appeal on an application for change of use to offices was refused by Sandwell Planning Department on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

## **PERRY HILL TAVERN**

23, Perry Hill Road, (Bleakhouse Road), OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

### LICENSEES

Donald Frederick Busst **(1956 – 1957);**

Thomas Arthur Dunn **(1957 – 1961);**

William Kenneth Griffiths **(1961 – [1962]**

Thomas Morrissey [1978]

Alan Mitchell [1983] – [1992]

Balwinder and Narinder Sangha [2008] – [2010]

### NOTES

It was built on the site of Coopers Farm.

An application was made on behalf of Messrs. Showells Brewery Ltd, for the removal of the NEW WHYMSEY INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, to premises proposed to be erected on land known as Coopers Farm, Perry Hill, Oldbury, in January 1938.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/2/1955 - Notice

"County of Worcester. Petty Sessional Division of Oldbury. Licensing Act 1953.

Notice of Application for Removal of Publican's Licence.

To: The Clerk to the Rating Authority of the Borough of Oldbury, the Clerk to the Licensing Justices for the said Petty Sessional Division of Oldbury, in the County of Worcester, the Chief Officer of Police of the Area in which the land hereinafter mentioned is situate And to all others whom it may concern.

We, Mitchells & Butlers Limited of Cape Hill Brewery, Smethwick, in the County of Stafford, Brewers, do Hereby Give Notice that it is our intention to Apply at the Second Session of the General Annual Licensing Meeting for the said Division to be held at the Court House, Oldbury, at 10.30 in the forenoon on Wednesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 1955, for a Provisional Grant of an Ordinary Removal of the Licence to hold any of the Excise Licences that may be held by a Publican to sell by retail under the said Act Intoxicating Liquors to be consumed either on or off the premises from the BELL INN, Rounds Green, in the Borough of Oldbury, in the County of Worcester, to a messuage and premises to be erected on land in Perry Hill Road, being part of Coopers Farm, approximately 210 yards from the corner of Brennand Road, in the Borough of Oldbury in the said County of Worcester of which Land we, Mitchell & Butlers Limited of Cape Hill Brewery, Smethwick, aforesaid, are the owners.

Signed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February 1955.

For and On Behalf of Mitchells & Butlers Limited.

C. Stanley Best, Executive Director.

Witness: Edward Jones, Clerk to Messrs. Johnson & Co, 85 and 87, Cornwall Street, Birmingham.

There is a Provisional Grant in force in respect of the above mentioned land. The object of the present application is merely to submit revised plans for approval of the Licensing Justices.”

The final the order in respect of the removal of the license of the BELL INN, Rounds Green, to the PERRY HILL TAVERN was made on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1956.

It opened in 1956.

*Thomas Arthur Dunn* – see also BRITISH QUEEN.

A team from here played in the Holts Sandwell Sunday League. [1986/87]

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 17/6/1987

“Thieves wrecked months of fund-raising work when they broke into an Oldbury pub today and stole a charity bottle containing hundreds of pounds. The PERRY HILL TAVERN in Perry Hill Road, Brandhall, had raised around £650 in a gallon whisky bottle which was to have been donated to the Birmingham Childrens' Hospital appeal. Two men were spotted running away from the pub by licensee Mr. *Alan Mitchell* after heaving a brick through the large plate glass bar window at 3am. Mr. *Mitchell* said today, ‘We do a lot of fund-raising work for charity and a great deal of effort had been put in by the regulars in trying to fill this bottle.’ He said that in future they would not be keeping a charity bottle on the bar but would instead be banking the money as it came in.”

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 29/1/1991 - Advert

“Free Entertainment in M&B Pubs. Forthcoming Attractions – February.....  
Tues 5<sup>th</sup>. Alistar Jons. PERRY HILL TAVERN, Oldbury.”

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 27/1/1992 - Advert

“Pubs with the M&B sign have it all – and to prove we feature below three of the brewery's pubs which can offer drinkers history, comfort, and of course good beer.....

Regulars at the PERRY HILL TAVERN thought the cost of their pint would rocket – after a stunning £140,000 facelift for their favourite local. But beer at the pub in Perry Hill Road, Oldbury, stayed at exactly the same price – already one of the cheapest pints in the West Midlands.

‘The lounge, bar and smoke-room have been refurbished,’ said licensee manager Mr. *Alan Mitchell*, who's been running the pub for nine years now. ‘We've put in new tables, chairs and carpets to make our rooms very pleasant places to drink in – and the customers love it. They thought that the beer would go up – but

we're still selling bitter in the bar for £1.06 a pint and mild from as little as 94p.

The transformation has been achieved without losing any of the pub's traditional tavern characteristics.

'That's important, said *Alan*, 'We wanted to do the place up – but still retain the atmosphere that the regulars love.'"

AND

"Enjoy the Good Taste of M&B at these M&B Taverns.....

PERRY HILL TAVERN, Perry Hill Road, (corner of Tame Road), Oldbury.

Friendly local with bar, smoke room, lounge, and beer garden for those lazy summer evenings.

Open: Mon-Fri 12.00-2.30pm, 6.00-11.00pm; Sat 11.00-3.00pm, 6.00-11.00pm; Sun 12.00-3.00pm, 7.00-10.30pm.

All With Ample Car Parking.

There's always a warm welcome at an M&B Tavern."

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.....

PERRY HILL TAVERN, Perry Hill Road, Oldbury, Warley."

Birmingham Weekly Mercury 11/4/1999 - Advert

"Elaine did it, so can You!

Elaine found it hard to slim on her own so she finally went along to one of our slimming classes for help.

Elaine found the friendly atmosphere and individual attention was just what she needed to concentrate on losing weight.

Lose Your Weight with Super Slim. We give you a choice of 3 successful diets on which you will Never be hungry, individual attention, recommended only normal family foods and No Calorie Counting.....

PERRY HILL TAVERN, Perry Hill Road, Oldbury, Mon 7.00pm."

Express & Star 4/9/2009

"The licensee of a landmark Sandwell pub has put his business up for sale only a year after taking it over. *Narinder Sangha* has put the PERRY HILL TAVERN in Oldbury on the market for £150,000. He said he wanted to do a nine to five job so he can spend more time with his family. The 47-year-old, who lives above the pub and restaurant, in Perry Hill Road, with his wife and two children, said, 'It's such a big job, I just want something now that takes up a bit less time. It's a good business though, it's a big premises and we get a lot of customers through the door, it's just too big for us.' He added, 'It's been on the market for three weeks now, we haven't had any interest at all yet but I feel quite confident, I'm sure it will sell. People still want a good business in the credit crunch.'

Mr. *Sangha* is a former brewery manager but decided to diversify into more hands-on work behind the bar. He bought the lease of the Tavern in 2008 and says he has full control of the business, which he is now looking to sell on for around £150,000.

He added, 'It's got a really big garden and a bar and a lounge area, and a living area upstairs.'

The pub, which also has an 80-seat restaurant, currently turns over £12,000 a week."

Halesowen News 18/9/2009

"Two Oldbury men involved in ugly pub violence in which stools and pool balls were thrown at staff and a window was smashed have been spared an immediate prison sentence ..... A group of people were refused entry into PERRY HILL TAVERN in Oldbury late at night because a member of their party had been barred from the premises. The landlord also decided it was far too late for them to be allowed a drink but his decision resulted in an argument breaking out and an altercation took place ..... *Balwinder Sangha*, the landlord, suffered three cuts to his head while his nephew *Narinder Sangha* sustained an injury to his hand after being

hit by a pool ball. The damage done to the pub in the incident was estimated at £3,500.....”

#### Halesowen News 7/12/2010

“An Oldbury pub has transformed its lounge into a top Indian restaurant in a bid to bring in the punters. The PERRY HILL TAVERN, Perry Hill Road, has recruited chefs from Bangladesh to ensure Spice restaurant serves authentic Asian food. The transformation of the lounge is part of the landlord’s plans to strengthen the pub’s links to the local community with several charity nights in the pipeline. *Narinder Sangha*, who took over the pub two years ago, said, ‘We’ve been serving Indian food for ages and people kept on asking why we don’t make it a bit more formal. So we decided to open Spice in the lounge so diners could feel more relaxed and receive table service.’ He added, ‘This area is very residential and needs a thriving pub and Spice will hopefully bring the community together. We try and do our bit for charities because our regulars are so generous raising cash for both Cancer Research UK and Myeloma UK.’”

#### Halesowen News 19/6/2017

“Top musicians will be sharing the joy of jazz across Sandwell as the borough teams up with a major international festival. The newly-renamed Birmingham, Solihull & Sandwell Jazz Festival 2017 will see around 30 performances across the borough – with libraries, museums, parks and pubs hosting events from July 14 to 23.....

Wednesday, July 19, the Old Comrades Jazz Band head to the stage at PERRY HILL TAVERN in Oldbury from 8.45pm.”

#### Express & Star 3/7/2022

“Five men have been arrested after a 21-year-old was stabbed in a pub car park. The man was stabbed at around 1am on Sunday on the car park of the PERRY HILL TAVERN on Perry Hill Road in Oldbury. He went on to seek refuge inside the pub where staff called an ambulance for him, though the venue says the incident has nothing to do with them. A second man involved with the incident also suffered injuries, but neither are thought to be life-threatening. All five men have been arrested on suspicion of wounding and remain in custody.....”

#### Express & Star 24/9/2022

“Two people were injured when a van caught fire in Oldbury. The blaze happened on the car park of the PERRY HILL TAVERN, in Perry Hill Road, on Saturday morning and was extinguished by West Midlands Fire Service. Oldbury Fire Station tweeted a picture of the aftermath of the fire. A spokesman said, ‘Oldbury fire station crew attended a van fire this morning, two casualties with minor burns were treated by our colleagues from the ambulance service.’”

#### Express & Star 18/8/2023

“A police officer was among those left with injuries following an incident involving a man allegedly threatening people with a screwdriver at a Sandwell pub. Officers from West Midlands Police were called to the PERRY HILL TAVERN on Perry Hill Road in Oldbury after reports of a man being armed with the screwdriver and threatening others in the pub. The incident happened around 10pm on Wednesday and saw two people sustain injuries, while other members of the pub helped to detain the man until officers arrived at the scene, with a 22-year-old man detained under the mental health act and taken to hospital for assessment. It was while at the hospital that a police officer sustained facial injuries, with the man set to be questioned about this when deemed medically fit.....”

[2023]

## **PERSEVERANCE**

TIVIDALE

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

William Barratt [1860] – [1873]

## NOTES

*William Barratt*, beer retailer, Tividale. [1860], [1861], [1864], [1865], [1872]

## PLOUGH

7, George Road, (School Road), Warley, (Warley Wigorn), (Bristnall Fields), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Messrs. Hodgetts  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (leased) [1899] (acquired) [1904]  
Inn Business  
Star (Heineken UK) [2013]  
Punch Taverns [2015]

## LICENSEES

William Dearne [1855] – **1878**);  
William Bradley (**1878** – [1884]  
Thomas Slim [1891] – [1901];  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1904] – **1906**);  
John Henry Cox (**1906** – **1931**);  
Henry Ernest Sims (**1931** – **1934**);  
George Burrell Warwick Ramsay (**1934** – **1935**);  
Stanley George Parkes (**1935** – **1938**);  
Alfred Thomas Robinson (**1938** – **1940**);  
Mark Harry Broadway (**1940** – **1941**);  
Maurice Mawl Bright (**1941** – **1942**);  
Mrs. Olive May Bright (**1942** – **1951**);  
John Phillips (**1951** – **1952**);  
Jack Tremelling (**1952** – **1953**);  
John Farmer (**1953** – **1955**);  
Sylvester Patrick Byrne (**1955** – **1957**);  
Dennis William Goodman (**1957** – **1961**);  
Austen Anthony Link (**1961** – **1962**);  
W R B Brigham (**1962** – [ ]  
A Burgess [1983]  
Paul Machin (**1991** – [1992]



NOTES

PLOUGH AND HARROW [1895]

*William Dearne* = William Dearn = William Dean

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/8/1855

“Annual Licensing Meeting.....

*William Dearn*, of the PLOUGH INN, Worley Wigorn, applied for and obtained a license.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/11/1856

“Annual Pigeon Shooting, Open to All England

To be shot for, at Mr. *William Dearn*'s, the PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, near Oldbury, on Monday, Nov 24th, a fat pig, weighing upwards of 22 score, by 22 subscribers, at 10s, the winner to take the pig, or receive £10 10s, 3 birds each, 21 yards rise, guns not to exceed ¾-bore, 2oz of shot, the gun to be held below the elbow till the bird is on the wing, double guns, 1½oz of shot allowed two yards; the best blue rocks will be provided. Shooting to commence at one o'clock precisely.”

[This was a regular event, held for many years.]

1861 Census

Bristnall Fields – PLOUGH INN

- [1] *William Dearne* (38), licensed victualler, born Warley Wigorn;
- [2] Ellen Dearne (33), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] George Dearne (16), son, agricultural labourer, born Halesowen;
- [4] Alice Dearne (14), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;
- [5] Hannah Dearne (9), daughter, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [6] Esther Dearne (7), daughter, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [7] William Dearne (5), son, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [8] Thomas Dearne (3), son, born Warley Wigorn;
- [9] Mary Dearne (1), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;
- [10] Henry Lowe (28), servant, agricultural labourer, born Oldbury:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/11/1863

“At *Dearn*'s, the PLOUGH, Bristnall Fields, near Oldbury, the list for the pig not filling, a sweepstakes of 5s was entered by seven members, which was won by Mr. Clayton, killing 2 birds in succession. A second sweepstakes, by nine members, like conditions, was won by Messrs. Clayton and Pace, who killed 4 each, and agreed to divide. A third sweepstakes by the same, like conditions, was won by Messrs. Lowe and Clayton, killing 2 each, and dividing.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/6/1866 - Advert

“To Road Contactors and Others.

Tenders are required for the Alterations and Improvement of the Highways in the townships of Warley Wigorn and Warley Salop. Plans, Sections and Specifications may be seen at Mr. John Jennings's, Bristnall Villa, or at Mr. *W. Dearne*'s, PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, near Oldbury. Sealed Tenders to be sent to *William Dearne*, PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, or to Mr. John Jennings, Bristnall Villa, Warley, near Oldbury, on or before Saturday, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1866.

The Surveyors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

John Jennings, *William Dearne*, Surveyors of Highways.”

County Advertiser 4/5/1867

“An inquest was held at Mr. *William Dearn*’s, PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, Warley Wigorn, on Wednesday, by Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, on the body of Elizabeth Read, the wife of William Read, who died on Sunday under the following circumstances. Deceased, who was thirty-nine years of age, was confined a month ago, but had recovered from her illness, and intended to go to chapel on Sunday afternoon. About three o’clock she went upstairs to change her dress, leaving her husband in the kitchen. She had not been gone many minutes before Mr. Read heard a heavy fall and a groan, and on his entering the room he found deceased extended on the floor, with her head lying on a small box. She was quite dead. There was a slight bruise on her head, where she had fallen against the box, but no other marks or bruises. Dr. Davis, of Smethwick, who attended her during her confinement, was sent for, but of course to no purpose, as life was extinct. After the husband and the surgeon had given evidence, the Coroner briefly addressed the Jury, who immediately returned a verdict that the deceased died by the Visitation of God, from apoplexy. The husband, who is a most respectable man, is left with three small children, one only a month old.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/11/1868 - Advert

“Two Sheep. Stolen or Strayed, one Black-faced Wether and one White-faced Ewe, marked with a red cross along the back and down the shoulders.

Anyone will be Rewarded, if strayed; if stolen, 4 guineas Reward on conviction of offenders, by applying to Mr. *W. Dearn*, PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, near Oldbury.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 14/11/1868 - Advert

“Stock Sale, Bristnall Fields, near Oldbury. To Butchers, Dealers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hickling, at Mr. *Dearn*’s, the PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, on Monday Next, the 16<sup>th</sup> November – a quantity of Fat and other Stock, several very useful Trap and Cart Horses, Dog Cart, two narrow-wheel Carts, two Sets of capital Harness, and other Effects.

Early entries respectfully requested.

Sale to commence at Twelve o’clock.

Offices, Clent and Blackheath, Rowley Regis.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 7/8/1869 - Advert

“A Good House and Garden to Let, two miles from Oldbury or Smethwick, very cheap; and a good Office Desk.

Apply *Wm. Dearn*, PLOUGH INN, Bristnall, near Oldbury.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 21/8/1869 - Advert

“Lost, on Thursday evening, August 19<sup>th</sup>, a Liver-and-White Ticked Pointer Dog, at Bristnal Fields, near Oldbury. Had on collar and broken chain. Answers to ‘Major.’

Finder will be Rewarded by applying to Mr. *William Dean*, PLOUGH INN, Bristnal Fields, near Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/11/1869 - Advert

“Strayed, from a field at Bristnal Fields, Oldbury, a young Chesnut Horse, with white mark down his forehead, and a scar on front of his hind right leg. Whoever will bring him to Mr. *Dearn*’s, PLOUGH INN, Bristnal Fields, shall be Rewarded for their trouble.”

The Sportsman 24/11/1869

“PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, near Oldbury.

Mr. *Dearn*’s hostelry was most extensively patronised by the lovers of shooting on Monday, a fat pig being announced for competition. The list for his ‘gruntership,’ however, failing to fill, three half-sov sweepstakes were shot at three birds each (pigeons), 1½oz shot, 21 yards rise, the field the boundary. Mr. Collins, of Oldbury, secured the first; Mr. Rose, of Halesowen, divided the second with Mr. Nock, of Oldbury, the third being brought off by the host.....”

1871 Census

Bristnall Fields

- [1] *William Dearne* (48), farmer, born Warley Wigorn;
- [2] *Ellen Dearne* (44), wife, born Warley Wigorn;
- [3] *Alice Dearne* (24), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;
- [4] *Hannah Dearne* (19), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;
- [5] *Esther Dearne* (17), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;
- [6] *William Dearne* (15), son, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [7] *Thomas Dearne* (13), son, born Warley Wigorn;
- [8] *Mary Dearne* (11), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;
- [9] *John Dearne* (9), son, born Warley Wigorn;
- [10] *Samuel Dearne* (7), son, born Warley Wigorn;
- [11] *Jane Dearne* (5), daughter, born Warley Wigorn;
- [12] *Elizabeth Dearne* (1), daughter, born Warley Wigorn:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/12/1871

“At Mr. *Dearn*’s, PLOUGH, Birstnal Fields, near Oldbury, on Monday last, the shooting for a fat pig was brought off, 10 subscribing a sov each, at 3 pigeons each.....”

County Advertiser 27/1/1872

“William Fox, an elderly man, was charged with cruelly ill-treating and torturing a dog, belonging to *William Dearne*, of the PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields.

Complainant said that on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst his dog, which was of the spaniel and setter breed, and about fourteen years old, and a bull terrier belonging to defendant, commenced to fight in the road. Defendant held his (complainant’s) dog down quite ten minutes, while defendant’s dog worried it, defendant encouraging it to do so. Complainant eventually carried his dog sway, as it was unable to walk. It, however, went out of the house some few hours afterwards, and he had not since seen it.

A witness gave evidence in keeping with complainant’s statements.

For the defence, Mr. Jackson appeared, and he called two witnesses, relatives of the defendant, who swore that complainant’s dog was over 30lbs weight, while defendant’s was not more than 12lbs. The dogs, they said, commenced fighting, and defendant at once made an attempt to separate them. As he was doing so, the complainant’s dog fastened hold of one of his fingers, and he (defendant) merely held it down in order to make it loose. Defendant’s finger was badly bitten (this was shown to the Bench to be the case), and he did no more, in any way, than was absolutely necessary for his own safety.

The Bench said they believed defendant did hold the dog down in the way described by complainant, and they should impose a fine of 2s 6d and costs, or twenty-one days.

John Fox, son of the last defendant, was then charged with using threatening language towards *Dearne*, at the same time and place. The Bench recommended that complainant should withdraw the case, and the defendant promise not to interfere with him in any way again. This course was agreed to.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/7/1873 - Advert

“Lost, on Monday, July 21, two mottle-faced Ewe Sheep; one marked with ‘T.B.’

Whoever finds them, and brings them to *Wm. Dearn*, PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, all reasonable expenses will be paid.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/9/1877 - Advert

“House at Quinton, ten Rooms; also Hall, China Closets, Pantry, Brewhouse, &c; excellent Water, large Garden, and Orchard; Stable, Coach-house. Rent very moderate.

Apply, Mr. *Dearn*, PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, Oldbury.”

*William Dearne* was also a farmer. [1878], [1879]

Birmingham Daily Post 1/6/1878 - Advert

“Valuable Small Freehold Estate, the Lower Quinton Farm, with the Mines and Minerals Thereunder, situate at Quinton, about five miles from Birmingham.....

Mr. *William Dearn* is the tenant, at a rent of £80.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1880

“A few days ago, a rick of hay, on the farm of Mr. William Dearne, Warley, was discovered to be on fire. The flames were spreading rapidly, when a labourer, named William Price, with remarkable courage climbed up the side of the burning rick, and with a hay knife cut away that portion on fire, thus saving the greater part of it from destruction. Several other ricks were standing close to, and it is believed but for the prompt and energetic action of Price, the whole of the stock, worth about £1,000, must have been destroyed. It is stated that Price is to be rewarded for his conduct.”

1881 Census

Bristnall Fields

[1] *William Bradley* (59), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Caroline Bradley* (60), wife, born Tipton;

[3] *Lucy Robinson* (20), general servant, born Clent;

[4] *George Henry Weston* (12), visitor, inn general servant, born West Bromwich:

County Advertiser 24/9/1881

“Thomas Wale, Bristnall Fields, Warley, was charged with refusing to quit the PLOUGH INN, and he was further charged with threatening the landlord, *William Bradley*. Mr. J. Wright prosecuted, and Mr. Stokes defended.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, defendant and another person went to complainant’s house and were supplied with ale. Subsequently they called for more, and as the servant was supplying it, defendant upset it, and made use of bad language towards the person who was supplying him with the ale. Complainant, it was stated, ordered defendant to leave, but he refused, threatened the landlord, and had to be put out.

It was urged, for the defence, that the ale was tipped up when he was joking, and the threats were denied. The Bench did not consider the evidence sufficient, and dismissed both cases.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 31/12/1881

“Good General Servant Wanted, about 20 or 22.

Apply Mrs. *W. Bradley*, PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, Oldbury.”

County Express 29/7/1882

“John Lowe, bricklayer, and John Humphries, collier, both of Oldbury, were charged with being on the licensed premises of *William Bradley*, PLOUGH INN, Warley, during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 2nd inst; and they were further charged with falsely representing themselves to be bona fide travellers.

Police-constable Bayliss found the men drinking at *Bradley*’s house at four o’clock in the afternoon of the day mentioned. He knew them as Oldbury men, and ascertained that they had obtained the ale by saying that they came from Tividale.

Defendants pleaded that they had been walking round Tividale.

Mr. Smith told them that did not make any difference, and they must remember that in future.

On the first charge the defendants were fined 1s and costs, and on the second they were discharged.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/7/1883 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted, immediately.

Apply, Mrs. *Bradley*, PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, Warley Wigorn, near Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/11/1883 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted.

Apply, PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, Warley Wigorn, near Oldbury.”

County Express 23/2/1884

“William Rowe, Smethwick, and Sarah Shipley, Oldbury, were charged with being on licensed premises

during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, and the former was further charged with giving a false address.

On the above date a police-officer visited the PLOUGH INN, Warley, kept by *William Bradley*, and found the defendants there with beer before them. He told the landlord they were not travellers, but the landlord said they told him they were. On asking Rowe for his address he said he came from Westbromwich. Rowe was fined 5s and costs in each case, and Shepley 1s and costs.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 8/10/1885

“Yesterday a young man, who gave the name of W. H. Smith (22), of Spring Hill, Birmingham, was found in a very strange position in a field leading from Cakemore to Bristnall Fields, Warley.

It appears that a man named John Cliff, of Long Lane, was walking across a path in the field on the Brand Hall Farm when he observed a man lying on his back with his legs in the water of a brook. He was wet all over, as though he had fallen into the brook. Cliff obtained the assistance of three other men, and Smith was conveyed to the PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields. Police-constable Nash was then sent for, and an examination of the man was made, when it was found that he had a severe cut on the left jaw, and injuries to both wrists. For a time he could give no account of himself, but was subsequently able to tell where he lived, and he was conveyed home in a cab by Nash. The officer was informed that Smith was a medical student, and his friends thought his strange conduct was owing to the fact that he has of late been studying excessively.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 10/12/1887

“An inquest was held by Mr. E. Docker (coroner) on Saturday, at the PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, touching the death of Thomas Rowley (20), who was found dead in bed on Thursday, the 1<sup>st</sup>.

William Rowley, father of deceased, identified the body, and said his son had been subject to fits for three or four years.

William Dearne stated that deceased had been in his employ for seven months on his Hill Top farm, at Warley, but he was not aware that he had anything the matter with him, or was subject to fits. He went to bed on Wednesday night all right about nine o'clock, and on the following morning he went to his room to call him at 6 o'clock, and found him dead.

Dr. Cunningham deposed to examining the body, and said that from every appearance he had died from an apoplectic seizure.

A verdict was returned of Death from Natural Causes.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/1/1889 - Deaths

“On the 27<sup>th</sup> inst, *William Bradley*, late of the PLOUGH INN, Warley, near Oldbury, in his 67<sup>th</sup> year; deeply regretted.”

#### Bromsgrove Messenger 10/8/1889

“On Tuesday at Oldbury Police Court, John Bennett (20), of Dog Kennel, and James Dearne (29), Bristnall Fields, were charged with assaulting Albert Guest, in the PLOUGH INN, Warley, on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. W. F. Vernon appeared to prosecute. Dearne was also charged with assaulting Emma Moore at the same time and place.

For assaulting Guest they were fined 13s 6d each, and for assaulting Moore, Dearne was fined an additional 12s 6d.”

#### Bromsgrove Messenger 24/8/1889

“At an inquest held at the PLOUGH INN, Warley, before Mr. E. Docker, on Friday in last week, relative to the death of Minnie Mullett, aged 17 months, who died on the previous Sunday from alleged neglect and starvation, a verdict of manslaughter was returned against the father and mother of the child, Joseph and Hannah Mullett, and they were committed for trial at the Assizes on the charge.

On Tuesday, at the Oldbury Police Court, before Messrs. Wilson and Bennett, Joseph Mullet (39), carter, and his wife, Hannah Mullett (39), both of Bristnall Fields, Warley, were brought up in custody, on a charge of murdering their child, Minnie Mullett, aged seventeen months.

At 10.30am Church Street was crowded with persons eager to gain access to the court. As the prisoners

were being escorted from the railway station to the court a large crowd of people followed, and hissed and jeered them.

Hannah Guest stated that she never saw the child from the time of its birth until after it was dead, because she did not like to go to the house – it was so filthy. The child's body was quite green, and its face was yellow.

Deborah Smith stated that every time she saw the child it appeared to be getting gradually weaker and lower. The child was too weak to cry, and made a noise like a lamb. It was so light that she could not tell that she had got a child in her arms. It was much heavier when it was born than when it was dead.

Eliza Payne said the child was very small for its age, and appeared to her to be greatly neglected. She had not seen the child for six or seven weeks, but she often heard it moaning when the husband was going to work. Witness made some food for the baby and gave it to the little girl who was nursing it, and she threatened to send for Police-constable Nash if the child was not fed with the food. She had never spoken to the father as to the condition of it when it was alive.

Esther Shaw said about seven weeks ago she saw the child, and it was in a filthy condition. Witness saw the child laid out upstairs on a table at Mullett's house. It then had a much cleaner appearance. She was of opinion that the child had been greatly neglected.

Police-constable Nash said that on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, from information he received, he went to the house of the prisoners, and saw the prisoners' daughter. He enquired for the child, and at his request the sister brought the deceased downstairs, and said, 'We don't clam it, sir.' The child was very dirty. Witness found the parents in a field, and took them to the house. He asked them if they had called a doctor to the child. The female prisoner said, 'No; I owe Dr. Lyddon some money.'

Police-sergeant Stanton said that on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant he heard that Mullett's child was dead. He visited the house. The mother admitted having received from 17s to 18s per week from her husband. He weighed the body in a pair of scales, and it was exactly 4lb. The female prisoner said, 'On Sunday, when the child was dying, I spoke about sending for Mrs. Smith, but my husband began to curse me; and if ever I spoke about sending for a doctor he would use all sorts of bad language to me.' On the 14<sup>th</sup> instant he saw the male prisoner. When he asked him for an explanation as to not having sent for a doctor, he replied, 'I did not think the child was so ill.' Prisoner said he was employed at Wheatley's Flour Mill, West Bromwich, and earned 20s per week.

Dr. Lyddon was called, and repeated the evidence he gave at the inquest, expressing the opinion that death was caused by starvation and neglect.

Prisoners were committed to the Worcestershire Assizes on a charge of manslaughter. Both prisoners appeared altogether indifferent to the serious nature of the charge brought against them."

#### Tiverton Gazette 26/11/1889

"At the Worcestershire Assizes, Joseph Mullett, a carter, of Adbury [sic], and his wife, Hannah, were charged with the manslaughter of their child, 17 months old. The deceased had been neglected from its birth, kept without food and in a filthy condition. After death the body weighed only four pounds, and had a shocking appearance. The prisoners were each sentenced to 18 months' hard labour."

#### 1891 Census

School Road

[1] *Thomas Slim* (30), licensed victualler, born Langley Green;

[2] *Mary A. Slim* (27), wife, born Spon Lane;

[3] *Emma Twist* (12), niece, apprentice to dressmaking, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Mary Brookes* (20), domestic servant, born Churchill, Worcestershire:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 4/9/1891

"Last evening Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the PLOUGH INN, Warley, upon the body of a newly-born female child which was found in a ditch near Brand Hall Farm, on Wednesday night.

Job Clifton stated that on Wednesday morning when in Brand Hill Lane he saw the body of a child in the ditch. He fetched Police-constable Nash, who removed the body to the PLOUGH INN.

The Coroner explained that Ann Lawley, a young woman residing at Oldbury, had admitted being the moth-

er of the child, and she was now in custody.

Tabitha Fox said that on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult, she saw Ann Lawley near the place where the child's body was found, stooping down whilst witness passed.

Walter Humphries stated that a week last Tuesday he saw Lawley in the lane sitting on a bank near the spot where the child's body was found.

In reply to a juror, witness said he did not make any search. The ditch was about eighteen inches deep, and there had been some fresh earth put in.

Police-constable Nash said that on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult he went to Brand Hall Lane and saw the body of the child in the ditch. The body appeared as though a dog had rooted it from some other place, and it was covered with dirt. He removed the body to the PLOUGH INN, and found both feet were missing. He and Superintendent Speke visited prisoner's house, and Superintendent Speke told Lawley that a child had been found at Warley, and that there was some suspicion attached to her. Prisoner at first denied all knowledge of it, but afterwards she admitted being the mother of the child, and said that James Philip Griffiths, Dudley, was the father. Griffiths, she said, had given her £3 to say nothing about the matter. Witness conveyed her to the police station, and in answer to a charge of concealing the child's birth she said 'Yes.'

Dr. McMillan deposed that the woman said the child had been born at Bristnall Fields, and that when it was born it was dead. He had made a post-mortem examination of the body that afternoon, and found that it was fully developed. He was not prepared to swear whether the child had had a separate existence or not. The mother's age was twenty-seven years.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the child was stillborn.

Last night the prisoner was released on bail."

#### Worcester Journal 21/11/1891

"Worcestershire Autumn assizes.....

Ann Lawley (27), on bail, was charged with concealment of birth at Warley, on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and the Judge said he should send prisoner home, asking the police constable to take charge of her, binding her over to appear for judgement when called upon. The Judge severely cautioned the prisoner."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1892

"Yesterday, at the Oldbury Police Court, before Messrs. G. Heaton and J. W. Wilson, John Williams (54), Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, umbrella maker, was charged with stealing a clock of the value of 5s, the property of *Thomas Slim*, landlord of the PLOUGH INN, Warley, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst.

It was alleged that he stole the clock from the public house and pledged it at Mr. Samuel's, Sherlock Street, Birmingham, and Mr. Samuel who produced the clock, said 1s 3d was advanced to the prisoner on it.

Having regard to the fact that prisoner had been in custody since Thursday, the Bench discharged him with a caution.

When the case was disposed of a question arose as to whom the clock should be handed over.

Police-constable Nash was about to give it to the prosecutor, when Mr. Samuel interposed, and for a time he and the constable struggled together in front of the dock for possession of it. No little amusement was evoked by this unusual scene, and Police-superintendent Speke called the attention of the Bench to it, remarking that Mr. Samuel declined to hand over the clock to the prosecutor.

Mr. Samuel (still clinging to the clock): I have not been asked to give it up, and I decline to have it snatched out of my hands.

Superintendent Speke replied that he had informed Mr. Samuel that the justices had made an order for the clock to be returned to the prosecutor.

Mr. Samuel said he had not heard the order made.

The Clerk informed Mr. Samuel, who still refused to release the clock, that he would be taken into custody unless he gave up the clock.

Mr. Samuel: This is pretty work in a court of justice.

Addressing the constable, who continued to struggle with him, he added: I shall not be humbugged by a lot of fellows like you.

Ultimately Sergeant Cooper wrested the clock out of Mr. Samuel's hands, and the incident terminated.

It was announced afterwards that prosecutor had given Mr. Samuel 1s 3d, the amount advanced upon the clock.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1895

“Mr. A. H. Hibbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest on Saturday afternoon at the PLOUGH INN, Warley, respecting the death of George Harris (60), famer, of Bristnall Fields, Warley, who was found in a cowshed on his own farm early on Tuesday morning last in an unconscious condition, death taking place on the following morning. The evidence showed that deceased left home about 8.30am on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst to go to his farm at Round Hills, Cakemore. He left the latter place about eleven o’clock, and proceeded in the direction of Long Lane. A man named Thomas Hall was with the deceased in a public house in Long Lane from three o’clock until nine o’clock the same day, and Hall said he assisted deceased into the road.

Susannah Adams saw deceased get over a style in Long Lane about 9.30 on Monday night, and he then walked along a footpath in the direction of his farm. He appeared to be under the influence of drink.

Early on Tuesday morning one of the workmen on the farm heard heavy snoring in a cowshed, and upon going there found deceased lying upon his back in an unconscious state. Local doctors were called in, but deceased never regained consciousness, and died on Wednesday morning.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1895

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday, Samuel Grigg, Richard Ward, Samuel Bridge, William Mann, Richard Mann, and William Backhouse, all of Smethwick, were charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Warley, kept by *Thomas Slim*, on the 15<sup>th</sup> instant. Backhouse was also charged with doing wilful damage to a window. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted. The defendants visited complainant’s premises, and after drinking some beer caused a disturbance. Prosecutor, with assistance, turned them out, and Backhouse threw a stone through the window.

Each defendant was ordered to pay 25s, including costs, or in default fourteen days’ hard labour. Backhouse was also ordered to pay 25s damage.”

County Advertiser 14/12/1895

“A meeting of the Oldbury and District Licensed Victuallers Association was held on Wednesday afternoon.....

It was decided to allow Mr. *T. Slim*, of the PLOUGH INN, Warley, a sum of £2 17s 6d, the expenses incurred in proceeding against some men who had damaged his property.”

County Advertiser 24/6/1899 - Advert

“To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Important Sale of Freehold Licensed Premises, and other Properties, at Oldbury, Titford, Causeway Green, and Bristnall Fields, in the Parish of Halesowen.

H. King and Son are favoured with instructions from Messrs. Hodgetts to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, at Three o’clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.....

The PLOUGH INN, George Road, Bristnall Fields, Warley Wigorn, held by H. Mitchell and Co. (Mitchell and Butler Limited), under lease expiring 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1909.

Also Building Sites and Cottages adjoining the last described property.....

Plans and particulars may be had of Mr. T. Jarvis Hodgetts, Surveyor, 21, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham; Messrs. Bourne and Co., Solicitors, Dudley; or of the Auctioneers, Stourbridge.”

AND

Smethwick Telephone 24/6/1899

“.....Sale by Auction, on Thursday Next, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899.....

Lot 8. The PLOUGH INN, George Road, Bristnall Fields, in the township of Warley Wigorn.

All that Fully-Licensed Freehold House with Stabling, Yard and Premises, situate in a rising, pleasant, and fast-increasing neighbourhood. The house is doing a good trade, which may be easily increased. The Property is held by Mr. Henry Mitchell (now Mitchells and Butlers Limited), under a lease which expires on the



25<sup>th</sup> March 1909.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 25/8/1900

“With regard to the PLOUGH INN, Warley, Mr. Wilson announced that the license was not quite in order. It had been granted hitherto from Halesowen, but recently Warley had been transferred to the Oldbury division, therefore the license ought to be obtained from that Court. Mr. *Slim* ought to apply either that day or at the adjourned licensing sessions for a license from that Court. This he undertook to do.”

1901 Census

George Road – PLOUGH INN

- [1] *Thomas Slim* (43), publican, born Langley;
- [2] *Mary A. Slim* (37), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Amelia Bird* (20), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Thomas Slim* died in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1908.

Birmingham Mail 10/4/1906

“An application to carry out certain alterations and improvements at the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Brades Village, was granted, but the Bench declined to grant a similar application in respect of the PLOUGH INN, Bristnall Fields, although they were assured that the alterations were purely for domestic purposes.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/4/1907

“An inquest was held on Saturday afternoon at the PLOUGH INN, Warley, by Mr. A. H. Hebbert (Deputy Coroner) respecting the death of *Mary Ann Slim*, forty-three, formerly living at Moat Road, Warley, who committed suicide on Thursday night. That day Mr. *Slim* was absent from home, and when he returned at night he found his wife hanging in a bedroom. She had previously been an inmate of the Powick Asylum. A verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind was returned.”

Plans for new bay windows to the living room and smoke room were approved c.1911.

1911 Census

George Road – PLOUGH INN

- [1] *John Henry Cox* (38), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Maria Cox* (37), wife, married 16 years, assisting in business, born Blackheath;
- [3] *Ada Cox* (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *May Cox* (10), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Harry Cox* (7), son, born Warley;
- [6] *Annie Hadley* (18), general servant, born Blackheath:

Dudley Chronicle 20/4/1922

“Farmers’ Meeting at Halesowen. Milk Prices Discussed.

A meeting of the Halesowen branch of the N.F.U. was held on Tuesday night at the PLOUGH INN, Warley, Mr. W. Green presiding over a good attendance of members.....”

*George Burrell Warwick Ramsay* was the son of *George Burrell Ramsay*, for over 40 years secretary of Aston Villa Football Club, one of its founders, and a former player, captain and manager.

Sheffield Independent 5/7/1937 - Advert

“Two Bar-Gens. Wanted, live in; must be good workers; refs. required.  
PLOUGH INN, Warley, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Mail 18/4/1939 - Advert

“Bar-General, must be experienced, live in or out.

Apply, PLOUGH INN, George Road, Warley.”

1939 Register

7, George Road – PLOUGH INN

[1] *Alfred T. Robinson*, date of birth 27/2/1901, licensed victualler, manager, married;

[2] *Claire V. Robinson*, dob 28/4/1901, public house manageress, married;

[3] *Hazel N. (Robinson) Binnersley*, dob 17/3/1925, seeking work, not previously employed, single;

[4] *Annie R. Prince*, dob 21/11/1874, unpaid domestic duties, widowed:

*Mark Harry Broadway* was in occupation at the time of the Licensing meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1940.

Birmingham Mail 7/8/1941 - Advert

“Bar-General exper. or one willing to learn.

The PLOUGH, Warley.”

Birmingham Mail 24/11/1944 - Advert

“Wilton Carpet 3yds x 3yds little used £40 10yds Stair Carpet Felt Pads £15 Hall Stand Modern Rug Box £12 New Elec. Fire imit. coal £5.

*Bright*, PLOUGH INN, Warley.”

Evesham Standard 12/4/1947 - Advert

“Alsatian Puppies for Sale, by Ingohson of Erol, 12 weeks old; price from 12gns; Blue Roan Cocker Spaniel Dog, 18 months, son of the famous Sulval Dawboy, price 15gns; English Bull Terrier bitch, 3 years, line bred to Ch. Grenadier Guardsman, good show and brood bitch, due season, price 8gns; Irish Red Setter bitch, in whelp to the winning young dog Thefuturehere of Lickey, easy whelp, nearest offer 30gns. All above dogs car and house trained.

Apply, *Bright*, PLOUGH, Warley, near Oldbury, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/7/1949

“When walking with two small children at Warley, a police constable’s wife, Mrs. Evelyn Rose Clarke, of 47, Brandhall Road, Warley, was attacked by a large Alsatian dog. The dog knocked her 16-months-old baby’s hat off, tore the blazer of a four-year-old child, and bit Mrs. Clarke’s thigh.

Yesterday at Oldbury an order was made against Mrs. *Olive May Bright* (50), licensee of the PLOUGH INN, Warley, to keep her dog under proper control.

Mrs. *Bright*, who pleaded ‘not guilty’ to failing to keep a dangerous dog under control, said the dog, which was used for showing, cost her 60 guineas. He had always been very good with children, she said.”

Plans for alterations to the premises were approved on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1957.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/12/1960

“A 24-year-old man threw beer in another man’s face and then knocked him down into the fireplace of a public house, it was stated at Oldbury yesterday. Donald Andrews, a labourer, of Walton Road, Warley, was sent to prison for six months for causing actual bodily harm to Mr. Arthur Tudgay, of 115, Hilltop Road, Warley. He pleaded not guilty, but told the court he had nothing to say. His brother Raymond (aged 25) also of Walton Road, pleaded not guilty to a similar charge. He was fined £15 and ordered to pay £5 4s costs. Police constable R. H. Berlin said the day after the assault Mr. Tudgay’s face was in ‘a shocking mess.’ His left eye was closed, the left side of his face swollen and he had a bump on the back of his head.

Mr. H. Higgs, prosecuting, said the trouble started when Mr. Tudgay’s wife, a barmaid at the PLOUGH, Warley, refused to serve beer to Raymond Andrews after time.”

A team from here took part in the Smethwick and District Charity Darts League. [1981/2], [1986/7]

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/11/1986

“A Black Country fireman has warned people of the dangers of electric blankets now that cold winter nights are drawing in. Electric blankets should be properly serviced before being placed on beds to prevent dangers of fires breaking out, said station officer Bryan Baker, of Oldbury fire station. Mr. Baker said that problems with electric blankets often arose because they are not properly stored in cupboards during the summer months.....

The warning follows an incident at the PLOUGH HOTEL, in George Road, Oldbury, when an electric blanket was left switched on over-night and caused a fire which damaged a bed.”

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 31/5/1991

“Pub Talk. The PLOUGH, George Road, Oldbury.

A business deal by Warley licensee *Paul Machin* has saved his career and made him the first of a new breed of pub operator. Mr. *Machin*, aged 56, has signed a 10-year lease on the PLOUGH, in George Road, Oldbury. He ran the nearby OLD CHAPEL INN as self-employed pub tenant. Then Bass had to re-shape its vast estate and the OLD CHAPEL was put into the hands of a brewery-employed manager. Mr. *Machin*, a licensee for 21 years, said, ‘A 10-year lease will give me long-term security and also keep me in the area where I have always enjoyed running a pub’.”

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 14/3/1992

“*Paul Machin* plays down the fact that he has worked in some of the world’s top hotels and dining spots. Exotic locations in the Caribbean and swish leisure havens in London’s West End seem far removed from life behind the bar of a pub in Oldbury. But don’t bother suggesting that *Paul* came off worse leaving the sandy shores of Nassau and jobs in other plush settings to serve up pints as a Midland landlord. ‘I must be the nearest thing to a vocation publican,’ he says, looking the part and clearly enjoying his role as guv’nor of the PLOUGH after furrowing some rough ground. He lost a thriving business, the OLD CHAPEL, in Smethwick, when his brewery installed its own manager as part of enforced moves to restructure pub estates. The good news was the chance to move just a mile to the PLOUGH, a pub similar to the one he had to give up. ‘When I became a hotel manager I felt I was driving a desk,’ he says, ‘in a small pub like the PLOUGH, a good atmosphere is created by people you get to know and who mix well, regardless of age and background.’

*Paul*, a Mitchells and Butler licensee for 22 years, reckons that teamwork pays off. While he’s the frontman, pulling pints and engaging in lively banter with the regulars, his wife Ros plays the key role preparing food served at lunchtime and early evenings.

The couple retained the loyalty of many customers and staff when they moved to the PLOUGH 11 months ago. ‘It’s very much like a village pub, the sort I believe will always survive,’ says the genial host. ‘There are no flashing lights or fancy promotions. We just like people who enjoy each other’s company and feel at home in the pub.’

George Salter, 87, is one of the PLOUGH’s contented flock and says he was never troubled by the sighting of spirits other than those in the bottle – according to George, the pub has a friendly ghost! There are plenty of spirited real-life characters too. There’s Fred Hadlington, a regular for 50 years, and dapper Jack Hutchinson, who takes a bit of stick from younger lads in the bar but reckons he gets a daily tonic from just being with a happy bunch.

The pub does well on the sporting front. A football team is bidding for promotion and there are some nifty darts players on hand.

Pubfile.

Pick of the pints: Traditional M&B and Banks mild; draught Bass.

Food: Bar snacks and more substantial meals – lunchtime and 6pm to 8pm.

Plus points: Friendly staff, clean bars.

Bar prices: Mild 96p; Brew XI £1.08; Bass £1.14; Carling £1.20.

Opening hours: 12noon to 3pm and 5.30pm to 11pm (Monday to Friday); 7pm to 11pm (Saturday).

[2021]

## PLOUGH

Newbury Lane, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

John Allen [1856] – **1859**);  
Joseph Whitehouse (**1859** – [1861])

## NOTES

### Birmingham Journal 2/2/1856

“At the Public Office, West Bromwich, on Saturday last.....

A youth, eighteen, named George Bellinger, was proved to have robbed his master, Mr. *J. Allen*, of the PLOUGH INN, Newberry Lane, of a sum of £10.

The short facts are that the prisoner (only a very short time in prosecutor’s employ) was sent on the preceding Monday to the residence of Mr. J. Watson, agent, and licensed victualler, West Bromwich, with £10, as part payment of money due. Mr. Watson was from home when the messenger arrived, and expecting a larger sum, for which a receipt had been left with Miss Watson, Bellinger was directed to take back the sum brought and acquaint his master with the circumstances. In place of doing so, however, the young rogue absconded, went to Evesham, and was found there by the local police, with new clothes, in a brothel, and only a portion of the stolen money left.

The evidence went fully to establish this serious charge, and the prisoner was committed for trial.

It is now ascertained that being taken into Mr. Allen’s service without a character, Bellinger was a notorious young thief, being wanted for a watch robbery at Cheltenham.

After removal to his cell, on Saturday, he tried to strangle himself, but was prevented by the vigilance of the officers on duty at the station.”

### Staffordshire Advertiser 8/3/1856

“Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions.....

George Ballinger, 18, labourer, pleaded guilty to an indictment for stealing a £10 note, the moneys of *John Allen*, and was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment, the Chairman remarking that he had been previously in Gloucester gaol.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 4/12/1857

“Two charges of forgery against an insurance agent were preferred against Mr. *John Allen*, an agent and publican, of Newbury Lane, Oldbury, by Mr. Richard Goold, the Secretary of the Agricultural and Cattle Insurance Company, of London. The first charge was for having forged the name of Mr. Ezekiah Mason, a coal master, &c, of Sedgley, to a receipt for the sum of £10 14s; and the second, for having forged the name of Mr. John Woodhouse, a farmer, of Watsons Green, Dudley, to a receipt for £22 14s. From the few circumstances which transpired, it would appear that the defendant, who seemed to be between forty and fifty years of age, has been for some time past the agent for this district for the society named above, and that Mr. Mason and Mr. Woodhouse became insurers of cattle. From some cause one of Mr. Mason’s horses died, and he claimed the sum of £10 14s in consequence. The claim was duly forwarded to the company by the defendant, as secretary, and the sum named was allowed, and a cheque for the amount sent to the defendant, who returned a receipt purporting to bear the signature of Mr. Mason, and this was the alleged forgery. The same circumstances attended the other forgery, both Mr. Mason and Mr. Woodhouse being prepared to swear

that their names were forged, and that they never received the money ..... Adjourned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1857

“At Dudley Police Court, yesterday, Mr. *John Allen*, an insurance agent and publican, of Newbury Lane, Oldbury, appeared to answer two charges of forgery preferred against him by the Agricultural Cattle Insurance Company of London. The case has twice previously been before the public, the charge having been twice adjourned. Reserving a longer report for Saturday’s paper, we may now simply state that Mr. Pattison, of London, the solicitor to the Company, attended yesterday and explained to the Magistrates the peculiar circumstances which had influenced the Company in abandoning the prosecution. He said it arose from the defendant having been mixed up with trade transactions with Mr. Mason and Mr. Woodhouse, whose names he was alleged to have forged to the Company’s cheques, in such a way as in fact to have become as much their agent in the matter as he was the agent of the Company. Mr. John Smith, who appeared for the defendant, also made some remarks exculpatory of his client, and the Magistrates, in dismissing the charge, said Mr. *Allen* left the Court without the slightest stain of guilt upon his character – a remark which was fully assented to by Mr. Pattison on behalf of the Company.”

*John Allen* issued tokens from here.

1861 Census

Newberry Lane – PLOUGH INN

- [1] *Joseph Whitehouse* (38), victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Biddy Whitehouse* (34), wife, born Bushbury;
- [3] *Eliza Whitehouse* (6), daughter, scholar, born Bushbury;
- [4] *Caroline Billings* (30), unmarried, sister-in-law, visitor, born Bushbury:

**PRINCE OF WALES**

93, Ash Tree Road, (93, (46), Bath Row), (62, Bury Hill), (Dingle Street), Rounds Green, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Samuel Hadley  
Mary Ann Hadley  
Elizabeth Trueman  
William Trueman  
Cheshire’s Brewery (leased) [1904] – **June 1905**  
Nathaniel Sadler, Dingle Street, Rounds Green, Oldbury (acquired c.1905)  
T. A. Sadler, Dingle Street, Rounds Green, Oldbury  
Grigg and Brettell Ltd. (acquired in 1927)  
Anells Ltd.

LICENSEES

Charles Wareing [1855] – **1864**);  
Caroline Wareing (**1864** – [1865]  
Caroline Portman [ ] – **1865**);  
Thomas Portman (**1865** – **1872**);  
John Clarke (**1872** – [1873]  
Samuel Hadley [1876] – **1887**);

Mrs. Mary Ann Hadley (1887 – 1895);  
William Trueman (1895 – 1899);  
Elizabeth Trueman (1899 – 1903);  
William Trueman (1903 – 1905);  
Nathaniel Sadler (1905 – 1913);  
Thomas Stevens [1911] – [1912]  
Thomas Potter (1913 – 1915);  
Mrs. Lucy Potter (1915 – 1921);  
John Griffiths (1921 – 1923);  
Richard Alfred Byland (1923 – 1925);  
Joseph Ernest Emmett (1925 – 1930);  
Alice Maud Bruton (1930 – 1931);  
Edward Cole (1931 – 1933);  
Thomas Barton Taylor (1933 – 1936);  
John Emanuel Aston (1936 – 1938);  
William Bernard Walker (1938);  
Harold Edward George Taylor (1938 – 1939);  
James Fleetwood ‘Jimmy’ Cross (1939 – [1962])  
D Ryan (1970 – [ ])  
David James [1978]  
Joe Jones (1980 – [1981])  
Graham Allchurch [1982]  
Dave Yale [1993] – [2006]

## NOTES

Dingle Street [1870]  
46, Bath Row [1871], [1881]  
93, Ash Tree Road [1891]  
93, Bath Row [1901], [1911]  
Ash Tree Road [1904], [1983]  
62, Bury Hill [1939]

The original pub known locally as “The Shed” was situated in Dingle Street.

*Charles Wareing* = Charles Waring

### Birmingham Journal 13/10/1855 - Advert

“Rounds Green, Oldbury.

The Fall of Sebastopol will be celebrated on Monday Next, October the 15<sup>th</sup>, by the Roasting of a Sheep, and a Grand Display of Fireworks, at Mr. *Charles Waring*’s, PRINCE OF WALES, Rounds Green, Oldbury.”

### 1861 Census

Bath Row – PRINCE OF WALES

[1] *Charles Wareing* (57), steel converter and victualler, born Alvechurch, Worcestershire;

[2] *Caroline Wareing* (48), wife, born Melbourne, Derbyshire:

*Charles Wareing* issued tokens bearing PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL, Rounds Green.

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 13/2/1864 - Deaths

“On the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, *Charles Wareing*, of Rounds Green, near Oldbury, aged 59 years; deeply lamented by a large circle of friends.”

*Caroline Wareing* = Caroline Waring

*Caroline Wareing* married *Thomas Portman* in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1865.

The bodies of twins murdered in 1865 were brought here for post mortem after their discovery.  
[The inquests were held at the TALBOT HOTEL, where an account appears.]

#### 1871 Census

46, Bath Row

- [1] *Thomas Portman* (53), innkeeper, born Rowley;
- [2] *Caroline Portman* (57), wife, born Melbourne, Derbyshire;
- [3] *Eliza Portman* (24), daughter, assistant, born Rowley:

#### Worcester Journal 20/1/1872

“Mrs. *Caroline Portman*, the wife of a licensed victualler at Oldbury, died at the General Hospital, Birmingham, on Saturday, under strange circumstances. On the 12<sup>th</sup> inst deceased called up her daughter, stating that she had swallowed her artificial teeth. She was taken to the General Hospital, where the house surgeon removed two artificial teeth from the throat. Deceased lost a quantity of blood, and complained of pain in her shoulders. She grew worse, and died on the following day. A post mortem examination showed lacerations of the throat and a large abscess in the cavity of the chest. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Dudley Herald 9/12/1876 - Advert

“Barrel Organ to be Sold, at a great sacrifice, in first-class condition, three Barrels, plays thirty tunes (twenty sacred and ten secular).

Can be seen at Mrs. *Samuel Hadley*'s, PRINCE OF WALES INN, Rounds Green, near Oldbury.”

#### 1881 Census

46, Bath Row

- [1] *Samuel Hadley* (50), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] *Mary Ann Hadley* (52), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Charles Clark* (26), step-son, salesman mineral waters, born Glasgow;
- [4] *William Hadley* (19), son, salesman mineral waters, born London:

*Samuel Hadley* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1887.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/9/1889

“Last evening Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) resumed the adjourned inquest at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, respecting the death of *Isaiah Short* (54), colliery manager, formerly residing in Dingle Street, Rounds Green, and employed at the Samson Colliery, who died on the 7<sup>th</sup> instant, from the effects of injuries alleged to have been sustained whilst at work on May 27 last. Mr. W. B. Scott, Government inspector of mines, and Mr. W. H. Pickering, assistant inspector, were present. Mr. Davis, proprietor, and Mr. Price, certified manager, represented the colliery; and Mr. S. H. Forrest, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the widow of the deceased.

Mrs. Short stated that on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, when her husband returned from work at the Samson Colliery, he told her that he had fallen down an incline in the workings. He complained of great pain in the bowels. Dr. Torbitt was called in to attend him on the following day. Deceased told witness that he had been examining the pit, when he fell down and sustained the injuries.

*Isaac Harley*, a miner, employed at the Samson Colliery, said he saw the deceased fall down on Rowley Hills, whilst he was returning from work with witness, about eighteen months ago. On May 27 deceased told witness that he had slipped off one of the sleepers in the pit whilst going down the incline.

In reply to a juror, witness denied that he had told a Mr. Darby that he could either ‘throw’ Mrs. Short or do her good. Mr. Darby did not ask him to do the widow any harm.

Dr. Torbitt said death was due to exhaustion, following on stricture of the bowels, which in his opinion was caused by the fall.

In reply to Mr. Scott, witness said there was no doubt that death was the result of an accident.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that death was caused by stricture of the bowels, caused by an accident at the Samson Colliery on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May last."

#### Birmingham Mail 27/2/1891 - Advert

"Dog (Collie) Found, black and tan, white feet and neck; not claimed in three days sold to pay expenses. PRINCE OF WALES INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury."

#### 1891 Census

93, Ash Tree Road

[1] *Mary Ann Hadley* (60), widow, born Kates Hill, Dudley;

[2] *Annie Hanthorne* (30), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[3] *Samuel Stevens* (25), servant, bottler of mineral water, born Oldbury:

*William Trueman* was also a mineral water manufacturer. [1896]

#### 1901 Census

93, Bath Row

[1] *Elizabeth Trueman* (52), widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Elizabeth Peters* (25), married, daughter, born Scotland;

[3] *John Trueman* (23), son, mineral water manufacturer, born Scotland;

[4] *Bella Trueman* (21), daughter, born Scotland;

[5] *William Peters* (4), grand-son, born Oldbury;

[6] *Mary A. Peters* (3 months), grand-daughter, born Oldbury:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 8/6/1901

"A painful and terrible accident occurred at Rounds Green about one o'clock on Thursday, when two children (sisters) were killed by a runaway horse. Their names are Lily May Webb, aged nine years, and Ann Elizabeth Webb, aged two years, the children of Mr. and Mrs. Webb, of Bath Row, Rounds Green. It appears that a man named Thomas Reed, of Great Bridge, in the employ of the Midland Railway Company, was delivering goods at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, at the foot of Bury Hill. Suddenly the horse attached to the waggon was startled by something, and bolted down Bath Row at a furious rate, although one of the wheels was locked. Bath Row is narrow and dangerous – there being no footpath on either side, while a number of children were innocently playing about. The elder of the two appears to have seen the horse approaching, and rushed to save the life of her little sister, when both were knocked down, the wheels of the waggon passing over them. The elder child's head was crushed in a shocking manner, and she was killed instantaneously. The younger one sustained serious internal injuries, and although Dr. Buttery, who was summoned, rendered all assistance in his power, she died about three quarters of an hour after being conveyed to her home. The affrighted horse, after running over the children, continued its course, and others had a narrow escape, as there were several other children playing about at the time. After knocking down a wall in Bath Row, the horse ultimately dashed into the window of a house occupied by Mrs. Green, in Brades Road. Needless to say the occurrence caused a painful sensation in the district, and the greatest possible sympathy is felt for the parents of the two children who were killed."

AND

"Mr. Edwin Docker (Coroner) held the inquest yesterday at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Rounds Green. Inspector Bailey and Mr. J. H. Hipkiss represented the Railway Company.

Evidence of identity was given by Henry Webb, the father.

Ann Taylor, wife of Joseph Taylor, a miner, living in Bath Row, Rounds Green, said owing to her child screaming she ran out of the house into the street, on Thursday, when she saw a horse and dray travelling very furiously down the street. Lily May Webb was in the road with the other child Annie Elizabeth in her arms, and she endeavoured to run out of the way, but before she could do so the horse knocked her down



with the baby in her arms. Lily May Webb appeared to be seriously injured about the head and expired almost immediately after. Witness did not notice whether the wheel of the dray was locked, but there was no driver with the horse.

Thomas Reed, a drayman in the employ of the Midland Railway Company, and living in Moseley Street, Tipton, stated that he delivered some goods at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Rounds Green, about noon on Thursday, and he left the horse and dray outside the house, first locking the wheel, while he went inside to get a receipt. While he was in the house the horse suddenly bolted off down Bath Row and ran over the deceased children. It was not unusual for witness to leave the horse unattended outside houses where he delivered goods. The horse had never previously run away since witness had known it, now about five weeks. PC Haden deposed to hearing of the occurrence shortly before one o'clock on Thursday. On going to the spot he found the girl Lily Webb lying dead in the street. Her head was smashed, and the brains were scattered about the road. Witness removed the body to the PRINCE OF WALES INN. The other child, Annie Elizabeth, was carried into its home, and Dr. Buttery was immediately sent for. The child died shortly afterwards.

Dr. Buttery said when he arrived on the scene about one o'clock he found Annie Elizabeth Webb very badly injured, and in great agony. She died soon afterwards. In witness's opinion the girl Lily May Webb died instantaneously, and the other child died as the result of the shock from the internal injuries she received. In summing up, the Coroner said it was a painfully sad one.

The jury, of which Councillor J. J. Hollyhead was the foreman, spent a quarter of an hour considering their verdict. They ultimately returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and added a rider to the effect that in future the Railway Company should provide two persons to take charge of each of their vehicles when out on the streets. They exonerated the driver of the horse and dray (Thomas Reed) from any blame in the matter. They also expressed their sympathy with the parents of the deceased children in their sad bereavement. The Coroner said no doubt the representatives of the Railway Company present would communicate the jury's rider to the Company, and that it would resolve due consideration."

#### Smethwick Telephone 22/10/1904 - Advert

"Oldbury and Langley, Tuesday Next, October 25, 1904.

Sale of Valuable and Important Freehold Full-Licensed House and Premises, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

8 Freehold Dwelling Houses, Stone Street, Oldbury.

Leasehold Dwelling House and Premises, High Street, Langley.

Messrs. Samuel Jones, Son and Vernon, have received instructions to offer for Sale by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday next, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1904, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock pm prompt, subject to conditions to be then produced and read, the following Attractive and Desirable Investments.

To Brewers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Publicans, and others.

PRINCE OF WALES INN, Ash Tree Road, Dingle Street, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

Lot 1. All that Freehold, Well-built, well-known, Important Old-established (practically) Free Full-Licensed House and Premises, known as the PRINCE OF WALES INN, together with the Aerated Water Manufactory, Goodwill and Immediate Possession.

The house, which is double fronted, has a commanding elevation and contains: Through hall, front tap room with bay window, large front club room with bay window, bar parlour, private sitting room, kitchen, two good beer cellars, bottle cellar, four good bedrooms (two with bay windows), &c. Outside are the usual out offices; Good Square Open Yard, approached by Double Gateway Entrance; Stabling for Five Horses, Coach House, Bottle Stores, and the Mineral Water Factory, with the Boiler Stack, Fixed Plant and Machinery, all in thorough working order.

This Freehold Property is situate in an exceptional and commanding position in a fast-growing neighbourhood, at the entrance to Bury Hill Park, close to the Brades Steel Works, and other large works of the district, and has long frontages to Ash Tree Road, Dingle Street, and Bath Row. The Inn has a certain prospect of increased trade, and as it very shortly will be the Only Free House in the vicinity it offers an exceptional opportunity to Brewers and people desirous of securing a Free Freehold Full-Licensed House and Premises six months after completion of purchase. A brewer purchasing this property would be able to make and supply his own Mineral Waters. There is an ample and invariable supply of Spring Water (certified to be pure by Dr. Bostock Hill) from a Well on the Property, which has been in constant use for the last 25 years in the

manufacture of the well-known Aerated Waters.

The fixtures, Fittings, Trade Utensils and effects (excepting the Aerated Water Fixed Plant and Machinery), Stock-in-Trade, Proportion of Licenses, &c, to be taken to by Valuation in the usual way, as between outgoing and incoming tenant. The Premises are at present in lease to Cheshire's Brewery Co. Ltd., but such lease expires in June next, after which date the trade will be entirely free."

#### Smethwick Telephone 20/10/1904

"At a sale, on Tuesday, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, Messrs. Samuel Jones, Son, and Vernon (auctioneers) disposed of the free full-licensed public house, known as the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Ash Tree Road, Rounds Green, for £2,020."

#### 1911 Census

93, Bath Row – PRINCE OF WALES INN

- [1] *Thomas S. Stevens* (35), boatman, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Lily Stevens* (32), wife, married 12 years, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Lily May Stevens* (10), daughter, school, born Oldbury;
- [4] *May Cutler* (20), servant, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Thomas Stevens* (67), father, widower, boatman, born Oldbury:

*Richard Alfred Byland* – see also ROWAY.

It was built to replace the original pub in Bath Row.  
It opened in 1927.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/9/1931

"Licensee's Ten Summonses. Oldbury Woman to Pay £32 5s.

Ten summonses against *Alicia Maud Bruton*, licensee of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, for selling and supplying intoxicating liquor after hours were heard at Oldbury yesterday.

Five men – *Thomas Calder*, of 21 Woodlands Road, Ilford; *Edwin Walters*, of Norfolk Lodge, Sutton Coldfield; *Robert Garner*, of Barton Cottage, Blackroot Road, Sutton Coldfield; *Cedric Allen*, of 112 Ladypool Road, Sparkbrook; and *John Lloyd*, of University Club, Birmingham – were summoned for consuming after hours.

Police evidence was that at 11 o'clock on Saturday night, 25 July, Sergeant Green and Police-constable Bayliss kept watch near the PRINCE OF WALES INN and saw the licensee carry a tray containing glassed of whiskey and beer to a room at the rear, where the other defendants were.

They also saw her son return to the bar, open the till and put something in, and then return to the room.

The defence was a denial that the five men were customers.

*Mrs. Bruton* was fined £25 for selling to *Walters* and a total of £2 in respect of *Garner* and *Allen*, with five guineas costs.

In the case of *Calder* and *Lloyd* she was given the benefit of the doubt, and the cases against the two men were dismissed. All five summonses for supplying were withdrawn.

*Garner* *Allen*, and *Walters* were fined 10s each for consuming the liquor."

#### 1939 Register

62, Bury Hill

- [1] *James F. Cross*, date of birth 21/11/1898, manager (licensed victualler), married;
- [2] *Laura A. Cross*, dob 15/8/1893, unpaid domestic duties, married:

*James Fleetwood Cross* was a teetotaler.

See also BEECH TREE, Gorsty Hill Road, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

*Joe Jones* was born in Birmingham.

He was married to *Christine*.

He was an ex-continental coach driver.

It had a football team based here that played in the Warley Sunday League. [1981]

A team from here took part in the Smethwick and District Charity Darts League. [1986/7]

*Dave Yale* was from Kates Hill.

He was married to Wendy.

See also JOLLY COLLIER, Junction Street.

[2006]

Closed [2007]

It was demolished in 2007.

## RAILWAY

96, Bromford Road, (96, (110), Bromford Lane), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

George Thompson, Langley, Oldbury (c.1895)

Joseph Parkes

Frederick Smith Ltd.

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired c.1959)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1986]

Maple Leaf Inns

Enterprise Inns [2008]

## LICENSEES

John Lyman [1851] – [1854]

John Vyse [1855] – [1857]

Thomas Parkes [1861] – **1864**);

Mrs. Mary Rebecca (Parkes) Smalley (**1864 – 1865**);

James Smalley (**1865 – [1873]**)

Mrs. Mary Rebecca Smalley [1880] – [1881]

Joseph Parkes [1884] – **1897**);

Frederick Smith Ltd. (**1897 – 1899**);

John Beasley (**1899 – 1906**);

Joseph Lakin (**1906 – 1909**);

George Joseph Hinds (**1909 – 1915**);

Alfred Henry Cooper (**1915 – 1916**);

Mrs. Lillie Cooper (**1916 – 1933**);

Albert Edmund Heaven (**1933 – 1939**);

Thomas James Richards (**1939 – 1944**);

Joseph Guest (**1944 – 1948**);

Thomas Edward Harding (**1948 – 1949**);

Joseph William Edwards (**1949 – 1950**);

Arthur Allen (1950 – 1951);  
Richard Yates (1951 – 1954);  
John Birch (1954 – 1955);  
William John Richards (1955 – 1956);  
Samuel Henry Morris (1956 – 1957);  
George James Mobbs (1957 – 1965);  
Raymond Sidney Norton (1965 – 1974);  
Hilda Norton (1974 – 1987);  
Michael Philip Mahalski (1987 – 1989);  
Elaine Fitzpatrick (1989 – 1992);  
Margaret Dorothy Burgess (1992 – 1993);  
Serena Wilce (1993);  
Ronald John Richards (1993 – 1994);  
Rosina King (1994 – 1995);  
Gordon Oakes (1995 – 1996);  
Donna Maria Rowling (1996);  
Barbara Woodin (1996 – [ ]  
Carl Picken [ ] – 2009)  
Miss Nicky Howen and Trevor Peter Ford (2012 – [ ]

## NOTES

110, Bromford Lane  
96, Bromford Lane [1896]  
96, Bromford Road [1912], [1916], [1939], [2008]

### 1851 Census

#### Bromford Road

- [1] *John Lyman* (45), engineer and beerhouse keeper, born Wiltshire;
- [2] *Sarah Lyman* (42), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Elizabeth Lyman* (17), daughter, assists at home, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Joseph Lyman* (15), son, works in iron works, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Maria Lyman* (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Benjamin Lyman* (8), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] *George Lyman* (6), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Sarah Sheldon* (17), house servant, born Oldbury;

### Staffordshire Advertiser 12/11/1853 - Deaths

“On the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, Mrs. Sarah Lyman, aged 45, wife of Mr. *John Lyman*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Bromford Lane, South Staffordshire.”

### Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/10/1854

“On Friday last, an inquest was held before R. Docker, Esq, coroner, at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Bromford Lane, on the body of Ann Hughes, aged 68, who was killed by the 7-40pm train from Birmingham, on Wednesday, at the Oldbury Station, on the Stour Valley Railway.

The deceased, the wife of Thomas Hughes, hinge maker, Great Bridge, left Wolverhampton for home by the Shropshire Union train, at 7-15pm, to return home. She should have got out at Dudley Port, but for some cause or other went on to Oldbury. John Turner, the ticket collector there, warned her to keep off the line, as a train was expected every moment, and told her he would send her back by the next train. At that time the express train which leaves Birmingham at 7-40pm, was due, and Turner crossed the line to push two persons away who were in a dangerous position, when deceased followed him; but just as she was stepping off the line on to the opposite platform she was caught by the express train, and thrown down with great violence.

Turner, who ran a great risk of his own life in saving that of the two parties already mentioned – the express train brushing the tails of his coat as it passed – on turning round found her lying on the platform; and blood trickling from over her left eye. She was not then dead; and, sending for medical aid, he carried her into the station, where she died in ten minutes, from the severe injuries which she received.

Mr. Beswick, the station master at Oldbury, in answer to questions put to him by the foreman of the jury, Mr. Cooper, surgeon, said that sometimes owing to the late arrival of passengers at the station, and sometimes owing to the delay in booking them, passengers were frequently obliged to run down the line, and cross behind the train by which they were going. By having booking stations on both sides of the line, the necessity for and the danger of this practice could be altogether avoided, and would be a great benefit to the passengers.

Mr. Johnson, superintendent of police on the London and North Western Railway, pointed out that at Stafford and at Wolverhampton, where facilities were provided for passing at all times, without danger from one side of the line to the other, people were continually crossing on the level, and it was with great difficulty the police and porters could keep them off.

The foreman of the jury pointed out that the remedy which he, at the suggestion of a large number of the respectable inhabitants of Oldbury, proposed, was that booking stations should be provided at each side of the railway, so as to do away with the necessity of crossing the line at all. At present passengers were compelled to do so at the risk of their lives.

Mr. Beswick, in reply to further questions on the subject, said he thought that the alteration proposed could be done at a very trifling expense; and had no doubt that if the suggestion were made in the proper quarter, it would meet with every attention. After some consultation the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death; accompanying it with the following recommendations: This jury requests the coroner to draw the attention of the company to the want of security to passengers at Oldbury Station, and to recommend that a ticket station be immediately opened on the up side so as prevent the crossing of the line under any circumstances. The jury also beg most earnestly to express their warmest approbation of the conduct of John Turner, the ticket collector, in his courageous and successful attempt to save the lives of two parties who attempted to cross the line at the same time as the deceased. Ann Hughes met her death through not regarding his admonitions, and beg to recommend him to the favourable notice of the company.”

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/6/1856 - Deaths

“June 18, Eliza, only daughter of Mr. *John Vyse*, RAILWAY INN, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 17/1/1857 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable Young Man, to live in the House, and make himself generally useful. Apply to Mr. *John Vyse*, RAILWAY INN, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Journal 4/12/1858 - Advert

“That Excellent Old-Licensed House, known by the sign of the RAILWAY INN, close to the Railway Station, Oldbury, Staffordshire.

By Samuel Rodway. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, the Goodwill, Licenses, and valuable Possession, of the above well-situated Public House, which, independent of the profitable trade from the Railway Passengers, commands a very excellent trade from the surrounding Collieries.

The Brewing Utensils and Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation, which will be but trifling to a respectable tenant.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Samuel Rodway.....”

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/1/1859 - Advert

“A Rare Opportunity. That Genuine and Old-Established Old-Licensed Inn, and in one of the best situations in the Midland Counties, and now doing a first-rate business, near the Oldbury and Bromford Lane Station, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, the RAILWAY INN.

To be Disposed Of, that genuine and old-established old-licensed Inn. Only part of the Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, Fixtures, Fittings, and Licences to be taken to.

Immediate possession can be had.

For further particulars and to treat apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Appraiser, Land Surveyor, and General Agent, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1859 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the RAILWAY INN, near Oldbury and Bromford Lane Station, Bromford Lane, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, This Day (Monday), February 7.

The whole of the Public House Fixtures, Drinking Tables, Spirit Casks, Spirit Fountain, Beer Machine, Jugs, Glasses; Brewing Vessels, well seasoned Hogshead, half Hogshead, and other Casks; excellent neat and clean Household Furniture, and other Effects.

Further particulars will appear in catalogues, which may be had at the Place of Sale; and at the Auctioneer’s Office, Westley Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 2/4/1859 - Advert

“RAILWAY INN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the above well-known and commodious Premises, containing Liquor Shop, Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Club Room, three Sleeping Rooms, with good Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stabling, &c, and every requisite for carrying on first-rate business.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. David Holland, Broadwell Colliery, Oldbury.”

London Gazette 8/4/1859

“Before The Judge of the County Court of Warwickshire, holden at Warwick, on Tuesday, the 26th day of April, 1859.....

*John Vyse*, late of Livery-street, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, in no business or occupation, previously of Livery-street, Birmingham aforesaid, and also at the same residing at Bromford-lane, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, at both of the said places carrying on the trade of a Licensed Victualler, and formerly of Bromford-lane, Oldbury aforesaid, Licensed Victualler.”

Leicester Mercury 1/10/1859

“County Court, Leicester ..... Insolvents.....

Samuel Hedges, a prisoner in the County Gaol, was opposed by Mr. Ellers, barrister, of Birmingham on behalf of Mr. Jennings and Mr. Cooper, two of the largest creditors.

Mr. Cape supported the insolvent, whose debts amounted to £530, and his assets to £4.

In answer to Mr. Ellers, insolvent stated he had known Mr. *Vyse*, a publican, of Birmingham, about 14 years. Did not carry on business as a publican on his own account at the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury, or at the Grapes Inn, in Birmingham. In November last, *Vyse* made an assignment of those public houses to him. The business was carried on by Mrs. *Vyse*, and another person whose name he did not know. *Vyse* assigned these houses over to him in order to extricate himself from his difficulties. They were securities in insolvent’s hands for the bills which he had accepted for *Vyse*. He only received £2 from the proceeds of anything that was sold at the public houses. Gave some bills to Mr. Jennings, one of which became due on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. Ordered everything to be sold at Oldbury, after the assignment. The things realised £50 4s 7d by the sale at Oldbury, and the fixtures amounted to £40 more. About the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, he received £40 out of the £90, after deducting the expenses of sale, &c. Having lost his home by accepting these bills, he went to live at Duffield, and afterwards at Castle Donington. At the latter place he went by the name of Booth, to prevent his creditors finding him. *Vyse*’s name was over the houses at Oldbury and Birmingham, after they were assigned over to him. He was assured there was property enough to meet the bills. When he found *Vyse* was pocketing the money, he did not inform his creditors, nor attempt to make any terms with them. Did not pay any of the £40 he received to his creditors. He was assistant to his father, a grocer, at the time he accepted these bills. He accepted a bill for £100 for a man named Wilson, a gentleman’s servant, whom he had only known a few days. Wilson was out of employment at the time, and he accepted the bills for his accommodation, as he had friends in Leicestershire. The bills were never cashed. Did not tell Mr. Jennings when he came about *Vyse*’s account, that he should have £1000 in March last. Mr. Jennings knew his position at the time he accepted the bills. *Vyse* had been an old servant of his father’s, before these transactions.

By Mr. Cape: Had never had a pennyworth of goods of Mr. Jennings. Wilson had contracted debts in his name.

Mrs. Masters, of Castle Donington, also opposed the insolvent. She said, insolvent and Wilson came to her house, and wanted lodgings. She could not accommodate them, and they left their luggage while they went to another public house. A short time after, insolvent asked her husband to cash a bill for £10, but he refused. On Good Friday Wilson and insolvent borrowed £3 of her husband, stating that he should receive £100 from London the next morning, and he would then return it. He also procured a large quantity of beer, and several bottles of gin and brandy, under the same pretence. The bill produced was left as security for the £3. Insolvent had never paid either the money or for the liquors.

Insolvent, in reply to Mr. Cape, denied having the liquors, and said the £3 was borrowed by Wilson without his knowledge.

Mr. Ellers addressed the Court, submitting that from the conduct of insolvent in accepting the bills to the amount of several hundred pounds, without any means of paying them, he was not entitled to the protection of the court.

Mr. Cape contended that insolvent had been beguiled and begulled into his present position by the misrepresentations of *Vyse*, who led him to believe that there was property enough to meet all the bills. Mr. Jennings was perfectly cognisant of the position of insolvent at the time he accepted the bills of his friend *Vyse*. When he found that *Vyse* was pocketing the money, the proceeds of the public houses, he very naturally, having been put to great expense, took care of himself, and did not pay any part of the £40 to his creditors. With reference to the debt contracted at Castle Donington, that was done by Wilson without his knowledge or consent. Under these circumstances he trusted his Honour would grant prisoner his discharge.

His Honour summed up the evidence, censuring in strong terms the conduct of insolvent with regard to that assignment of the public houses, and his reckless career after receiving the £40 from the proceeds of the sale. With reference to the transaction at Castle Donington, it seemed that insolvent and Wilson were going about endeavouring to cash these bills, which were worthless, for the sole purpose of enjoying themselves at public houses, in the most extravagant manner. They ultimately succeed, by false statements, in extracting from Mr. Masters the sum of £3, besides credit for drink; and though the amount was small, it was a most fraudulent transaction. It was said that it was done by Wilson without insolvent's knowledge. He did not believe a word of it; it was quite clear that they were both acting in concert; that the money was obtained by them both in the most false and fraudulent manner. Under these circumstances, he conceived that insolvent was not entitled to the benefit of the Act, which was framed for honest debtors, until he should have been imprisoned for some considerable time, at the suit of his opposing creditors. He would thus show to others who might be inclined to adopt the same swindling practices, that if they would not pay in any other way, they should be made to pay in their persons. His judgement was that insolvent should not be entitled to the benefit of the Act until he had been imprisoned for the period of twelve months from the filing of the petition."

*Thomas Parkes* = Thomas Parks

### 1861 Census

Bromford Road – Public House – RAILWAY INN

[1] *Thomas Parkes* (46), victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Parkes* (37), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] William Parkes (14), son, born Oldbury;

[4] *Mary Parkes* (14), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] *Joseph Parkes* (10), son, born Oldbury;

[6] Emma Jackson (17), servant, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Journal 28/9/1861 - Advert

“The Broadwell Estate and Mines, in the Parish of Oldbury, in the County of Worcester.

Mr. Bateman begs to announce that he has received instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, about the middle of October next – The Broadwell Estate and Mines, situate near the town of Oldbury, and the Oldbury Station on the Stour Valley Railway; comprising Broadwell House and Premises, in the occupation of Mr.

Stableford; the RAILWAY INN, Land, and Premises in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Parkes*; several Closes of Land, in the holding of Mr. Underhill; the Land occupied with Broadwell Colliery; several Cottages and Gardens and about two Acres of Building Land; the whole containing in quantity, surface measure about 23A 2R; together with the whole of the Mines and Minerals lying in and under the same, and also other Lands adjoining.

The Property will be divided into convenient lots, full and descriptive particulars of which, with date and place of sale, will be given in future advertisements, and in the meantime any further information may be obtained from Mr. Brooke Robinson, Solicitor; Messrs. Brettell and Son, Land and Mine Surveyors; or the Auctioneer, all of Dudley.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/10/1861 - Advert

“The Broadwell Estate and Mines, in the parish of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester.

Mr. Bateman begs to announce that he has received instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Monday Next, the 21<sup>st</sup> of October.....

Lot 2. All that Old-Licensed and well-situated Public House and Premises, known as the RAILWAY INN, in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Parkes*, at the yearly rent of £40, situated in Bromford Lane, near to the Oldbury and Bromford Station, on the Stour Valley Railway, and to the Bromford Iron Works; also a Piece of Grass Land adjoining, the whole containing in quantity 2A 2R 34P, together with the whole of the Mines and Minerals in and under the same.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/4/1864

“At Oldbury Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, the license of the RAILWAY INN was transferred from *Thomas Parks*, deceased, to *Rebecca Parks*, his widow.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1864

“At Oldbury Police Court on Tuesday the following licenses were transferred.....

RAILWAY INN from the executors of *Thomas Parkes* to *Mary Rebecca Parks*.”

*Mary Rebecca Parkes* married *James Smalley* in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1865.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/8/1868

“On Monday evening last an inquest was held at the RAILWAY INN, Bromford Lane, before Ralph Docker, Esq, (coroner), and a respectable Jury, touching the death of John Ryan, 40, a coach painter, who had resided in Pinfold Street, but who was killed on the previous Saturday evening, under circumstances detailed below. Only a fortnight ago deceased and a companion, named Robert Berwick, came from Belfast and succeeded in obtaining employment at the carriage works as coach painters. They worked until half-past five o'clock on Saturday, and afterwards spent part of the evening with some friends, and then went to the railway station to see their friends off to Birmingham. The train by which they were going did not arrive until 8.30, and just as it was leaving the platform, the deceased and his companion commenced to cross the line to the other side. The booking clerk (Walter Woodcroft), perceiving a goods train approaching in the opposite direction from Birmingham, called out to them to stand still. It would appear, however, that they could not see their danger on account of the passenger train which was leaving the platform. The deceased, it appears, was unfortunately a little deaf, and failed to hear the warning, and still made way for the other side, when immediately the goods train, at a speed of from 10 to 15 miles an hour, came up, and the buffer of the engine striking the deceased upon the head before he could get out of the way, knocked or carried him a distance of 14 yards. All the trucks passed over him. The poor fellow was picked up quite dead. The only external injury was apparently to his right hand, which was partly cut off. He was removed to the waiting room, and afterwards to the RAILWAY INN.

The Jury, after hearing the evidence, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/5/1869 - Advert

“The Broadwell Freehold Building Estate, in the Town of Oldbury in Thirty-five Lots (Adjoining the Oldbury Railway Carriage Company's Works), and the RAILWAY INN and Premises, together with 12,280



Square Yards of Land, in Bromford Lane, close to the Oldbury Railway Station.

Messrs. Ludlow and Daniell will Sell by Auction, at the PARROTTS ARMS HOTEL, in the town of Oldbury, on Tuesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June next, at Four for Five o'clock in the afternoon, and subject to conditions then to be read.

The valuable Freehold Building Property, called the Broadwell Building Estate, in Thirty-five Lots, varying in size from 194 square yards to 9,740 square yards, having frontages to High Street, Broadwell Road, and newly laid-out streets, close to the Oldbury Railway Carriage Company's and other important Works; also, the valuable Freehold Property, known as the RAILWAY INN and Liquor Vaults, situated in Bromford Lane, close to the Oldbury and Bromford Railway Station, now in the occupation of Mr. *James Smalley*; and a Field of Freehold Building Land adjoining, and in the rear thereof; the whole having a frontage of 73 yards to Bromford Lane, and containing 12,280 square yards or thereabouts.

Full descriptive advertisements will appear in next week's papers.

Printed particulars and lithographic plans may be obtained fourteen days prior to the Sale, at the PAROTT ARMS HOTEL, Oldbury; and from Messrs. Ludlow and Daniell, Surveyors and Auctioneers, No.18 New Street, Birmingham."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/5/1869 - Advert

"The Broadwell Freehold Building Estate, in the Town of Oldbury, adjoining the Oldbury Railway Carriage Company's Works, and close to the Oldbury Railway Station.

Messrs. Ludlow and Daniell will Sell by Auction, at the PAROTT ARMS HOTEL, in the town of Oldbury, on Tuesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June next, at Four for Five o'clock in the afternoon, and subject to conditions then to be read.....

Lot 36. The important Freehold Property known as the RAILWAY INN and Liquor Vaults, situate in Bromford Lane, close to the Oldbury and Bromford Railway Station; together with the Brewhouse, Stables, Piggeries, Outbuildings, and Yard, and a Field of Freehold Land adjoining, and in the rear thereof, the whole having a frontage of 73 yards to Bromford Lane, and containing about 12,280 square yards.

The House, Yard, and Premises (only) are now in the occupation of Mr. *James Smalley*, as tenant from year to year, at the low rental of £40 per annum."

Worcestershire Journal 23/10/1869

"Worcestershire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.....

The following gentlemen were empanelled on the Grand Jury .... *James Smalley*, Oldbury, innkeeper."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/2/1870

"Ann Hargreaves (40), hawker, was indicted for obtaining a shilling by false pretences from *Mary Rebeca Smalley*, at Oldbury, on the 19<sup>th</sup> February last, and also with stealing from Samuel Underhill, on the 19<sup>th</sup> February, at Oldbury. The jury found prisoner guilty, and was sentenced to nine months' hard labour."

AND

Worcestershire Chronicle 2/3/1870

"Ann Hargreaves, 40, hawker, appeared in answer to three charges of obtaining money by false pretences at Oldbury, on the 19<sup>th</sup> February. In each instance the course adopted had been to dispute the sufficiency of change given. Nine months' hard labour."

The Sportsman 29/11/1870

"Birmingham Dog Show.....

Italian Greyhounds ..... Commended, Mr. *J. Smalley*, RAILWAY INN, Oldbury."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/3/1871 - Advert

"Messrs. Ludlow and Daniell will Sell by Auction, in their next Periodical Morning Sale, at their Sale Rooms, No.18, New Street, Birmingham, on Tuesday Next, March 21<sup>st</sup>, punctually at Twelve o'clock – the following valuable Freehold and Leasehold Properties.

Oldbury. The Broadwell Freehold Building Estate (In Twelve Important Lots).

Consisting of an Old-licensed Public House, Six Cottages, and Twenty-one Acres of Freehold Building

Land, immediately surrounding the Oldbury Railway Station, on the Stour Valley Railway, and extending therefrom up to High Street, in the town of Oldbury, with large frontages to capital roads, several of the sites being well adapted for Works, and all for the erection of Houses, which are much needed in the neighbourhood.

The Oldbury Railway Carriage Works are in the centre of the Estate, and the extensive Works of Messrs. Dawes and Son, and Messrs. Wright are contiguous thereto.

Lot 1. An important Freehold Property, situate in Bromford Lane (close to the Oldbury and Bromford Railway Station), known as the RAILWAY INN AND LIQUOR VAULTS, together with Brewhouse, Stable, Piggeries, Out-buildings, Yard, and Garden, and a Field of valuable Land (adjoining, and in the rear), suitable for Building purposes; the whole having a frontage of 73 yards to the Bromford Lane, and containing 12,280 square yards, or thereabouts.

The House, Yard, and Premises (only) are now in the occupation of Mr. *James Smalley*, as tenant from year to year, at the low rental of £40 per annum.”

#### 1871 Census

Bromford Road – RAILWAY INN

[1] *James Smalley* (48), publican, born Sutton Bassett, Leicestershire;

[2] *Mary R. Smalley* (52), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] Thomas Parkes (28), son, cab proprietor, born Oldbury;

[4] William Parkes (24), son, wagon maker, born Oldbury;

[5] *Joseph Parkes* (19), son, wagon maker, born Oldbury;

[6] Kate Huffer (20), general servant, born Hill Top:

*James Smalley* was also a cab proprietor. [1872]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1873

“Birmingham Police Court. Yesterday.....

Joseph Harper (27), alias Hanson, gunlock maker, was charged with attempting to steal a watch from the person of Thomas Parkes, of the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury. On Thursday night, shortly after nine o'clock, the prosecutor was at New Street Railway Station, when the prisoner and two others ‘made a rush’ at him. He (prosecutor) felt his watch going, and at once caught hold of prisoner, in whose hand he found the watch. He called out, ‘Police!’ and a constable was ‘there in a moment.’ Fortunately, Mr. Parkes had a strong chain to his watch, or the latter would in all probability have been stolen.

Detective-sergeant Cooper said the prisoner had been previously convicted of theft.

The accused was sentenced to three months’ hard labour.”

#### Wolverhampton Express and Star 17/6/1879

“On Sunday night Harriet Young (20), domestic servant, in the employ of Mr. *Smalley*, at the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury, left home as usual for the purpose of paying a visit to her grand-mother at the Albion. On leaving the house of the latter she left a note saying that she was going ‘to make away with herself.’ The girl has not been seen or heard of since, and although the canals in the neighbourhood have been dragged, no trace of the girl has been found.”

AND

“Harriet Young (20), domestic servant, in the employ of Mr. *Smalley*, RAILWAY INN, Oldbury, was brought up in custody charged with attempting to commit suicide. The facts of the girl’s disappearance and supposed suicide – from which, however, she was saved – will be found recorded in another part of our issue. She was apprehended last night.

A boy named Davies stated that on Sunday evening he saw the prisoner throw her hat into the canal at Dudley Port. He got the hat out and gave it to her, but she would not have it. He then went and spoke to a boy a short distance away, and while he did so he saw the girl jump into the water. Two men came up to the spot, and witness helped them to get her out.

The girl’s father said he could assign no reason for the prisoner’s attempt on her life excepting that she had met with a love disappointment.

Mr. Corser admonished the girl against such conduct in future, and on her promising that she would not again be guilty of such a rash act he allowed her to be given up to her father and mother.”

*James Smalley* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1879.

See also DOG AND PHEASANT.

*Mary Rebecca Smalley* was also a cab proprietor. [1880]

#### 1881 Census

Bromford Road – RAILWAY INN

[1] *Mary R. Smalley* (62), widow, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] Thomas Parkes (39), son, cab proprietor, born Oldbury;

[3] *Joseph Parkes* (29), son, coach builder, born Oldbury;

[4] Elsie Lines (63), sister, annuitant, born Birmingham;

[5] Emma Cook (40), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Mary Rebecca Smalley* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1883.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/10/1883

“At the Oldbury Police Court, yesterday afternoon, before Messrs. G. C. Adkins and E. B. Phillips, magistrates, Charles Granville Williams (23), of Birmingham Street, Oldbury, cabman, was charged on remand with stealing £80 in bank notes from the person of David Taylor, puddler, residing in Salop Street, Bradley, near Bilston, on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. W. Shakespeare appeared for the defence.

Prosecutor stated that on the day mentioned he came over to Lloyds Bank at Oldbury, where he received £82 11s 7d, including sixteen £5 notes. He engaged the prisoner to drive him to West Bromwich, and when they got there he and the prisoner went into the GREAT WESTERN INN and had some drink together. Upon returning to Oldbury they went into the RAILWAY INN, Bromford Lane, where they remained drinking together for some time. Whilst in this house prisoner said he would take charge of the notes and keep them safely for him until the following morning. In answer to Mr. Shakespeare, prosecutor admitted that he gave the notes to the prisoner quite willingly, and added that he was very much obliged to him for taking care of them, as he (prosecutor) was under the influence of beer at the time. He did not give the prisoner into custody.

Eli Bradley, of Garrison Lane, Birmingham, said he saw prosecutor offer the notes to the landlady, who however refused to have anything to do with them. Cross-examined: Prosecutor went to put them into his pocket again, but he (witness) could not say whether he gave them to the prisoner or not to take care of them. The affair took place openly, but as he was the only stranger in the room at the time he called attention of the landlord to the matter, and subsequently the police were called in and prisoner was arrested. The Bench considered the evidence was not sufficient to justify them in sending the case for trial, and accordingly the prisoner was discharged.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1884

“Yesterday an inquest was held before Mr. R. Docker, coroner, at the RAILWAY INN, Bromford Lane, respecting the death of Joseph Yates (74), foreman platelayer, of Canal Street, Wolverhampton, who died suddenly whilst at work on the railway near Oldbury Station, on Friday last. It was stated that deceased had been in the employ of the London and North Western Railway Company for about fifty years, and on Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> inst, he received a fortnight’s notice to leave their service, and this troubled him a great deal. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Apoplexy.”

#### Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/1/1885

“*Joseph Parkes*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Bromford Lane, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours on Christmas Day.

Police-constable Rivers stated that at 2.40pm he saw six men in defendant’s house, and noticed some ale in glasses on the table, but he did not see any consumed.

Mr. Forest, who represented the defendant, said that his client did all he could to get his house cleared by the stipulated time, and that no one was served within five minutes of that time. Two witnesses were called in support of this statement, and the Bench dismissed the case.”

#### Birmingham Mail 9/2/1886

“At Oldbury Police Court today, Alfred Onions (13), of West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, was charged with stealing 12s, the money of Jonathan Wooten, of Unity Place, Oldbury, on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst.

Prosecutor was playing at football in a field at the back of the RAILWAY INN, and whilst doing so he left his ordinary clothes in a shed. Defendant then rifled his pockets and stole the money, some of which he spent.

Prisoner was sentenced to ten days imprisonment, and afterwards to go to a reformatory for five years.”

#### Liverpool Weekly Courier 25/9/1886

“At Oldbury Alfred Wall, 23, striker, of Smethwick, was charged with stealing a silver mounted jug and a glass, of the value of 3s, the property of *Joseph Parkes*, of the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury.

On Saturday a football match took place in a field at the rear of the RAILWAY INN and after the match concluded prisoner and a number of companions adjourned to the public house, where they remained for a short time. Immediately after they left the jug and glass were missed. Prosecutor gave information to Police-sergeant Stanton, and he and Mr. *Parkes* hired a cab and went in pursuit of the party. Proceeding in the direction of Smethwick they overtook four of them, whom they searched, and failed to find the missing property. They subsequently returned to the VICTORIA STORES, Birmingham Street, where they found the remainder of the team. They were called into a private room and searched. Prisoner, it was alleged, was observed to stoop down in a suspicious manner, and soon afterwards Mr. *Parkes* found the jug under the seat where he had been sitting.

Prisoner denied all knowledge of the robbery.

Police-sergeant Stanton later on found the glass on a bench in the room where the prisoner and his companions had been drinking. The officer took seven of them to the police station, where the prisoner pleaded guilty to the charge of stealing the jug. He expressed himself sorry for what he had done, and pleaded that he was under the influence of beer.

The bench took a lenient view of the case, and allowed prisoner to go on the payment of the costs, 26s 6d.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 11/12/1886

“A quarterly meeting of the Oldbury Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held on Tuesday at the RAILWAY INN, Bromford Lane. Mr. T. Hyde occupied the chair.

Mr. J. G. Dexter (secretary) presented the quarterly report, which showed that there were forty members on the books, eight having been enrolled during the past quarter. The balance in hand was £35 10s 2d. The accounts had been audited by Messrs. White and Hyde.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 2/8/1887

“Mr. E. Docker (coroner) opened an inquest, yesterday afternoon, at the RAILWAY INN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury, relative to the death of a child named Alfred Taylor, aged two years, whose parents reside in Broadwell Road, Oldbury, who was killed on the Birmingham District Steam Tramway on Sunday.

Mr. T. Taylor, father of the deceased, identified the body, and stated that the child ran out of the house on Sunday afternoon to see a band, and a few minutes afterwards witness was informed that he had been run over by the steam tram.

Dr. Lyddon gave evidence to the effect that the body of the child was shockingly mutilated, and death must have been instantaneous.

The Coroner said he had received communications from the driver of the engine and the solicitor to the Tramway Company, and he only proposed taking formal evidence on that occasion.

The enquiry was then adjourned until Friday next.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 8/8/1887

“On Friday, Mr. E. Docker (deputy coroner) resumed the adjourned inquest at the RAILWAY INN, Brom-

ford Lane, respecting the death of Alfred Taylor, aged two years and ten months, of Broadwell Road, Oldbury, who was killed by a tram-engine, on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult.

George Parker, engine-driver, stated that, on the date mentioned, he was driving and when near the Oldbury Railway Station the deceased ran on the line, and, before he had time to pull up, the engine passed over his body. At the time the accident occurred he was driving at the rate of three or four miles an hour.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### 1891 Census

Bromford Road – RAILWAY INN

[1] *Joseph Parkes* (40), publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Sarah Parkes* (26), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Rebecca Parkes* (4), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] *Joseph Parkes* (2), son, born Oldbury;

[5] *Fanny Ingram* (22), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[6] *Carrie Davis* (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[7] *Florence Jasper* (22), visitor, born Erdington;

[8] *Sarah Ann Jones* (55), visitor, widow, living on her own means, born West Bromwich:

#### Gloucester Citizen 27/12/1893

“On Tuesday evening an alarming gun accident occurred in the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury, which resulted in one man being injured and several others narrowly escaping death.

It appears that Alfred Hudson, Chas. Alfred Dunrose, and Josiah Showell were in the bar of the public house named, the parties having returned from a shooting match. After being in the room for a short time Dunrose said he could blow out the gas with a gun, and he immediately took hold of Showell’s gun for the purpose of trying the experiment. He placed a cap upon the nipple, and being unaware that the gun was loaded, he raised it and pointed it at the gaslight. The muzzle was very near Alfred Hudson’s head, and the latter put his hand up to push the gun on one side. At the same moment Dunrose pulled the trigger of the gun, which went off with a loud report, blowing away a portion of Hudson’s left hand and the gas pendant. The contents of the gun also struck a large earthenware spirit barrel which stood upon a shelf near the ceiling. The charge also passed very close to the heads of several customers who were standing in the room.”

#### 1901 Census

Bromford Road

[1] *John Beasley* (62), married, licensed victualler, born Warwick;

[2] *Maud Beasley* (19), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Nellie Beasley* (12), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] *Maggie Beasley* (21), grand-daughter, born Liverpool:

#### Rugby Advertiser 17/3/1903 - Advert

“The Brightest Light in the World.

A London Electrician exhibited the other day a new form of arc lamp which gives a light, beside which the most brilliant electric light ever previously seen looks like a smoky lantern. This extraordinary light is produced by electrifying the vapours of Mercury. Without the aid of a particle of Mercury a still Brighter Light has, by Dr. Williams’ pink pills for pale people, been brought into thousands of homes. All over the country they have restored the light of health to tired eyes, the rose-pink of beauty into pale cheeks.

Miss Beasley, the landlord’s daughter at the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury, Birmingham, said these pills, three years ago, brought light into her life which she feared had gone for ever. ‘I was in such a terrible state,’ said she, ‘through that ever-prevalent malady, anaemia, that I could not even dress my hair. I was just like death; people turned round to look at me. I used to fall down fainting in the road. I could not digest food – in fact, I had no appetite for it. Dr Williams’ pink pills quite cured me, and I have remained well, eating freely and working with ease. Undoubtedly these pills saved my life.’”

[This advert appeared nationally.]

### 1911 Census

Bromford Road – RAILWAY INN

[1] *George J. Hinds* (30), publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Nellie Hinds* (25), wife, married 2 years, assisting in business, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Lizzie Kimberley* (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[4] *Ethel Smith* (15), visitor, born West Ham, Middlesex;

[5] *Hinds* (4 days), daughter, born Oldbury:

### West Bromwich Weekly News 18/1/1913

“*George Joseph Hinds*, licensee of the RAILWAY INN, Bromford Road, was summoned for selling Scotch whisky not of the nature, substance, and quality demanded.

Mr. H. Jeffries (Messrs. Wright and Hollins) prosecuted on behalf of the Chief Constable, said Mrs. Wall, wife of PS Wall, purchased half a pint of Scotch whisky, and upon a portion of this being analysed it was found to contain 12.7 per cent of added water.

Defendant explained that he sold it just as he had bought it.

The Bench characterised the offense as a fraud on the public, and a fine of £5 and costs, £7 14s altogether was inflicted.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/4/1917

“An official notification has been received that Private *J. Hinds*, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, has been killed in action. Prior to enlisting he was the licensee of the RAILWAY NN, Bromford Lane, Oldbury.”

### 1939 Register

96, Bromford Road

[1] *Thomas J. Richards*, date of birth, 14/2/1897, manager licensed premises, married;

[2] *Doris J. (Richards) Millard*, dob 9/10/1906, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Charles Vardy*, dob 15/7/1889, war department inspector mechanical, married;

[4] *Fred (Fernand) Darling*, dob 3/9/1888, war department inspector mechanical, married;

[5] *Andrew Creach*, dob 25/9/1888, war department inspector mechanical, single:

[Doris married Millard prior to 1950.]

*Joseph Guest* was married to *Emmie*.

*Joseph Edwards* was married to *Beryl*.

*Richard Yates* was married to *Annie*.

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/12/1953

“Cutlery and boxes of chocolates won at the Birmingham Dog Training Club’s show in aid of the *Birmingham Gazette* ‘Save the Horses’ Fund were given back and auctioned to swell the Fund. The show, held on Saturday at the Custard House, Bordesley Green, raised £17 10s.....

The smallest Yorkshire terrier in England was there too. It is two-and-a-half years old, weighs 24oz, and is owned by Mr. *R. Yates*, of the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury.”

A team from here qualified for the *Sunday People*’s Great Pub Sports Quiz (128 teams). [1973]  
In the first round they beat OLD BUSH, Pelsall 32-7. They were knocked out in the second round.

A team from here took part in the *Sports Argus* Inn-Quiz. [1973/74]

### Sports Argus 23/2/1974

“The high flying Ashted Hamlet, one of the favourites to win the *Sports Argus* Inn-Quiz, crashed out in the third round against the RAILWAY from West Bromwich. They lost by a fraction of a second. The teams were all-square at the end of the team and individual questions with 41 points each. The tie-breaker had to

be used.....”

[RAILWAY INN lost in the quarter finals.]

*Raymond Sidney Norton* married *Hilda* Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1941.

*Raymond Sidney Norton* died on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1974.

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/12/1986

“The woman they call the ‘Queen of the RAILWAY’ is calling time after almost a quarter of a century behind the bar at an Oldbury pub. Mrs. *Hilda Norton* will retire on January 5 as licensee of the RAILWAY INN, Bromford Road. But 68-year-old widow *Hilda*, who has been in the licensed trade for 30 years, is reluctant to relinquish her ties with the pub world. ‘I have some lovely regulars here and I shall miss them all terribly. But I’m hoping to get a part-time job at a pub so I won’t have to pull my very last pint of mild for some time to come,’ she said.

*Hilda* has won several prizes for the way she keeps her beer during her 23 years as landlady of the Mitchells and Butlers pub.”

*Hilda Norton* died on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1997.

It was structurally altered in October 1996.

Closed

It was converted into private dwelling in 1998.

It reopened as a Pub Restaurant and Carvery.

*Carl Picken* was born c.1969.

He was married to Katherine.

He was killed in a motorcycle accident in July 2009.

*Nicky Howen* – see also BULLS HEAD, Whiteheath, and STRUGGLING MAN, Dudley.

It sold at auction on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 for £150,000.

Closed [2012]

It reopened in May 2013.

Express & Star 15/11/2013

“For many, the face of UKIP has become that of Nigel Farage, sipping a pint of real ale, cigarette in hand and a broad smile across his face. UKIP’s deputy leader Paul Nuttall however insists the party is not a ‘one-man band’ and revealed his ambition that the party could contest every seat in next year’s local council elections ..... He said he would also be ‘bitterly disappointed’ if the party did not end next year’s European elections without at least two MEPs from the West Midlands, and he was aiming for three out of the seven seats available as recent polls suggested it had 30 per cent of the vote. Mr. Nuttall spoke to the *Express & Star* ahead of a public meeting of the party at the RAILWAY INN pub, Bromford Lane, Oldbury, last night.....”

Dudley News 1/8/2020

“A new Eat Out to Help Out postcode checker has been launched by the government that allows you to find out which business in Dudley and the surrounding areas are taking part in the scheme.

Eat Out to Help Out officially begins on Monday, August 3. Customers will be able to get a 50 per cent discount on food or non-alcoholic drinks (up to a £10 discount per diner) at participating establishments. The scheme will run every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until Monday, August 31. Establishments will claim a reimbursement from the government for the discount they’ve given. Participating establishments

may include restaurants, cafés, bars or pubs, work and school canteens and food halls. Here are the establishments so far registered to take part in the scheme within five miles of Dudley town centre.....

RAILWAY INN, Bromford Road, Oldbury.”

[2021]

## RAILWAY

23, Langley Green Road, (23, Langley Green), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

William Jackson

A. J. Price, Lewisham Brewery, West Bromwich

Holders Brewery Ltd. [1909]

## LICENSEES

William Jackson [1870] – 1900);

George Frederick ‘Fred’ Wheldon (1900 – 1902);

Abraham Matthews (1902 – 1905);

William Simpson (1905);

Frederick Samuel Rudge (1905 – 1906);

Charles Etheridge (1906 – 1907);

James Silvester (1907 – 1910):

## NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1869

“At Oldbury Petty Sessions, yesterday.....

*William Jackson*, beerhouse keeper, of Langley, was fined 2s 6d and costs, for selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday.”

1871 Census

Langley Green

[1] *William Jackson* (31), bricklayer, born Langley;

[2] Elizabeth Jackson (30), wife, born Rowley;

[3] Thomas Jackson (3), son, born Langley;

[4] Alfred Jackson (1), son, born Langley;

[5] Leair Reed (20), general servant, born Langley:

Dudley Guardian 24/4/1875

“*William Jackson*, of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Langley Green, was charged with selling ale during prohibited hours on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> instant.

He was fined 40s and costs and as this was his first offence the Bench decided not to endorse his license.”



## 1881 Census

### Langley Green

- [1] *William Jackson* (41), brewer, born Oldbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Jackson (38), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Thomas Jackson (13), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] Alfred Jackson (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] William Jackson (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Sarah Reed (24), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

## Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1887

“The annual Licensing Meeting for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday at the Police Station.....

Mr. Jackson applied on behalf of *William Jackson*, landlord of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Langley, for a license to sell wines to be consumed on the premises. Mr. J. S. Sharpe opposed the application. Refused.”

## Wolverhampton Express and Star 25/7/1889

“Langley Green Victoria Football Club.

On Wednesday night the annual dinner of the ‘Vics’ was held at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Langley Green. There were present about 40 members and friends. Mr. Bytheway presided.”

## Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1890

“The licensing session for Oldbury division was held yesterday.....

Mr. J. S. Sharpe applied on behalf of *William Jackson*, of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Langley Green, for a license to sell wines. Mr. Sharpe pointed out that during the last five years 113 new houses had been built in the locality where the applicant’s house was situated. Evidence was given showing that the premises were rated at £21 per annum ..... Refused, Mr. Wilson (the chairman) remarking that the bench were unable to see that the public interests demanded that they should be granted.”

## 1891 Census

### 23, Langley Green Road – RAILWAY TAVERN

- [1] *William Jackson* (52), publican, born Langley Green;
- [2] Elizabeth Jackson (49), wife, born Langley Green;
- [3] Thomas Jackson (23), son, engine fitter, born Langley Green;
- [4] Alfred Jackson (21), son, house carpenter, born Langley Green;
- [5] William Jackson (19), son, barman, born Langley Green;
- [6] Elizabeth Jackson (9), daughter, scholar, born Langley Green;
- [7] Mabel Granger (18) domestic servant, born Langley Green:

## Birmingham Mail 3/5/1900

“In the course of an interview which a *Mail* representative had with *Wheldon*, the left wing inside player of the Aston Villa team, this afternoon, it was elicited that *Wheldon* had finally decided to take to the RAILWAY TAVERN at Langley Green, and he will enter upon the tenancy on Tuesday next, so that if the Villa directors adhere to their decision with regard to footballers occupying public houses, the matter is settled, and *Wheldon* will not be seen in the Villa ranks again. He did not, he said, which to leave the Villa club, and also mentioned that he was offered the same terms as last season, but he had fully made up his mind to embark in a public house business, and as the RAILWAY TAVERN was in his own neighbourhood he considered it a good opportunity, as he had to look to the future. With regard to the rumour about his joining the Albion club, he stated that no steps had yet been taken in that direction, and before anything could be done the transfer fee question would be raised and have to be dealt with. It transpired that there is no other point of disagreement between *Wheldon* and the directors of his old club. At present *Wheldon* is not able to say anything with regard to his intentions, as his course of action will have to be guided by circumstances which may arise hereafter.”

Leeds Mercury 4/5/1900

“The directors of Aston Villa have taken a firm stand on the question of players conducting public houses. The matter has been brought to a head in consequence of *Fred Wheldon*, the old international inside left, for whose transfer the Villa paid an unprecedented sum a few years ago, declaring his intention to become a licensee. The directors have refused to re-engage him under these circumstances, and as he persists in his resolve his severance from the club seems inevitable. He is mentioned as a probable recruit for West Bromwich, but he states that no steps have been taken in this direction.”

Lancashire Evening Post 9/5/1900

“Yesterday, at Oldbury, *George F. Wheldon*, the well-known Aston Villa player, applied for the temporary transfer of the license of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Langley Green Road, from *William Jackson* to himself. The application was granted.”

1901 Census

23, Langley Green Road

[1] *George F. Wheldon* (31), beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;

[2] *Emma J. Wheldon* (26), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Bernard Wheldon* (3), son, born Oldbury;

[4] *Catherine Parkes* (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Globe 19/11/1901

“*George Frederick Wheldon*, professional cricketer for Worcester County, and who played for the Aston Villa and West Bromwich football teams, petitioned for a divorce on the ground of the misconduct of his wife with *Zachariah York*. The parties were married in May, 1893, and lived at Langley. His lordship granted a decree nisi with costs against the co-respondent.”

Smethwick Telephone 8/3/1902 - Advert

“Thursday Next, March 13, 1902.

RAILWAY TAVERN, Langley Green Road, Langley Green.

Messrs. Slim and Ridding are favoured with instructions from Mr. *F. Wheldon* to Sell by Auction as above the Valuable and useful Household Furniture and Effects, comprising.

Sets of brass and iron Parisian and French bedsteads, box spring mattresses, wool overlay, 8in straw palliasse, capital feather and wool beds, bed-clothing, very handsome 4ft burr walnut bedroom suite, comprising wardrobe with bevelled plate-glass door, dressing table with swing mirror, marble top washstand, towel rail, bedstead and 8 chairs, Axminster and Wilton pile carpets, walnut overmantels, leather and other chairs, walnut drawing-room suite in saddlebags, brass rail fender, walnut and oak sideboards, stair carpet and rods, bamboo tables, couch in leather, polished walnut telescope dining table, valuable iron frame Cottage Piano-forte by Dobson, kitchen items and other effects.

Sale at Eleven am prompt.

Auction Offices: 262, Corporation Street, Birmingham; 21 Henry Street, Langley Green.

Telephone 985 Birmingham, and 45 Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

RAILWAY TAVERN.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation. ....

RAILWAY TAVERN, beerhouse, Langley Green Road, owner Messrs. Holders Limited. ....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee’s investigations. ....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/4/1909

“Mr. A. M. Chance presided at the special Licensing Sessions at Oldbury yesterday, when Mr. J. S. Sharpe, on behalf of Holders Brewery Ltd, applied for permission to rebuild the following houses: SYCAMORE INN (L. V.), Clay Lane; SPREAD EAGLE (full licence), Park Lane; and the ROYAL OAK (beerhouse), corner of Langley Green Road and Causeway Green Road.

Mr. Sharpe said the police had objected to the renewal of the licence of the SYCAMORE, because the premises were structurally unsuitable. The plans provided for the rebuilding of the premises, which were old-fashioned and dilapidated. The domestic accommodation would be greatly improved, and in consideration of a slight increase in the drinking area they would surrender the licence of the RAILWAY INN, Langley Green Road, an ante-69 beerhouse. With regard to the other two applications there would be no increase in the drinking area, but the domestic quarters would be much improved in each case. The ROYAL OAK would be set back some distance, and 150 square yards of land would be given up for improving the corner. Mr. A. Edwards, architect, of Birmingham, submitted plans, and said the cost would be about £1,000 in each case. The alterations would be completed in the licensing year.

Mr. Chance asked that the RAILWAY INN should be closed at Midsummer, and the applications were then granted, subject to the surrender being satisfactory.”

The license was surrendered and the house closed on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1910.

**RED COW**

5, (56), (60), Church Street, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Alfred Thomas Farr, Princess Road, Birmingham (later at the pub)

George Jerrams, brewer, Tat Bank, Oldbury

City Brewery Ltd., Birmingham

Holders Brewery Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired c.1919)

LICENSEES

Joseph Bate [1829] – [1845]

Levi Plimmer [1850] – [1855]

Charles Adams [1861] – **1863**);  
John Rowley Ballard (**1863** – [1865]  
Benjamin ‘Barney’ Gibbons [1866] – [1871]  
John Matthew Harris [ ] – **1872**);  
John Cracknall (**1872** – [ ]  
Henry Cracknell [1873]  
Charles Cracknell [1874]  
Richard Williams [1877] – [1881]  
George Bill [1883] – **1884**);  
Alfred Thomas Farr (**1884** – **1887**);  
Mrs. Ellen Cartwright (**1887** – **1888**);  
Richard Hammond (**1888** – **1904**);  
Annie (Hammond) Wastall (**1904** – **1908**);  
Frederick Wastall (**1908** – **1910**);  
Annie Wastall (**1910** – **1916**);  
Albert Smith (**1916** – **1921**);  
Philip Southall (**1921** – **1928**);  
Arthur Charles Darby (**1928** – **1934**);  
Frank Jeremiah Lee (**1934** – **1937**);  
Charles Merrick (**1937** – **1940**);  
William Fletcher (**1940** – **1941**);  
Alfred John Houghton (**1941** – **1955**);  
George Ernest Hancox (**1955**);  
Leonard Vincent (**1955** – **1957**);  
Philip Wolfe (**1957** – **1960**);  
Brian George Shirt (**1960** – [1963]

## NOTES

60, Church Street [1871]  
56, Church Street [1881]  
5, Church Street [1891], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1939]

OLD RED COW [1864], [1865], [1870], [1865], [1871], [1872], [1873]  
RED COW LIQUOR VAULTS [1867], [1878]  
RED COW VAULTS [1881], [1883], [1887], [1894]

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 25/11/1839 - Advert

“Most Desirable Properties in Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Thomas Pitt Stokes, at the TALBOT INN, in the town of Oldbury, this present Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, at five o’clock in the afternoon, in such lots as will be specified in printed particulars as may be then determined – the following important and valuable Properties, in the centre of the flourishing and increasing town of Oldbury, commanding obvious advantages, and occupying a range of frontages in the best situation, thus rendering them admirably well calculated for the various branches of business which are now so extensively and lucratively pursued in that thriving place.

The Butcher’s Shop and Premises in the occupation of Benjamin Elwell.

The Saddler’s Shop lately occupied by Thomas Lancaster.

That well-known, long-established, and first-rate Inn, called the TALBOT, in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Parish, with its Brewery, Stabling, Coach-house, large Yard, Garden, and other suitable conveniences for carrying on the business of an Innkeeper to a large and profitable extent.

The Draper’s Shop and Premises in the occupation of Mr. George Purser.

The Dwelling House and Premises in the occupation of John Green, Fruiterer.

The Dwelling House, Outbuildings, and Premises in the occupation of Thomas Nock.

The Dwelling House, Shop, Stabling, and other Premises in the occupation of William Hinds, Baker.

A capital old licensed Public House, called the RED COW, with a large Club-room, &c and Stabling, Slaughter-house, and other Premises in the occupation of *Joseph Bate*.

A Dwelling House and Premises in the occupation of Sarah Jewkes.

A Butcher's Shop and Premises in the occupation of Henry Bate.

All the above properties adjoin together and are Freehold.

An excellent Dwelling House, Stable, Piggery, Garden, Land, and Premises, in the centre of the town of Oldbury, in the occupation of Benjamin Elwell.

Three Dwelling Houses, Gardens and Premises at the back, in the occupation Joseph Booton, Thomas Gibbs, and William Hall.

The last-described Properties are Copyhold.

A well-accustomed Freehold Public House, called the BIRD IN HAND, at Rounds Green, within a short distance of the town of Oldbury, and surrounded by Collieries and Ironworks, with the new Club-room, Stabling, Garden, and Premises in the occupation of Thomas Hadley.

Another Freehold Dwelling House and Premises, at Rounds Green, in the occupation of Joseph Drewry.

An adjoining Dwelling House, Stable, and Premises in the occupation of Samuel Turvey.

Printed particulars and all further information may be obtained from Mr. W. Fellowes, Solicitor, Dudley."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/4/1840 - Advert

"Very Valuable Freehold Property. To be Sold by private Contract, in the town of Oldbury.

Lot I. That well-known, long-established, and first-rate Inn called the TALBOT, in the occupation of Mr. Samuel Parish, to which are attached Brewhouse, Stabling, Coach-house, large Yard, Garden, Piggeries, &c, with a Butcher's Shop and Sadler's Shop.

Lot II. A Dwelling House, with a well-accustomed Draper's Shop and Premises, with large Bakehouse at the back, in the occupation of Mr. George Purser.

Lot III. A capital old-licensed and well-accustomed Public House, called the RED COW, with a Dwelling House, a Butcher's Shop, and a considerable Plot of Land at the back, large Club-room, Slaughter-house, Piggeries, an excellent Pump of water, &c, in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Bate*.

The above property fronts the principal street in the centre of Oldbury.

Lot IV. A long-established and well-accustomed Public House, called the BIRD IN HAND, at Rounds Green, within a short distance of the town of Oldbury, and surrounded by Collieries and Iron Works, with large Garden fronting the road, new Club-room, Stabling, and other Premises, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Hadley.

Lot V. Two Dwelling Houses adjoining the last lot, with new Stable, fit to be converted into a Dwelling House, in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Druary and Mr. William Turvey.

For further particulars and to treat for the same apply to Mr. J. P. Smart Oldbury."

#### 1841 Census

Church Street

[1] *Joseph Bate* (45), butcher;

[2] Sarah Bate (50);

[3] Henry Bate (20);

[4] John Parkes (15);

[5] Ann Prescott (20);

[6] Ann Bate (13):

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/11/1842 - Advert

"Unreserved Sale at the RED COW INN, Oldbury, in the county of Salop. To Publicans and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Newbold, Tomorrow (Thursday), the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1842, the Household Furniture, Stock of Ale, Prime Casks, Furnaces, Brewing Requisites, Public-house Fixtures, excellent 4-pull Ale Machine, and all other effects, belonging to Mr. *Joseph Bate*.

The Sale to commence punctually at eleven o'clock.

Catalogues may be had at the offices of the Auctioneer, at Dudley, Stourbridge, and Wolverhampton.”

### 1851 Census

#### Church Street

- [1] *Levi Plimmer* (48), victualler and coal chartermaster employing 16 men, 6 boys and 3 girls, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Plimmer* (47), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Ann Plimmer* (18), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Martha Plimmer* (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Caroline Plimmer* (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Thomas Plimmer* (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] *David Hadley* (19), apprentice, coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [8] *William Hadley* (17), apprentice, coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [9] *Joseph Parkes* (10), nephew, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [10] *Hannah Filpot* (20), visitor, born Oldbury;

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/3/1858

“To be shot for, at Mr. *Charles Adams*’s, the RED COW INN, Oldbury, Staffordshire (one minute’s walk from the Bromford Lane station, Stour Valley), tomorrow (Monday), March 8, two fat pigs, weighing 20 score, by 20 members, at 10s each; the winner can have £9 10s or the pigs; open to all England. Conditions: 3 birds each, guns  $\frac{3}{4}$  bore, 2oz of shot, 21 yards rise; double guns, 1½oz of shot, 19 yards rise, boundary 60 yards. Crossbee will supply the best blue rocks. First bird trapped at twelve o’clock. Ten members have already entered.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/3/1858

“At *Adams*’s, the RED COW, Oldbury, Staffordshire, on Monday, the fat pigs were shot for by 10 members, at 10s each, at 3 birds each, when, after some excellent shooting, Messrs. Millington and Nurse won, killing all. Afterwards a sweepstakes was shot by 10 members, at 10s each, 3 birds each, when Messrs. Parkes, Millington, Hadley, Cottis, and Trowse tied and shot off bird for bird to the fifth, when, owing to a scarcity of birds, they agreed to divide.”

### County Advertiser 13/3/1858

“William Langford was charged under the following circumstances. PC Hawkins deposed that about half past eight o’clock on the evening of Monday last he was on duty at Oldbury, when he saw the defendant lying in the streets, very drunk, and quite incapable of getting up. There were a great many people standing round him. With the assistance of another person witness succeeded in getting him to the station house. In reply to the Bench, defendant stated that he lived at Hill Top, near Wednesbury, and was in the employ of Mr. Blackwell, the Atlas Works. He had never been charged with any offence before, and he was very sorry that he had committed one then; but his young master asked him to go to a pigeon shooting match, which was to take place on the above-named day, at the RED COW INN, Oldbury. He accordingly went, and having had nothing to eat during the day, the drink he partook of so overcame him that when he went into the open air he fell down and could not get up again. Upon his promising not to repeat the offence, he was dismissed on payment of costs, 10s.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1859

“At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before Captain Bennitt and R. W. Johnson, Esq., Mary Ann Custon was brought up on remand, charged with having on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February stolen one pair of women’s boots, the property of Jonah Jephcott, coal seller and shoe dealer, of Oldbury, who keeps a stall in the Market Place, adjoining Mr. Perrens’ house. The prisoner, it was stated by the wife of the prosecutor, took the boots from the stall between nine and ten o’clock on the night of the 12<sup>th</sup> ult. Prosecutrix concluded that prisoner had taken them, because she saw her standing close to the stall at the time above mentioned, and when she was gone the boots were missing. Prosecutrix further stated, that from information she received on the 18<sup>th</sup> ult, she went to the prisoner’s house and accused her of the theft. Prisoner denied it, and said she had bought a

pair of a woman at the bottom of the Market Place, for which she had given 4s 9d. Prosecutrix gave information to the police, and Police-sergeant Simmonds apprehended the prisoner at the house of her father. The boots produced were stated by the prosecutrix to be her property, and identical with the pair she saw on the prisoner's feet. The above is the substance of the evidence taken at the first examination on the 23<sup>rd</sup> ult. Yesterday, Eli Bell, a miner, residing in Oldbury, swore that he saw the prisoner take the boots from the stall on the night in question, put them under her shawl, and walk off with them. He had been walking with the prisoner that night, and after she had taken the boots he went with her to the RED COW INN, when he left her.

This witness was then cross-examined by the prisoner with the view of showing that after the robbery he went with her to several other public houses the same evening, but he distinctly swore that he never went with her into any house but the RED COW. The prisoner, however, swore that Bell had been with her to the FLOWER POT and the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, and several witnesses were accordingly called by the Bench to ascertain which statement was true. These witnesses corroborated the statement of the prisoner, having seen her in company with Bell at the houses above named. One witness also proved that instead of Bell leaving the prisoner in the RED COW, they both left together.

Under these circumstances the prisoner was dismissed on the charge of felony, and admitted to give evidence against Eli Bell, who was forthwith placed in the dock on the charge of having committed perjury. The various witnesses having been examined, and deposed as above stated, Bell was fully committed to take his trial at the ensuing Worcester Assizes."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1859

"Worcester Spring Assizes ..... Bills Ignored.....

Against Eli Bell, charged with perjury at Oldbury, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March."

#### 1861 Census

Church Street – RED COW INN

[1] *Charles Adams* (50), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Anne Adams* (48), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *Charles Adams* (23), son, smith, born Oldbury;

[4] *Cornelius F. Adams* (20), son, smith, born West Bromwich;

[5] *Sarah Bridge* (20), house servant, born Somerset:

#### Birmingham Journal 7/2/1863 - Advert

"Oldbury. A Very Desirable Opportunity.

The best situated and accustomed Old-licensed Inn and Wine and Spirit Vaults in the town of Oldbury.

The RED COW INN and Wine and Spirit Vaults, most centrally situated, and near the County and Magisterial Courts, fronting Church Street, and in the most populous thoroughfare, and leading to the Oldbury and Bromford Lane Railway Station.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of, by Private Treaty, the Licenses, Fixtures, Brewing Plant, and Stock, only to be taken to. Immediate possession may be had of that well-situated and accustomed Old-licensed Inn and Wine and Spirit Vaults as above, in consequence of the present Proprietor retiring from business.

The House and Premises consist of a splendidly fitted-up front Spirit Shop, with Orchestra, Tap and Smoke Room, Bar, Parlour, large Club Room, three Bed Rooms, two good Cellars, capital Brewery, Marble and Skittle Alley, large Yard, and other Appurtenances thereto belonging, with a good supply of Water.

The above, to a party of business habits and attention, may soon realise a fortune.

For further particulars and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, Estate Agent, and Hotel Valuer, Wesley Street, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1863 - Advert

"Notice.

The Sale of Furniture, Brewing Plant, &c, at the RED COW INN, Church Street, Oldbury, by Mr. J. S. Parkes, on Wednesday next, will Not Take Place, the same having been sold by Private Contract."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/3/1863 - Advert

“Sale This Day, at 11am.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at the RED COW INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

Unreserved Sale of Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, Public House Fixtures and other Effects.”

*J. R. Ballard* issued tokens from here, bearing Liquor Vaults.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1864

“The annual meeting for the granting and renewal of licenses for the Oldbury and Hales Owen district was held yesterday . . . .

All the applications for renewals of licenses were granted, the following being cautioned in consequence of complaints having been made by the police . . . . *John Ballard*, RED COW INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1864 - Letter

“To the Editor of the Birmingham Daily Post.

Sir, it is made to appear, in your impression of Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, that at the annual meeting for granting and renewing of licenses for Oldbury and Hales Owen districts, the following persons were cautioned, in consequence of complaints having been made by the police. Thomas Welch, BLACK HORSE INN; Benjamin Garner, HARMONIC INN; George Minchin, BELL INN, Rounds Green; also *John Ballard*, RED COW INN, all of Oldbury. Now, in fairness and justice to the police, we wish it to be understood that not in regard to any of the above persons charged was a single complaint made by the police, neither was any intimation given in any way, until actually confronted by the Magistrates themselves, which quite astounded all the accused. The matter of fact is, that the Magistrates had been furnished with a private note by some person, who, knowing the truth was absent, had not the manliness to make the charge in person; excepting in the case of Thomas Welch, who was informed against by a neighbour. Thus the accused were not afforded an opportunity to be legally represented, to have those accusations rebuffed. By inserting the above, you will oblige, your obedient servants.

Thomas Welch, Benjamin Garner, George Minchin, *John Ballard*.  
Oldbury, September 21, 1864.”

*John Rowley Ballard* – see also FRENCH HORN and WHIMSEY.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1865 - Advert

“To Publicans and Others. To be Disposed of, as Bargains, a nearly new Concert Room, 70 by 22 feet, capable of seating about 500 persons. The seats have backs, for holding cups and glasses. It has three Scenes, and drop ditto, with Wings, Stage, and eight Footlights, complete.

Also, a Grand Piano-Forte, 6½ Octaves, and a 10 feet Slate Bottom Bagatelle Board, with Pockets, and an excellent square Stove and Piping.

To be seen at the OLD RED COW INN, Church Street, Oldbury.”

The Era 8/4/1866 - Advert

“Wanted, Lady Serio-Comic Singers and Dancers, for a Liquor Vaults, for present and future Dates. Send lowest terms to Mr. *Barney Gibbons*, Proprietor, RED COW, Oldbury, near Birmingham. Silence a respectful negative. Glad to hear from Professional Friends.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 11/8/1866

“T. Darby of Oldbury will run Hadley of Smethwick or W. Howells of Oldbury 120 yards, if either will give eight yards start, for £10 or £20 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Gibbons*'s, the RED COW, Oldbury.”

The Era 4/8/1867

“RED COW, Oldbury.

Wanted, a Pianiste, to Open at once; also, for present and future dates, Lady Vocalists; Serio-Comic and



Characteristic preferred.

Address, RED COW LIQUOR VAULTS, Oldbury, near Birmingham. *Barney Gibbons*, Proprietor.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/10/1867

“Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, Dudley Port. Monday, October 21.....

At two o'clock Price and Baker of Oldbury showed for their 100 yards race, for £5 a side. Price was attended by Constable, Baker by W. Howell. The quarter of an hour allowed for a start was insufficient, and the pistol was called into requisition, Mr. J. Fisher being deputed as starter. Price got off the best, and before a quarter of the distance had been run had the race safe, and won by two yards easily. Mr. *B. Gibbons*, RED COW, Oldbury, referee.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/10/1867

“Quoiting. J. Ampton of Coseley will pitch Mr. *Gibbons* of the RED COW, Oldbury, and allow him two chinks in a game of 61 up, or he will pitch him level 21 yards, for £5 or £10 a side, at the Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, where Ampton's money is ready.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/9/1868

“Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, near Dudley.

J. Wilson of Birmingham has matched his red and white bitch Polly against Mr. Bull's red and white bitch Orange Girl, at 13¼lb weight, to run 200 yards, for £10, on Monday, Oct 5, between two and four o'clock. Mr. C. Darby, MALT SHOVEL INN, Tat Bank, has £1 a side down. Mr. *Gibbons*, of the RED COW, Oldbury final stakeholder and referee.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/10/1868

“Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, near Dudley. Monday, October 5.....

The first event was a dog race of 200 yards, for £5 a side, between Mr. Bull's bitch Orange Girl (of Oldbury) and Mr. Wilson's red and white bitch Polly (of Birmingham), each at 13¼lb weight. The betting was 12 to 10 on Orange Girl. Polly got the best of the start, kept the lead, and won after a good race by a yard. Mr. *Gibbons* of Oldbury was stakeholder and referee.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/2/1869

“At the Oldbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before Mr. H. Chance and Mr. J. Everitt, a theatrical singer of this place, named Thomas Villiers, was charged with attempting to commit a criminal assault on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, upon the person of Jane Jackson, a Concert Hall singer. Mr. Jackson appeared for complainant, and Mr. Shakespeare for the defence.

It appeared from complainant's statement that during the month of January, she was engaged at the RED COW, Oldbury, as a professional singer, and defendant was at the same time employed in a similar capacity, at the WAGON AND HORSES, which is only a few doors off. She (complainant) was a married woman, and on the night in question was going home about ten o'clock, in company with her little girl, when she met defendant, who asked her where Mr. Jackson was. She told him he was gone to Jarth, and that she did not know him (defendant). He asked her if it would be possible for him to get lodgings at Mrs. Parkes's, where she was then living, and ultimately it was agreed that he should go to the house and see if he could obtain lodgings. They went home together, and shortly after she was compelled to go to the RED COW to fulfil her engagement. Defendant went with her to the WAGON AND HORSES, and asked her to have something to drink, but she refused and left him. Between eleven and twelve the same night defendant met her and accompanied her home, she thinking at the time that he had got lodgings at the house. She lighted a candle, and as she was going to the kitchen door to get some supper he pulled her on his knee. He released her, but as she was turning round he caught her again, and threw her on the floor, where he attempted to effect his purpose. He tore her dress, and badly bruised her arms. She then went to bed, and defendant remained in the kitchen all night. Defendant left the house in the morning, and stayed in town several days, but he had gone when she had the warrant issued for his apprehension. He had only been recently apprehended. Mrs. Parkes and Mr. Parkes were called for complainant.

Mr. Shakespeare, in defence, said complainant was a willing party to the assault, and had only raised the

report to clear herself.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Peacock were called for the defence, and the Bench dismissed the case on the ground of insufficient evidence.”

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 26/3/1870

“Wood’s Bill will give Stevens’s white dog Billy of Walbrook two dead rabbits in the best of 21 courses, or will run Fellow’s Bogey the best of 21 courses, each dog to scale under 30lb, for £10 a side. A match can be made any evening at *B. Gibbon’s*, RED COW INN, Oldbury.”

#### The Era 12/2/1871 - Advert

“RED COW Music Hall, Oldbury, near Birmingham. Proprietor, *Barney Gibbons*.

Wanted, for 20<sup>th</sup> February, and future dates, Sentimental, Serio-Comic, and Characteristic Ladies; also Gentlemen Character Vocalists and Single Nigger Business may write in. Send lowest terms. Three days’ silence a respectful negative.

PS. Ghost Walks punctually at Twelve.”

*B. Gibbons* issued tokens from here, bearing RED COW INN.

#### 1871 Census

60, Church Street

[1] *Benjamin Gibbons* (40), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Hannah Gibbons (40), wife, born Southminster (?);

[3] Priscilla Bate (18), general servant, born Bromsgrove:

#### London Gazette 5/9/1871

“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 *Benjamin Gibbons*, of the RED COW INN, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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. William Shakespeare, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Solicitor, on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1871, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 1871.

Wm. Shakespeare, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Attorney for the said *Benjamin Gibbons*.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/9/1871 - Advert

“In Liquidation. Re *Benjamin Gibbons*, Church Street, Oldbury, Licensed Victualler.

Mr. C. Wootton has been favoured with instructions from the Trustee to Sell by Auction, as above, on Wednesday Next, 20<sup>th</sup> September inst, in the morning, at Eleven o’clock.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, Stock-in-Trade, Liquor Shop Fittings, Household Furniture, and Effects, as described in Catalogues, to be had at the place of sale, or of the Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.”

#### London Gazette 29/9/1871

“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 *Benjamin Gibbons*, of the RED COW INN, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler.

The creditors of the above-named *Benjamin Gibbons* who have not already proved their debts are required, on or before the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1871, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts or claims, to me, the undersigned, George Steward Watson, at the County Court of Oldbury, Worcestershire, the Trustee under the liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1871.  
Geo. S. Watson, Trustee.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1871 - Advert

“Oldbury. To be Let, the RED COW INN, the Best Liquor Vaults in the Town; centrally situated. Possession can be had at once; no Stock, only a few Fixtures to take to.  
Apply to James Gibbons, on the Premises, Church Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1873 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted. Good character indispensable.  
Apply, RED COW Music Hall, Oldbury; or 60, Garbet Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1874

“George Herdman, J. Davis, and Samuel Dingle, miners, of Oldbury, were charged with assaulting *Charles Cracknell*, landlord of the RED COW INN, Church Street, on the 8<sup>th</sup> inst.  
The defendants were disorderly in the public house, and when the landlord remonstrated, they turned upon him, and struck him about the face and body.  
They were each fined 10s.”

AND

Dudley Guardian 29/8/1874

“George Herdman, John Davis, and Samuel Dingle, three miners, were charged with assaulting *Charles Cracknell*, of the RED COW public house, Church Street. The offence, which was committed a fortnight ago, consisted in the three men, after quarrelling over their cups, attacking the landlord of the house in which they were drinking. One of the men, it was proved, kicked the prosecutor in the eye.  
Each of the prisoners was fined 10s and costs.”

Worcester Journal 5/1/1878

“Worcestershire Epiphany Quarter Sessions.....

Jonah Cadman (22), miner, was indicted for stealing a silver watch from the person of *Richard Williams*, at Oldbury, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

Prosecutor is manager of the RED COW LIQUOR VAULTS, Church Street, Oldbury, and the robbery took place at closing time. A number of men were leaving the premises in some confusion, prosecutor being engaged in clearing the place. As prisoner passed him, he felt a tug at his watch chain, and immediately missed his watch. A woman, who was called, saw prisoner take the watch. Prisoner was captured before he got off the premises, and the watch was found upon the floor near where he was taken. He said he was innocent.

He was found guilty, and sentenced to three months' hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/11/1878

“Last night an important meeting of miners took place at the RED COW INN, Oldbury. Mr. William Hughes presided, and several of the miners' delegates of the district were also present.

Mr. Thomas Griffiths, miners' agent, after laying before the meeting the result of the conference with the coalmasters at Dudley on Tuesday last, urged the men, as a means of preventing any reduction in wages or an increase in working hours, to be firmly united. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Barnes, secretary to the local union of miners, set forth that it would be to the advantage of the men to endeavour to obtain the co-operation of the miners of the neighbouring districts in the struggle which might ensue.

Mr. Jones said it would be necessary for them to hold fast to the union. If they stood aloof from the union they would have to bear additional hardships. They were oppressed now; but if they were not united in their opposition to things which were detrimental to their interests they would have to suffer still more oppression. They were working at a low rate now; but it would be still worse for them if they had to work for 2s 6d per day. They should be combined in their determination to resist any further reduction. If they could get the co-operation of the men in the other local districts they would be better able to prevent the masters

bringing forward any reduction. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman said they would work for nothing rather than consent to work an extra hour. (Applause.) A miner then proposed that they should not consent to work longer than eight hours per day. This was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Griffiths said the masters had expressed their opinion that the agents had not brought their proposals before the men, but instead of doing so had given their (the agents') own opinion of the intentions of the masters; but he thought they would be able to prove that such was not the case, and that the matter had been put clearly before them as it had been communicated to them (the agents) by the masters at Dudley. (Hear, hear.)

Adverting to the proposition which the employers had made, and the apprehension as to what the masters intended to do, Mr. Griffiths said it would not pay them to reduce the price of coal, as if they did so they would have to reduce the wages of the men to the extent of 6d per day and the coal to the extent of 2s per ton, according to the Birmingham Agreement, and the latter would certainly not pay them. (Applause.) He believed they would prefer the reduction in wages to the increase in working time? (Loud cried of 'Yes.')

He thought they were also determined to abide by the Birmingham Agreement? (Cries of 'Yes.')

On the establishment of that agreement it was not received favourably by the miners of the district generally, and they were not pleased with him (the speaker) for having consented to it on their behalf; but he thought they were satisfied with it now. (Applause.) The masters wanted to get out of it, but they (the men) must be determined to compel them to comply with its terms. They were glad of the agreement and they respected the gentleman – Mr. Chamberlain, MP, who assisted in making it. (Loud cheers.)

In conclusion, Mr. Griffiths said he thought they would not consent to work an extra hour per day, and if it were pressed it would be nothing less than an everlasting stain upon the characters of the coalmasters of South Staffordshire. (Applause.)

A miner said they had had to fight for the eight hours system, and ought now to keep it; it would be an everlasting shame upon them as miners if they were to accept an increase in the hours of labour.

Mr. Thomas Kimberley thought that if they consented to work the extra hour, which had been proposed, they would soon have to work still longer hours, and would probably also have to suffer a reduction of wages in addition thereto.

The meeting then concluded with a vote of thanks to the delegates for attending."

David M. Sadler issued tokens from here, bearing RED COW VAULTS.

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 1/1/1881 - Advert

"David M. Sadler, Ale and Porter Brewer, Dog Kennel Brewery, Crosswells Road, Langley, Oldbury. Begg respectfully to inform the public that he has now completed his New Brewery, which is situate in the Crosswells Road, Langley. The Premises have been fitted up on the newest design, and with the latest and most improved appliances for the manufacture of the finest qualities of Ale and Porter. No trouble or expense has been spared by the proprietor with the object of producing a really first-class article, which he has every confidence in recommending to the public. D. M. S. hopes to receive a share of the public patronage, and he begs to assure his numerous friends, and the trade generally, that all orders with which he may be favoured will receive prompt attention, and that nothing shall be wanting on his part to give entire satisfaction. PS. The water supplied to the Brewery is of the very best quality. See analysis, which the Proprietor will be pleased to show.

All orders entrusted to the care of Mr. *Richard Williams*, RED COW VAULTS, Church Street, Oldbury, will have prompt attention."

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 5/2/1881

"Thomas Parkes, Rounds Green, was charged with stealing, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, one ale glass, of the value of 3d, the property of *Richard Williams*, of the RED COW INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

The prosecutor proved the offence, but said he did not wish to press the charge as he understood the prisoner suffered from fits.

The Clerk: Fits of stealing are very bad fits. (Laughter.)

The prosecutor then agreed to withdraw the summons, and the prisoner was discharged with a caution."

## 1881 Census

56, Church Street

- [1] *Richard Williams* (42), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Williams (41), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Pamela Williams (19), daughter, barmaid, born Oldbury;
- [4] Sarah Williams (17), daughter, barmaid, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Hannah Williams (15), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] William Williams (14), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [7] Richard Williams (12), son, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [8] George H. Williams (10), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [9] Anne M. Williams (6), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [10] Arthur B. Williams (1), son, born Oldbury:

*George Bill* = George Bell

*George Bill* took orders for David M. Sadler's Dog Kennel Brewery beers.

## [Birmingham Daily Post 27/11/1884 - Advert](#)

"RED COW VAULTS, Church Street, Oldbury.

To Let, these well-situated Vaults, in centre of Oldbury; entirely free.

For particulars, apply, *Alfred Farr*, 13, Princess Road, Bristol Road."

## [Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1885 - Advert](#)

"Worcestershire. Important Sale of Freehold Spirit Vaults and Building Land, Oldbury, near Birmingham. To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hawkins and Son, on Tuesday Next, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at 6 o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.....

Lot 3. All that centrally-situated Spirit Vaults and Dwelling House, known as the RED COW VAULTS, situate in Church Street, Oldbury aforesaid, comprising large Spirit Vaults, Smoke Room, Bar Parlour, Kitchen, Club Room, Chambers, Cellars, and Appurtenances thereto belonging.

The Purchaser of this lot will be requested to take to the Fixtures and Trade Utensils, an inventory of which will be produced at the time of Sale....."

## [Walsall Observer 9/10/1886](#)

"On Monday night a meeting of miners and ironworkers was held at the RED COW INN, Church Street, Oldbury; Mr. S. Pigot presiding.

The Chairman remarked that he was pleased to see the efforts which were being put forth to amalgamate ironworkers and miners, so as they might support each other.

Mr. H. Rust pointed out that they were not aiming at the organisation of operatives in the various trades for the purpose of bringing about strikes, but in order that more reasonable methods of protecting their interests might be devised. He referred at length to the advantages which had been conferred upon working men generally as the result of the action taken by the various trades unions in the country, and mentioned the several useful Acts of Parliament had been passed. He understood that a conference would be called shortly to consider the question of federating the miners of the Forest of Dean, Warwickshire, and the Midland Counties, and he hoped that the time would soon come when the ironworkers and miners would be thoroughly united. Mr. Baldwin (secretary to the Millmen's Association) said he thought the sooner the ironworkers and miners of the district felt that their interests were identical the better would it be for both. He considered it was a reflection upon Englishmen that America should have to send apostles to this country to teach them the principles of unionism.

Mr. S. H. Whitehouse regretted to say there had been antagonism between the two staple industries in the country, but he was of opinion that the men engaged in both trades would find that their interests would be protected best if they were combined.

On the proposition of an ironworker, seconded by a miner, a resolution was passed in favour of organisation as the best means of elevating the working classes in the social scale.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/10/1887 - Advert

“RED COW VAULTS, Church Street, Oldbury; central, free, and full-licensed; to Let, on easy terms. Apply, *Alfred Farr*, 151, Conybere Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1888 - Advert

“By Roderick & Son. To be Sold by Auction, at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, on Tuesday, October 2, 1888, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced..... Lot 15. Oldbury. To Brewers.

A Valuable Freehold Full-licensed Free Public House, known as the RED COW INN, in Church Street, one of the most central and best business thoroughfares of the town of Oldbury, with handsome modern Liquor Shop and all necessary accommodation, and with large Yard, all now let at a rent of £60, to Mrs. *Ellen Cartwright*, whose tenancy will expire on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October next, when the Purchaser will be entitled to absolute possession.

The Trade Fixtures and Public House Furniture will have to be taken at valuation, which will probably not exceed £150.

This is well worth the attention of Brewers.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/4/1889

“Last night a meeting of miners was held at the RED COW INN, Church Street, Oldbury, for the purpose of discussing the wages question, and what action should be taken with reference to the Wages Board.

A Miner (who presided) said the men considered that the basis was too high, and that if they could restrict the employment to four days per week, and eight hours per day, it would be a good thing for the trade.

Mr. H. Rust, referring to the Wages Board, said it had made fair progress during the time it had been in existence; but they were not satisfied with the basis, which is now fixed at 5s. The representatives of the men had done their best to lower the basis, and their suggestion to the employers was that the basis should be 4s 7½d, but after a great deal of discussion they advanced a little higher. The employers said they thought 5s or 5s 2d would be a fair basis to regulate miners' wages, and they could not under any circumstances reduce it below 5s. (A Voice: ‘Then away with the Wages Board.’)

It was thought that it would be wise to try the basis of 5s, and see whether it would give the men an advance or not. But the average of the accountants did not give the men an increase upon the present rate of wages. The adjourned meeting would be held next Tuesday at Dudley, and the adjournment took place in order that the whole question might be laid before the men. He should be very sorry if the Wages Board should be abolished, thus placing the men in the awkward position they had occupied for so many years. After the protracted strike the leaders of the miners in the district had experienced the greatest difficulty in obtaining interviews with the masters with regard to the wages question or any other matters. The masters consented to the establishment of the Board after great consideration, and now they showed the representatives of the men the greatest possible respect, and if the question of the basis could be settled he believed the miners would not regret the formation of the board for the regulation of wages.

Mr. H. Barnes also addressed the meeting, speaking in favour of the union.

A resolution was proposed, declaring that 5s as a basis was too high, and urging the representatives of the men to do all in their power to bring it down to 4s 9d per ton. The resolution expressed approval of the Wages Board, and pledged those present to support it.

A Workman moved an amendment that the basis be 4s 9d per ton or nothing, and that the operatives' section should ask for an advance of 10 per cent, and inform the employers that they meant to have it. He said the masters could do what they liked with the basis.

Mr. Rust pointed out that if the amendment was carried it would have the effect of breaking the board up. Ultimately the resolution was carried, and it was also decided to request that the accountants should examine the books again at the end of April, whether the basis was altered or not.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/7/1889

“Last night a meeting of miners was held at the RED COW INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

Mr. H. Rust spoke of the benefit to be derived from the Wages Board. The Board governed the wages of 12,000 men who had received the advance of 5 per cent five weeks before any other miners in the United Kingdom. He was sorry that the Old Hill miners held aloof from the Board, and hoped they would soon see their way clear to rejoin the Board and assist them in securing their rights. He gave an account of the business done at the Manchester Conference, and said they believed that the best means of restricting the output was by every county drawing eight hours only per day, and if this was adopted throughout the country the restriction of the output would be very considerable.

Mr. H. Barnes also spoke, and resolutions were passed in favour of the Wages Board and of the men's union.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1889

“Last night a meeting of miners was held at the RED COW INN, Church Street, Oldbury, for the purpose of considering the wages, hours, and other questions.

Mr. H. Rust said that since the formation of the Wages Board a national movement had been brought before the mining population. Some of the men were inclined to break the Board up and go in with the national movement. He had not got a word to say against a national movement, which was a very good thing; but there were certain matters connected with that district which a national movement would not deal with. It would not deal with the percentage of the thin-coal men, which had been secured by the Board since its formation. He hoped they would carefully consider the matter, and remember that the minimum rate of wages under the Board was 3s 4d, which was perfectly safe. When the employers' books were again audited he was of opinion that they would be entitled to a substantial advance in wages. He urged the men to continue to support the Board.

Resolutions were passed in favour of the Wages Board, and disapproving of notice being given to terminate contracts in December; also in favour of organisation.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1889

“The annual meeting of the Licensed Victuallers' Association was held last night at the RED COW INN, Church Street, Oldbury. Mr. H. Hinchley presided, and Mr. J. Parkes occupied the vice-chair.

The Secretary (Mr. J. G. Dexter) presented the annual report, which showed that there were in the association at the close of the year under review thirty-six members, the total income derived from members' subscriptions being £21 17s. The financial statement showed that after meeting the expenditure during the year there was a balance of £36 8s 8d in hand.....”

#### Smethwick Telephone 17/1/1891

“During the prevailing distress at Oldbury, a soup kitchen was opened at the RED COW INN, Church Street. The landlord (Mr. *Hammond*), Mr. Jerrams and other gentlemen evinced great interest in the relief of the poor folk, and three days during the past week many hundreds of starving poor received a good bowl of first-class soup, together with bread. The eagerness with which the recipients partook of the food, and the thankful looks was in itself a sufficient reward to those who had contributed to the funds. The balance sheet appears in our advertising columns.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 27/3/1891

“Last night the annual meeting of miners in the Oldbury district was held last night at the RED COW INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

Mr. S. Hartill, of Dudley, delivered an address, dealing with the work of the Wages Board and the eight hours proposal.

Mr. H. Rust was unanimously re-elected as the representative for Oldbury on the Board.

Mr. Rust thanked the meeting for re-electing him, and proceeded to refer to the eight-hours movement amongst miners. He remarked that as conciliation had failed they were now endeavouring to secure an eight-hours working day from bank to bank by an Act of Parliament. It was gratifying to find that several of the local members of Parliament had promised to support the measure. He was pleased to see that efforts were being made to induce the Government to appoint a special day for consideration of the Eight Hours

Bill. He pointed out that the West Bromwich district intended to send a representative to the international conference to be held in Paris next week; but, speaking of the proposal to declare an international strike, he strongly recommended that before they took such a step the matter should be well considered, and he advised the men generally to exercise patience in advocating their claim to an eight-hours day. If Parliament rejected the bill when it was presented to them a month hence he would rather wait for a time and continue the agitation than embark on a gigantic strike. If they persevered in the movement he believed they would ultimately succeed, and with that prospect in view they could afford to wait patiently. (Hear, hear.) Resolutions were passed in favour of continuing the agitation for an eight-hours working day from bank to bank, and expressing confidence in Mr. Rust as the local representative.”

#### 1891 Census

5, Church Street – RED COW

- [1] *Richard Hammond* (40), licensed victualler, born Great Bridge;
- [2] *Annie Hammond* (40), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Emily Hammond* (19), daughter, barmaid, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Annie Hammond* (25), sister, domestic servant, born Great Bridge:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/12/1894

“A meeting of the Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held yesterday, at the RED COW INN, Church Street, Oldbury . . . . It was resolved that in all future prosecutions each member should be allowed £2 2s to pay the solicitor’s fee. The Chairman referred to the district council elections, and urged the members to do all in their power to protect the interests of the trade.”

#### Sporting Life 28/12/1894

“Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury.

At these old-established grounds on Boxing Day from an early hour sports of all kinds were in full swing. The programme, which comprised no less than eight events, consisting of dog racing, pedestrianism, rabbit coursing, &c, was long enough to satisfy the greatest glutton. . . .

Rabbit coursing . . . . Mr. *R. Hammond*’s Clarence, of Oldbury, and Mr. C. Withers’s Peter, of Causeway Green, whose owners had articed their dogs to course the best of twenty-one courses, the rabbits receiving forty yards law, five minutes elapsing between each course, for £10 a side. . . .

This match created considerable excitement, and although the well-known Oldbury sport, Mr. *R. Hammond*, of the RED COW VAULTS (the owner of Clarence), was suffering from the gout, so confident was he of his dog’s ability of winning that he witnessed the coursing from a four-wheeler, and, to make matters pleasant, he saw his dog win. . . .”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/12/1895 - Advert

“Hurdles (iron) and Timber for Sale.

Apply, *Hammond*, RED COW, Oldbury.”

#### 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. . . .

*R. Hammond*, RED COW, Oldbury, 130.”

#### 1901 Census

5, Church Street

- [1] *Abbie Richard Hammond* (50), publican, born Bilston;
- [2] *Annie Hammond* (50), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *William Peters* (33), son-in-law, currier, born Bristol;
- [4] *Emily Peters* (28), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Abbie Richard Peters* (3), grand-son, born Oldbury:



*Abel Richard Hammond* died in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1904.

*Annie Hammond* married *Frederick Wastall* on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1907.

*Frederick Wastall* was fined 10s and £2 11s 6d costs, on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1908, for permitting drunkenness.

*Frederick Wastall* died in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1910.

#### 1911 Census

5, Church Street – RED COW INN

- [1] *Annie Wastall* (60), widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Beatrice May Idoine* (19), niece, barmaid, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Abel Richard Peters* (13), grand-son, school, born Oldbury:

#### Sports Argus 7/10/1916

“Oldbury Excelsior require home and away matches with respectable clubs. Teams average 15-16 should communicate with their new secretary, *A. H. Smith*, RED COW, Church Street, Oldbury.”

[Football.]

*Arthur Charles Darby* was married to Sarah.

He died in September 1934.

See also CROSS ANCHORS.

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Central Darts League. [1939]

#### 1939 Register

5, Church Street

- [1] *Charles Merrick*, date of birth 13/11/1900, public house manager, married;
  - [2] *Gertrude (Merrick) Poulton*, dob 13/12/1901, public house manageress, married;
  - [4] *Amy G. (Allen) Calcutt*, dob 12/3/1917, bar general, single:
- [Gertrude married Poulton in 1943; Amy married Calcutt in 1945.]

#### Birmingham Mail 27/7/1940 - Personal Column

“The Wife and Daughter of the late *Charles Merrick* wishes to Thank relatives and friends, customers of the RED COW, Mitchells and Butlers, also Wilmott Breedons for their floral tributes in their sad and sudden loss.”

*Alfred Houghton* was known as “Aspidistra” by the local youths, because he was always in the window.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/10/1957

“A man said to be serving three months’ imprisonment for theft and obtaining money by false pretences, appeared before Oldbury magistrates yesterday to answer two further charges of false pretences. He was *James Hayward* (aged 29), of 93, Sydenham Road, Smethwick, who was said to have obtained money from a friend, *Phillip Wolfe*, licensee of the RED COW TAVERN, Church Street, Oldbury, on July 2 and July 4.

*Wolfe*, it was stated, gave him £5 on July 2 towards a ‘deal’ whereby *Hayward* said he could get some metal from Nottingham for £10 which they could sell for twice that amount. On July 4 *Hayward* said he had the metal but the clutch of his lorry, which was at Nottingham, had broken. Mr. *Wolfe* gave him a further £2. *Hayward* told the court, ‘In the last few weeks I have had a sharp lesson. I have been a stupid fool and because of this have lost my wife and home.’

He said he sold a suit and a watch and posted the money to Mr. *Wolfe*, who stated he had not received it. *Hayward* added that he obtained the money to make a home so that he could win back his wife.

He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, to commence on the expiration of his present sentence."

Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1959

"A lorry and trailer carrying a 52ft-long load – a boiler – blocked the main Oldbury to West Bromwich road for two hours yesterday and caused traffic chaos in Oldbury town centre. Part of the lorry, turning into Church Street, mounted the pavement and sank through the wooden trap doors over a public house cellar entrance.

The boiler, weighing 20 tons, was on its way from the Oldbury firm of Edwin Danks & Co. Ltd. to Nottingham.

While police diverted traffic, which converges on the town centre from four directions, a crane lifted the lorry trailer and load back on to the road, a steel sheet being slid under the wheels.

Mr. *Philip Wolfe*, licensee of the RED COW INN, Church Street, said, ' I shall have to send for the carpenter again to make another trap door for the cellar – the third in six weeks.'

The lorry was being driven by Mr. R. Bondfield, of Pontnuwyd, Newport, Montgomery, who said, 'I hit the kerb and slid into the cellar.'"

It was the headquarters of the Oldbury and District Domino League in the 1960s.

*Brian George Shirt* was married to Vera.

It closed in the 1970s.

**RED LION**

56, (92), Tipton Road, (New Road), (Sedgley Road), TIVIDALE

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Elizabeth Brown [1834]

Joseph Whitehouse [ ]

Horcroft [1855]

George Newton [1857]

Thomas Holcroft [1860] – [1861]

James Stevens [1861] – [1882]

Rubicella Stevens [1884]

Thomas Whale [1891] – **1921**);

Henry Whitehouse (**1921 – 1922**);

Harry Botfield (**1922 – 1938**);

William Hadley (**1938 – [1963]**)

NOTES

Sedgley Road [1864], [1882]

New Road [1866], [1872], [1884]

Tipton Road [1896], [1895], [1901]

92, Tipton Road [1881], [1891], [1900], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932]

56, Tipton Road [1940]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/7/1851 - Advert

“A Capital Road-Side Freehold Public House, the RED LION INN, Tividale, in the parish of Tipton, and county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Richard Clarke (by order of the Mortgagees) on Monday next, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, at the house of Mr. Stephen Timmings, the BOAT INN, Tividale aforesaid, at six o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that excellent, new and commodious Retail Public House and Premises, known by the name of the RED LION INN, lately in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Whitehouse*, deceased, eligibly situated on the Birmingham road, close to the Old Brewery Turnpike Gate, and within one mile of the town of Dudley. It is substantially erected, fitted up with every convenience, well situated in a business neighbourhood, and likely to command a good trade.

For further particulars apply to Thomas Smith James, Esq, Solicitor, 21, Waterloo Street; or to the Auctioneer, 74, Newhall Street, Birmingham, and Victoria Cottage, Smethwick.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/2/1855

“The Veteran John Rhodes of Oldbury and W. Hill (The Nailer) of the Lye Waste.

The six mile match between these well-known men, for £10 a side and the gate money, is going on. The match is to come off at Aston Cross Grounds on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March. A further deposit must be made on Monday at *Horcroft's*, RED LION, Tividale, and the final one at the stakeholder's, J. Matthew's, Bell Inn, Dale End, Birmingham, on March 12.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 11/6/1856

“An inquest was held on Saturday last, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the RED LION, Tividale, on the body of William Nicholls, aged 33. Deceased was employed at Tividale, and on the previous day he was being drawn up a well, when he fell out of the bucket. It is supposed that when being drawn up he was so overcome with foul air as to become insensible and fall to the bottom of the well. By this fall he dislocated a shoulder, fractured several ribs, and sustained a severe wound on the head. The injuries were such that he died in an hour and half. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 14/11/1857

“*George Newton*, licensed victualler, of the RED LION INN, Tividale, was indicted for allowing his house to be open at half past eleven on Sunday forenoon, the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. The policeman who brought the case stated that on the forenoon in question he went into defendant's house, and saw him in the bar drawing a pint of ale, which he afterwards took towards one of the rooms in the house. He had also some money in his hand at the time, which appeared to be the sum he had received for the ale. The constable looked round the house, but he could not, however, discover any person within. Another police officer corroborated this statement. In reply to the charge, defendant stated that it was correct that he had a pint of ale in his hand at the time; but it was for himself. He had no money in his hands, as mentioned; neither was there anyone in the house drinking or going to drink.

The Bench thought that, though it was not directly proved that he was guilty of the offence, there appeared to be something suspicious about the matter and, on that account, he must pay the costs.”

*Thomas Holcroft* = Thomas Hockcroft

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/1/1861

“On Tuesday an inquest was held at the RED LION INN, Tividale, on the body of Mary Timmins, a girl eleven years of age, the daughter of James Timmins, a labourer. It appeared that the death of deceased was caused by burning. On Saturday evening she was in her father's house upstairs, and, whilst taking a roasted potato from the fire, her dress was caught by the flames. She screamed out as soon as she noticed that she was on fire, and her father rushed up and speedily extinguished the flames. She was, however, so severely burnt that she expired at ten o'clock on Sunday morning. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

## 1861 Census

Tividale – RED LION INN

[1] *James Stevens* (41), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Eliza Stevens* (41), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Sophia Davis* (18), domestic servant, born Rowley:

## Birmingham Daily Post 31/1/1862 - Advert

“By Aintree and Son, to be Sold, that well-frequented Public House, the RED LION, Tividale, near Dudley. Doing a good in and out-door business. Have not brewed less than 10 bushels of malt per week in for last 18 months. Spirits, &c, in proportion.

Apply, 159, Horsley Field, Wolverhampton.”

## Birmingham Journal 10/5/1862 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, situate in Cleton Street, Groveland, Tipton.

Messrs. Hipkins and Thomas are instructed to Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, at the house of Mr. *James Stevens*, the RED LION INN, Sedgley New Road, Tividale, at Six o'clock in the evening.....”

## Birmingham Daily Post 12/6/1862

“An inquest was held at *James Stevens's*, the RED LION INN, by Edwin Hooper, Esq, on the body of James Pritchard, age forty-five, a waggoner in the employ of Mr. Gilbert, Tividale. The first witness deposed that about half-past four in the afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst, he was coming along the side of the canal when he saw something floating on the water, and with assistance he got it out, when it proved to be the body of the deceased, who was last seen alive on the night previous at the BURNT TREE INN, Tipton, about eleven o'clock, where he called for some ale, the landlord refusing to serve him, as he was intoxicated. The deceased then turned down by the canal side as his nearest way home, and there being a bend in the canal he must have walked in. The body was searched by the police, who found a tobacco box and 3d in coppers upon him. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.”

## Birmingham Daily Post 3/11/1863 - Advert

“Freehold Property.

By Mr. S. Powell, Tomorrow (Wednesday), at the house of *James Stevens*, RED LION INN, Tividale, at Six o'clock – Freehold Houses, at Tividale, in the parish of Rowley Regis.”

## Stourbridge Observer 11/2/1865

“On Monday Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Tividale, on the body of a youth, of seventeen years of age, named James Forster, a horse driver at the Hall Bridge Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Haines and Jackson. Mr. J. P. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, was also present. Henry Franks, a loader at the above colliery, said that deceased had been in the proprietors' employment since Friday week, and on Friday morning last, at half past seven o'clock, he was assisting witness to load a skip in the gate-road, and while doing so a large quantity of rock fell on deceased from above and buried him, and the same rock knocked off witness's cap. There were four 'trees' distant from each other about five yards. There was no doggy, and the butties, Joseph Bailey and Joseph Wilkinson, went down with the first band, and did not see anyone examine the pit. Knew nothing about the rules; could not read them; and did not know there was any penalty attached to the infringement of the rules.

The coroner recommended the witness to apply for information on the subject.

Joseph Bailey, one of the butties, admitted in reply to the coroner that he was not particularly acquainted with the rules only so far as they related to his own duties, as he could not read. Always examined those portions of the pit, which he thought dangerous. Did not think the spot where the accident occurred was dangerous, as the rock was solid to the pike. Thought the spot was sufficiently timbered.

Mr. Baker said it was desirable that works should be timbered, even where they were apparently, sound, and until this was done accidents would constantly occur.

The body was identified by Daniel Street, father-in-law of the deceased. The latter was badly injured about the face and neck, and was brought home dead on the morning of the accident.

Jacob Smith said he and another collier were working at the place indicated. First went to work there on Tuesday last. The rules were not read over or explained to him when he was engaged, and he could not read himself.

The coroner, in summing up, said that the desire of the proprietors was to ensure the safety of the men as much as possible, and from the evidence of one of the butties it appeared that the pit had not been examined with that amount of care which was necessary. He had no doubt that his remarks would be conveyed to Messrs. Haines and Jackson by the person who represented the firm (Mr. Thomas Batshuts), and that it would be seen to in future.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### County Advertiser 25/2/1865

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, Benjamin Hill, puddler, was charged with assaulting *James Stevens*, landlord of the RED LION, Tividale, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. The defendant went into complainant’s house, and without provocation assaulted him. The defendant pleaded guilty. Within the last few years the defendant has been five times convicted of assaults, and on the last occasion he was fined £20 for an assault on the police. He was fined 5s and costs; in default, twenty-one days.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/7/1866

“An inquest was held yesterday by Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, at the RED LION INN, Tividale, touching the death of David Thomas Sheldon, aged five, who was found drowned on Friday in the marl pool at Messrs. Gilberts’ works. The deceased was missed on Friday night, and was found by a man named Alfred Harris on Saturday last.

A verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/11/1866

“On Saturday afternoon last, Mr. Edwin Hooper (Coroner) held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Tividale, Rowley Regis, to inquire into the circumstances connected with the deaths of Jemima Boylin, aged 23, and Henry Boylin, aged two years and six months, her child, who had resided at Hill Top, West Bromwich, and who were found drowned in a canal in the neighbourhood of Tividale, under the following circumstances. Jon Pearson, miner, residing in Union Street, Tipton, said on Friday morning last he was walking along the canal in company with his brother and two other men, near the ‘Old Smokey’ pit, and as two boats passed each other in the canal, he saw a child’s head rise above the surface of the water. He then drew a boatman’s attention to it, and he got the child (which proved to be the deceased Henry Boylin) out of the water, and placed it upon the bank. A policeman was then sent for, and one came and took possession of it. As the policeman was about to take it to Dudley Port Police Station a cry was raised that its mother had been found in the canal about a quarter of a mile further up. When the deceased Henry Boylin was taken out of the water he was covered with mud, and appeared to witness as if he had been in the canal about nine days. Witness did not notice any marks of violence upon the body.

Samuel Taylor was examined, and proved getting the body of the deceased Jemima Boylin out of the canal. It had no bonnet or shawl on, and the flesh was very black. The only thing about the deceased that attracted witness’s attention was that the eyes were swollen.

John Boylin, the husband of deceased Jemima Boylin, said he was a puddler, and resided at Hill Top, West Bromwich. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October last, in consequence of his having no work to do, he asked his wife to take the child and go into the Union, and she did so. Witness then went down to the Potteries to seek employment, and after remaining there a fortnight returned. He then sent to the West Bromwich Union for his wife, and heard that she had left. He was not aware where she had been since.

The Coroner: Had you no suspicion that she had been living with another man? – Witness: No, sir, I had not.

The Coroner: Were you and your wife living on good terms at the time you parted? – Witness: Yes, sir, we were.

By a juror: Witness had never seen his wife take any drink.

The Coroner (to witness): How do you suppose she got into the water? – Witness: I cannot tell.

The Coroner: Do you think she has destroyed herself? – Witness: I think so myself.

Richard Boylin, miner, residing at Horsley Heath, Tipton, said he knew the deceased Jemima Boylin. He last saw her alive last Monday week. She came to his house and asked him for her husband. Witness said he was not there, and she went away. A short time afterwards she returned and said he (witness) knew where her husband was. On his saying he did not the deceased went away, and witness saw nothing more of her. By the Coroner: Witness knew that the husband of the deceased Jemima Boylin had gone to the Potteries. When she was at his house she had a little child with her. He knew she had two children, but did not ask where the other one was.

The Coroner: Did you, being the uncle of the children, not make some inquiry? – Witness: No, sir; I did not aske her any question at all.

The Coroner: I think it very strange you did not. Did she not say something more; did she not say where she was going? – Witness: No, sir.

The Coroner: Was she not excited when you told her you did not know where her husband was? – Witness: No. sir.

The Coroner: Did not some words pass between you? – Witness: No, sir.

The Coroner: You allowed her to go, and did not know where she was going? – Witness: I did not know where she was going.

By a juror: Witness did not know anything about the trouble of the deceased. He and she were not good friends, because when her husband was destitute she came to his house ‘fresh,’ and broke all the things. He then told her that she must not come there again.

By the Coroner: When the deceased, Jemima Boylin, asked him to let her in his house he replied, ‘No, you must go and get lodgings.’ He had no words with her.

The Coroner: You swear that? – Witness: Yes.

Police-constable J. Taylor said he received information that a woman and child had been taken out of the canal, and he then went and examined the bodies. There were some bruises on the face and head of the woman, and on the same parts of the child. Witness did not find anything in the woman’s pockets. He thought the deceased had been in the water nine or ten days from their appearance. He had made every inquiry, and as far as he had been able to ascertain there was no suspicion connected with the case.

This being the whole of the evidence, the Coroner proceeded to sum up. After stating that he considered Richard Boylin a very unwilling witness, he said the matter was for the consideration of the jury. If they liked to have the bodies examined by a surgeon he would adjourn the inquest for that purpose. The matter was entirely for their consideration. There was not the slightest evidence to show how the deceased got into the water, and the only verdict they could return was an open one; but if they thought there was any suspicion the inquiry must be adjourned.

A juror: I think the poor woman was destitute, and did not know what to do with herself.

The jury then consulted together, and returned a verdict that the deceased were Found Drowned in the canal, but how they got into the water there was no evidence to show.”

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/12/1866

“An inquest was held on Monday, at the RED LION INN, Tividale, by Mr. Harper, on the body of Richard Humphries, aged fifty-eight, miner, who was injured by a fall of coal in a pit belonging to Mr. S. Bradley, on the 12<sup>th</sup> ult, and died on Thursday last. He was attended by Dr. Horton, of Dudley, during his illness, but succumbed to the injuries he had received. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned . . . . Mr. Baker, Inspector of Mines, was present at each inquest.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/5/1870

“On Saturday morning, two boys named Arthur and Dan Street, were engaged in gathering gleeds from the embankment of a marl hole connected with Gilbert’s Brick Manufactory, at Tividale, when the younger one Dan (10), fell into the water, which is upwards of 20 feet deep. He screamed for help, and Arthur (13) made an attempt to rescue him. The effort proved fatal to the elder brother, who was pulled into the water, and both were drowned. An alarm was raised, drags were obtained, and the bodies were drawn out as speedily as possible, but life was extinct. On the evening of the same day an inquest was held at the RED LION

INN, Tividale, before Mr. Hooper, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Advertiser 20/5/1871

“Aaron Maydew, Tividale, was charged with using threatening language towards Sarah Woodhall. On the 5<sup>th</sup> inst complainant was coming out of the RED LION public house, Tividale, where she had been to fetch some beer for her husband’s supper, when the defendant went to her and made use of most disgusting language, and threatened to thrash her. Mr. Hingley told the defendant if he would pay the costs they would let him off. He, however, not being able to do so, was fined 1s and costs, with the alternative of fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/9/1872

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper resumed an inquest, at the RED LION INN, New Road, Tividale, on the bodies of Joseph Durant, aged twenty-eight, and Joseph Troman, aged fifteen years. In reply to the Coroner, Mr. Bradley, in whose pit the deaths occurred, said the third man who had been killed by the gunpowder explosion had been buried, and that the Dudley Coroner had left the investigation in the hands of Mr. Hooper.

Most of the particulars of the occurrence have appeared.

John Trotman, a pikeman, said he was in the air-head on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August last, about twenty yards from the deceased. Heard an explosion of gunpowder, and ran to the spot. Met the boy Troman, who was crying bitterly, and saying that Durant had fired the powder after punching a hole for a ‘shot.’ The powder had fallen out of the ‘tot’ upon the candle.

Mr. Baker advised that the men should be supplied with powder in vessels which would not expose a large surface. Cartridges would be better. Mr. Bradley said he perfectly agreed.

Mr. Evans, the manager, said he was called to the bottom, and the boy Troman made a statement to him. Durant also made a statement, saying that he was throwing some powder in the hole, and the first lot he threw fired, but he could not tell how. He had a naked candle directly under the hole he was filling.

By Mr. Baker: Had since recommended the use of cartridges.

Mr. Baker: Nothing but carelessness could have brought about such an accident, but the law did not compel miners to use cartridges, and so the deaths were attributable to throwing gunpowder about whilst a naked candle was in use.

The Coroner asked the manager whether he was making arrangements to act on the new law which comes into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January next. The manager said he was.

The Coroner was glad to hear this, because so far as he was concerned, he should put the law into full force. The Jury then returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/3/1873 - Died

“On the 13<sup>th</sup> inst, aged 57 years, Eliza, the dearly beloved wife of *James Stevens*, of the RED LION INN, Tividale, near Tipton; highly respected by all who knew her.”

*James Stevens* married *Rubicella Yates* on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1873.

County Express 6/4/1878

“Samuel Dudley, ironworker, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the RED LION INN, Tividale, and further with profanely cursing and swearing.

Mr. Hayes prosecuted.

The police allowed the withdrawal of the summons on payment of costs.”

1881 Census

92, Tipton Road – RED LION

[1] *James Stevens* (61), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Rubecella Stevens* (28), wife, born Tipton;

[3] Mary A. Stevens (6), daughter, born Tipton;

[4] James Stevens (4), son, born Tipton;

[5] Ernest Stevens (2), son, born Tipton;

[6] Mary A. Wright (12), domestic servant, born Dudley:

West Bromwich Weekly News 17/12/1881

“Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest on Tuesday at the RED LION INN, Tividale, upon the body of Edward Nunnerley (31), boatman, formerly residing at Broad Lane, Bilston, who was found in the canal near the Tividale Tunnel on Saturday morning last. It appears deceased left Bilston on Friday morning for the purpose of going to Tividale for a boatload of coal for Messrs. Hickman, his employers. When he came out of the tunnel he found it impossible to proceed owing to the fog. He tied the boat to the side of the canal, and leaving a boy in charge of it went to stable the horse. He was last seen alive about eleven o’clock on Friday night, when he left the BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Tividale. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Express 7/1/1882

“*James Stevens*, RED LION INN, Tividale, was charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises. On the 28<sup>th</sup> inst [sic] Police-constable Winfield found the defendant in his own house so drunk that he could neither stand nor speak, and had to be assisted to bed by three persons. Defendant admitted that he was drunk, and the Bench fined hm 10s and costs.”

Dudley and District News 2/9/1882

“Old Hill annual Brewster Sessions were held at the Police Court on Wednesday.....

The following is the black list, and in each of the cases the licenses were suspended till the adjourned licensing meeting.....

*James Steven*, RED LION INN, Sedgley Road, Tividale, drunk on his own licensed premises, fined 10s and costs.”

Dudley and District News 30/9/1882

“This being the Old Hill adjourned licensing sessions the Bench granted a renewal of the licenses which were suspended at the last annual general sessions. The Chairman stated that the magistrates had very carefully considered each case, and they had decided to renew the licenses on the understanding that some assurance was given on the part of each defaulter, that their respective houses should be better conducted in the future. The Bench were determined that the law should be enforced, and if the defendants were guilty of any further offence against the Licensing Laws they would be severely punished and their licenses forfeited. The Chairman added that Henry Heath, who was convicted for selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, was now taking out a six days’ license instead of a seven days’, and his license was renewed on that condition; and if any of the others wished to have six days’ licenses the Bench would be pleased to grant them.”

*James Stevens* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1883.

Dudley and District News 19/4/1884

“*Lucilla [sic] Stevens*, of the RED LION, New Road, Tividale, was charged with not making a true entry in her brewing book on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. Mr. T. J. Squires appeared for the Inland Revenue, and the defendant was undefended.

Mr. Squire, in opening the case, said the defendant was liable to a fine of £100 under the Act of Parliament 43 and 44 Vic, chapter 20. The defendant had had supplied to her a brewing book as prescribed in that Act, into which she was bound to make entries as to the quantity of wort she was going to brew, and the time and day she was going to brew it. She made an entry in the brewing book that she was going to brew seven bushels of malt on the 9<sup>th</sup> January at six o’clock in the morning, but she made no entry that she was going to make use of any sugar in the brewing. It was analysed and it was found that 9lbs of sugar had been used, but there was no entry made in the book to that effect, and under these circumstances the defendant had thrown herself liable to a fine of £100. He then showed how the Inland Revenue was cheated from materials not being correctly entered in the book. Each bushel was laid down to produce 36 gallons of ale, but if the



brewer did not get the 36 gallons out of a bushel of malt, then the excise officer had to go by the materials, but by skilled management the brewer was able to get more than the 36 gallons, then the officer had to charge according to the quantity produced.

Arthur Aston, Inland Revenue officer for the Dudley district, said he knew the defendant, and visited her premises on the 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. He found that an entry was made in her brewing book, which was to the effect that she would brew at six o'clock on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> of January. There was the quantity of malt entered in the book, but there was no entry made as to the quantity of sugar. He visited the defendant's brewery on the 9<sup>th</sup> between four and five in the afternoon. He examined the brewing book, but there was no entry made for the use of any sugar. He then went into the brewhouse, and while there smelt sugar. Mrs. *Stevens* came into the brewhouse, and he told her that he smelt sugar, and asked her if she was using it, and she said she was not. He then left, but again visited the defendant's premises the next morning between ten and eleven, and the wort had not been collected then. He waited until it had been collected. Mrs. *Stevens* then gauged the wort, and so did he. There were 66 gallons in one vessel, 29 in another, and 30 in another. Witness's gauging corresponded with the defendant's. He told her he intended to have it analysed, and he then took samples from the vessels, and asked the defendant to supply him with bottles, which she did, and after they had been washed with hot water, and pronounced clean by the defendant, he put the samples into the bottles, and in her presence corked, sealed, and labelled the bottles. When he told defendant that he was going to have it analysed, she said she did not fear.

George Stokes said he was analyst at Somerset House, London. He received the bottles (produced) on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January. He proceeded to examine and analyse the contents. Malt alone could not produce what was contained in those bottles.

This was the case for the prosecution.

The defendant denied the charge, and said that there was no sugar used in the brewing of the ale, and called Elizabeth Reed, who said she was servant to the defendant. She assisted the defendant, on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> of January, to brew. She was in the brewhouse from six in the morning until four in the afternoon, and to the best of her knowledge there was no sugar used. The defendant always used the crushed malt.

There were 132 gallons produced from seven bushels of malt.

The Bench said the case was clearly proved, and fined the defendant £10 and costs."

#### Dudley and District News 6/12/1884

"At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday morning, Samuel Preece and Joseph Reed, of Tividale, were charged with violently assaulting Joseph Thompson and Edward Wills, of the same place.

On the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November the prisoners were drinking at the RED LION INN, Tividale, and left the house shortly before eleven o'clock. As they proceeded along the road they met the prosecutors, whom they commenced to hustle. Prosecutors remonstrated, and the prisoners then knocked them down and kicked them in a savage manner about the head and body. The Bench fined each defendant 30s and costs, of six weeks' hard labour in default."

#### Express & Star 5/5/1885

"An inquest was held, on Monday, before Mr. E. Hooper, at the RED LION INN, Tividale, respecting the death of William Jones (65), formerly residing at New Road, Tividale, who was drowned on the 30<sup>th</sup> ultimo. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

*Rubicella Stevens* married *Thomas Whale* on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1885.

*Thomas Whale* = Thomas Wheale

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1889

"On Monday night the licensed premises of the RED LION INN, Tividale, were broken into by thieves, and about £12 in money was taken from a cash-box in a bedroom. The police are investigating the matter."

#### 1891 Census

92, Tipton Road – RED LION

- [1] *Thomas Whale* (33), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Rubicella Whale* (38), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Mary A. Stevens (16), daughter-in-law, dressmaker, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] James Stevens (14), son-in-law, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Earnest Stevens (12), son-in-law, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Lilian Stevens (8), daughter-in-law, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Florry Stevens (6), daughter-in-law, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Thomas Whale (4), son, born Rowley Regis:

Coventry Evening Telegraph 12/8/1892

“At the Rowley Regis Police Court yesterday, during the hearing of a charge against Mr. *Thomas Whale*, landlord of the RED LION INN, Tividale, of permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, Mr. Ward, solicitor for the defence, raised the point that as the police had admitted they could not tell for certain whether the person was drunk until they saw him stand up, when he staggered, the magistrates could not hold the defendant to be guilty of wilfully permitting drunkenness. The chairman (Mr. Bassano) said it was a very ingenious defence, and one which the magistrates were bound to accept, although they fully believed that the man was drunk. When he was sitting down he probably did not appear to the defendant to be drunk, and they would, therefore, dismiss the case.”

County Advertiser 18/5/1895

“On Thursday morning Mr. F. W. Topham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Tipton Road, Tividale, respecting the death of Matthew Henry Kelly Millington (18), labourer, Gilbert Street, Tividale, who hanged himself at his father’s residence on Tuesday morning.

John Millington, father of the deceased, stated that his son had been employed at the galvanising works, but for about eight months he had been out of employment. He, however, had been well maintained, but had complained of his clothes becoming shabby. He was always of a cheerful disposition, and had never threatened to destroy himself. His appetite was good, and he was generally satisfied. Witness was at work on Monday night, and left home at 10-30, and bade deceased ‘Good night.’ He was then in the best of spirits. On returning home on Tuesday morning witness had breakfast, deceased being then in bed. Witness, after having his breakfast, went to a public house to have a pint of ale. Whilst drinking his beer he was fetched home, and found deceased hanging by a boat line, suspended from a hook in the ceiling. He lifted him up and a man Allmark cut him down. He was quite dead. He could assign no reason for deceased committing suicide.

John Thomas Millington, a brother of the deceased, said he slept with deceased on the previous night, and for an hour he was singing, and appeared to be very happy. At 5-30 on Tuesday morning deceased called witness up to get his father’s breakfast. He did so, and afterwards shouted for deceased to come down and have his breakfast. Deceased came down, and witness left the house after breakfast to pick a bit of coal. Whilst so doing he received information that his brother was hanging in the house. He returned, and found that deceased had not touched his breakfast, which consisted of bacon and new bread. He was properly clothed with the exception of his boots and stockings, which were under the table.

Kate Millington, deceased’s sister, said she slept at her sister’s house, and on Tuesday morning she came home to have her breakfast. She opened the door and saw deceased hanging by a rope from the ceiling, with his face towards her. She raised an alarm, and a man named Allmark went in and cut him down.

William Henry Allmark said, in consequence of hearing women screaming, he went into the house in which deceased resided, and found deceased hanging. He immediately cut him down, and he breathed once. Witness did not think the neck was broken.

The Coroner said there was no doubt that deceased committed suicide, but they had no evidence as to the state of his mind.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased committed Suicide by Hanging, but there was no evidence to show the state of his mind at the time.”

County Advertiser 15/8/1896

“Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Tividale, on Tuesday afternoon, concern-

ing the death of May Harris, six weeks old, whose parents reside in Gilbert Street, Tividale, and who was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning.

Hannah Harris, mother, stated that deceased had been very healthy since her birth. She last saw her alive at 4.15am, when witness awoke. Witness went to, sleep again, and when she awoke at 6.15 she found deceased dead in bed. Deceased's face was discoloured, and witness shook her, but received no answer. Witness then sent for the police.

William Harris, father, in the course of his evidence, stated that a child was born five years ago, at West Bromwich. It was dead, and was buried as still-born. A certificate was given by Dr. Sansome. Witness further stated that he paid 2s for the certificate.

The Coroner said it was an illegal thing. The doctor had no more right to give a certificate than he had. However, inquiries would have to be made into the matter.

The mother (recalled) stated that no doctor attended her during her confinement at West Bromwich, but a certificate was given by Dr. Sansome, who came and examined the child the morning after its birth.

Police-constable Robinson said he had made inquiries, and found that no suspicious circumstances were connected with the case.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

#### County Advertiser 25/8/1900

"Mr. C. H. Darby applied for a full license for Mrs. Emma Southall, landlady of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Tipton Road, Tividale. The house had always been carried on satisfactorily. The grounds on which she made the application were that sometimes accidents happened and people were brought into the house for spirits, and in a case of that sort she had had to send for some from other places. Travellers often called for spirits, and she had to send them away.

Mr. J. W. Clulow opposed the application on behalf of Mr. *Whale*, of the RED LION INN, and said that these two houses were only about fifty yards apart, and there were only seventy-nine cottages round about. The Bench refused the application."

#### Dudley Herald 24/11/1900

"On Thursday morning Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Tividale, touching the death of John Bailey (39), labourer, 33, Tipton Road, Tividale....."

[The newspaper is incomplete.]

AND

#### Nottingham Evening Post 23/11/1900

"An inquest was held at Tividale yesterday concerning the death of John Bailey, who was killed in the main road. He was afraid to walk on the footpath because some time ago he fell down a steep embankment and sustained injuries. Since then he had walked in the horse road. A night or two ago a brewer's dray knocked him down and killed him."

#### 1901 Census

92, Tipton Road – RED LION INN

- [1] *Thomas Wheale* (44), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Rubecilla Wheale* (46), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *James Stevens* (24), step-son, blacksmith, colliery, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Ernest Stevens* (22), step-son, blacksmith, colliery, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Lilian Stevens* (18), step-daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Florence Wheale* (16), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Thomas Wheale* (14), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *William Wheale* (8), son, born Rowley Regis:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 4/5/1901

"On Saturday afternoon Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Tipton Road, Tividale, concerning the death of a youth named William Victor Moss (14), formerly residing at Tipton Road, Tividale, who was drowned whilst bathing in the Birmingham Canal on Friday morning. The

evidence showed that the deceased was seized with cramp and sank, his dead body being recovered immediately afterwards by a carrier named William Price.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and the foreman complimented Price upon the bravery he displayed in his attempt to rescue the deceased.

The coroner and jury also complained of the dirty and dilapidated state of the house in which the deceased's parents lived, and the former intimated his intention of calling the attention of the local authority to its insanitary condition."

#### Leominster News 26/5/1905

"On Wednesday Mr. A. A. Betham held an inquest at the RED LION INN, Tividale, respecting the death of Harriet Fisher (38), wife of Charles Henry Fisher, stock-taker, of Tipton Road, Tividale, who committed suicide by hanging herself on the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst.

The husband stated that when he returned home from work on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst, he found his wife was dead. For the past two years deceased had given way to excessive drinking, but why she had done so he did not know.

John Saunders, father of the deceased, who lived with them, stated that his daughter was very peculiar in her manner on the night prior to her death. She told them that a police-constable was after her and would lock her up that night. Deceased's mother informed her daughter that she had done nothing to be locked up for, but deceased repeated her statement, and before retiring to bed pulled up the blind and appeared to be very nervous. Early the following morning witness got up and when descending the stairs stumbled over the body of his daughter, which was upon the steps. He then discovered deceased was hanging from a hook in the ceiling of the stairs, and his eldest granddaughter, who was thirteen years of age, quickly cut the body down, but life was found to be extinct.

Police-constable Heatherley stated that deceased had been an excessive drinker during the last few years, and had associated herself with a relative who was on the black list and another woman who had been in an inebriates' home. There were great facilities for drinking in the locality, as, for a population of 342, there were three public houses.

The Deputy-Coroner said he could take no action respecting that, but it appeared to him that there were too many public houses in the neighbourhood.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind, and the deputy-coroner and the jury commended the deceased woman's daughter for the presence of mind she displayed in cutting down the body of her mother."

#### 1911 Census

92, Tipton Road – RED LION INN

[1] *Thomas Wheale* (54), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Rubecilla Wheale* (57), wife, married 27 years, born Dudley;

[3] *William Wheale* (18), son, assisting in the business, born Rowley Regis:

*Harry Botfield* = Harry Butfield

#### Dudley Chronicle 9/12/1926

"Mr. A. A. Millichip made an application for permission to carry out structural alterations at the RED LION HOTEL, Rowley Regis, the licensee of which is Mr. *Harry Botfield*. He said the alteration, which the owners desired to make, were chiefly to the living quarters of the house. Mr. Spencer Wood (architect), West Bromwich, presented plans showing the proposed alterations. He said that the area used for drinking purposes would not be increased. It would be the means of improving the sanitary arrangements and enable complete supervision. No objection was raised by the police and the Bench granted the application."

*Harry Botfield* and *William Hadley* appeared in the same 1932 Directory.

#### Sports Argus 13/5/1939 - Advert

"RED LION, Tividale (where good dogs meet). Show every Sunday, 12.15 (prompt)."

Sports Argus 10/6/1939 - Advert

“Dog Shows.....

RED LION, Tividale. Show every Sunday, 12.15 and 7.15, prompt.”

Evening Despatch 15/6/1939

“Dog Show Awards. Two successful shows were held at the RED LION, Tividale. Mr. Ingleby’s Staffordshire bull terrier was judged to be the best exhibit.”

Evening Despatch 19/7/1939

“A good variety of dogs were on view at the RED LION, Tividale. The ‘star’ of the show was Mr. Kilvert’s golden cocker spaniel.....”

It was referred for consideration of redundancy on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1958.

The license was renewed on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1958.

It closed c.1963.

**RISING SUN**

Park Street, (Park Lane), OLDBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Edward Field [1852]

William Birch [1861] – [1871]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 23/10/1852 - Advert

“Two Freehold Houses and Land, Park Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by S. Bloore, Junior, on Friday Next, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, at the PARROT ARMS, Oldbury, at Four o’clock in the afternoon (by order of the Mortgagees), subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that convenient Dwelling House, known as the RISING SUN Retail Beer House, now in the occupation of Mr. *Edward Field*. Also, the Messuage adjoining, occupied by B. Lowe, with Entry between, Brewhouse, and Malt Room, Piggery, and Out-offices, Well of good Water, Skittle Ground, Yard, and Garden. The Land contains 409 square yards, or thereabouts, and the neighbourhood is rapidly improving.

Any further information may be had by applying to Mr. Holden, Solicitor, Cherry Street; or the Auctioneer, New Street, both of Birmingham.”

1861 Census

Park Lane – RISING SUN

[1] *William Birch* (27), beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;

- [2] Catharine Birch (26), wife, born Oldbury;  
[3] John Birch (5), son, born Oldbury;  
[4] Simpson Birch (4), son, born Oldbury;  
[5] Frances Home (24), visitor, dressmaker, born Apperley, Derbyshire:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/7/1870

“At Oldbury Petty Sessions yesterday the following persons were fined for having in their possession incorrect weights and measures.....

*William Birch*, publican, Park Street, Oldbury, 2s 6d and costs, for two incorrect measures.”

1871 Census

Park Street

- [1] *William Birch* (37), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;  
[2] Eliza Birch (33), wife, born Oldbury;  
[3] John Birch (15), son, labourer, born Oldbury;  
[4] Benjamin Birch (13), son, labourer, born Oldbury;  
[5] Fanny Birch (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;  
[6] James York (30), lodger, labourer, born Oldbury:

**RISING SUN**

9, (20), Queen Street, (off Wesley Street), OLDBURY

OWNERS

Mary Windmill, Queen Street, Oldbury  
James Windmill, Queen Street, Oldbury (later at Albert Street)  
Benjamin Thomas Sadler  
Mrs. Sadler, Wood View, Bleakhouse Road, Warley  
North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (leased)

LICENSEES

Mrs. Mary Windmill [1861] – [1870]  
Henry Widdowson [1881] – **1886**;  
Thomas Little **(1886 – 1893)**;  
Samuel Sadler **(1893 – 1895)**;  
Joseph Male **(1895 – 1903)**;  
Henry Arthur Bassett **(1903 – 1904)**;  
William Henry Blackford **(1904)**;  
John Thomas Davies **(1904 – 1905)**;  
William Henry Woodward **(1905 – 1906)**;  
George Boulter **(1906 – 1907)**;  
Hannah Sophia Annie Pratt **(1907 – [ ]**  
William Alexander Barnsley [ ] – **1908**):

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

### 1861 Census

Queen Street – RISING SUN

- [1] *Mary Windmill* (62), widow, publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Thomas Windmill (26), son, bundler, iron works, born Oldbury;
- [3] Elijah Windmill (24), son, roller, iron works, born Oldbury;
- [4] Edward Windmill (18), son, labourer, born Oldbury;
- [5] John Windmill (19), grand-son, labourer, born Oldbury;
- [6] Thomas Boden (16), grand-son, labourer, born Oldbury;
- [7] Elizabeth Borton (14), servant, born Oldbury:

Mrs. *Mary Windmill*, beer retailer, Queen Street. [1862], [1870]

*Henry Widdowson* = Henry Widdison = Henry Widdinson

### 1881 Census

20, Queen Street – Public House

- [1] *Henry Widdinson* (47), carriage builder and publican, born Ruddington, Nottinghamshire;
- [2] Eliza Widdinson (38), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Phoebe Widdinson (17), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Mary Widdinson (9), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Elizabeth Jones (22), general servant, born Oldbury:

*Henry Widdison*, beer retailer and grocer, Queen Street. [1884], [1888]

### Smethwick Telephone 26/9/1885

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The renewal of the license of the GEORGE INN, situate in Brades Village, of the WHITE LION INN, in Birmingham Street, and also of a beerhouse in Queen Street, was granted.”

### 1891 Census

9, Queen Street – RISING SUN INN

- [1] *Thomas Little* (37), general labourer, born Oldbury;
- [2] Emma Little (36), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Stephen Little (18), son, blacksmith’s striker, born Oldbury;
- [4] Mercy Little (15), daughter, pupil teacher, born Oldbury;
- [5] Martha Little (14), daughter, pupil teacher, born Oldbury;
- [6] Jane Little (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Nellie Little (12), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] Emma Little (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [9] Thomas Little (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [10] Clara Little (8), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [11] Benjamin Little (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [12] Albert Little (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [13] John Little (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [14] Agnes Little (1), daughter, born Oldbury:

*Samuel Sadler*, beer retailer, 9, Queen Street. [1896]

### West Bromwich Weekly News 30/6/1900

“Scotch collie for sale, cheap.

Apply, RISING SUN, Queen Street, Oldbury.”

## 1901 Census

9, Queen Street

- [1] *Joseph Male* (68), publican, born Brierley Hill;
- [2] *Eliza Male* (67), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Joseph Male* (36), son, iron moulder, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Emma Male* (37), wife, born Gornal;
- [5] *Joseph Edgar Gladstone Male* (2), grandson, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Minnie Stanley* (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

*William Henry Blackford* was in possession at the time of the Licensing meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1904.

*William Henry Woodward* – see also GEORGE, West Bromwich.

*William Alexander Barnsley* – see also LEOPARD, West Bromwich.

## Smethwick Telephone 2/5/1908

“There were some important comments made in reference to the granting of three off licenses for the Lightwoods district by the Oldbury justices, at a meeting of the County Licensing Committee, at which application was made for the confirmation of the concessions. At the outset, Mr. Willis Bund (the chairman) said that in reference to these three applications he understood there was some agreement or understanding between the Oldbury justices and the applicants. They had no particulars of that understanding. The brewers were willing, if the licenses were granted, to surrender certain licenses in Oldbury. The question was whether the committee ought not to have before them very full information concerning those houses which were going to be surrendered.

The first applicant was James Swain, Katherine Road, Warley, grocer, on whose behalf Mr. J. J. Parfitt, KC, appeared. The offer made on behalf of the brewers, through the applicant, was to surrender three licenses in Oldbury, viz, the JOLLY COLLIER, Albert Street; BOAT INN, Birchfield Lane (both fully-licensed houses); and the RISING SUN, Queen Street, a beer ‘on’ license. The district (observed Mr. Parfitt) for which the new license was asked was a growing one, and many houses were springing up on all sides. The shop for which the off license was requested was at the corner of two streets, and in those streets and three others adjoining there were 278 houses, and something like 1,390 inhabitants, so that the need was real.

The Chairman said his point was that they ought to have further information as to the value of the houses which were to be surrendered. They might be valuable, and they might not, but it was very important for the Court to know what value the brewers put upon the houses.

Mr. Parfitt said information could be given, and handed in a statement, expressing the hope that with this information it would be possible for the committee to come to the conclusion that the site for the new license was an admirable one. and confirm the granting of the license.

The Chairman said that the site of the house was only fifty yards from the Staffordshire border.

Evidence was given showing that 280 people petitioned in favour of the license being granted.....

The Chairman said an attempt had been made – rightly or wrongly he would not say – to cover the district with off licenses, which would pay no monopoly value and contribute nothing to the compensation fund, and for which certain licenses were offered in order to get over any objections. The licenses it was proposed to surrender were not those it was most desired to take away, because they were not included in the twenty reported by the Oldbury justices. In the discharge of their duty to the ratepayers were the committee justified in covering the district with off licenses? Another point was whether the committee ought to grant the licenses applied for. They were offered valuable terms, but he was loth to tie the hands of the committee by asking them to accept them in view of the pending legislation. The applications would be granted, but it must be distinctly understood that the terms agreed upon between the justices of Oldbury and the applicants did not fetter the committee in any way if they were called upon to deal with the licenses in the near future.”



The license was surrendered on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1908.

Smethwick Telephone 22/2/1919 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold Residences, Off-License, Grinding Works and Plant, Building Land, and Attractive Freehold and Leasehold Investments.

By Messrs. Jones, Son & Vernon (FAI), at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm sharp, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then produced and read.

By order of the Representatives of the late Mr. William Dearn.....

Lot 5. Two Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, formerly the RISING SUN INN, and being No.9, Queen Street, off Wesley Street, Church Street, Oldbury aforesaid. Tenants, Messrs. Smith and Letts. Total annual rental, £23 8s.....”

Smethwick Telephone 23/8/1924 - Advert

“Sale by Auction of Valuable Freehold Residential Property (with vacant possession), Valuable Corner Shop, and Freehold De-licensed premises, situate at Oldbury and Langley.

By Messrs. Jones, Son & Vernon (FAI), at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1924, at 7pm sharp, subject to conditions of sale to be then produced and read.

Queen Street, Oldbury. (By order of the Trustees of B. T. Sadler, deceased.).....

Lot 1. Valuable Freehold Double Fronted Premises, now De-licensed and Formerly the RISING SUN INN, No.9, Queen Street, Oldbury, aforesaid.

Tenant, Mr. Smith. Total annual rental £30 6s 8d.”

**ROLLERS ARMS**

25, (65), Halesowen Street, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Samuel Bullas, Halesowen Street, Oldbury

Henry Mitchell and Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (leased)

LICENSEES

Samuel Lloyd [1871] – **1885**);

Sophia Lloyd (**1885**);

James Love (**1885 – 1893**);

George Homeshaw (**1893 – 1897**);

John Murphy (**1897 – 1903**);

Thomas Dennis (**1903 – 1906**):

NOTES

65, Halesowen Street [1871], [1881]

25, Halesowen Street [1891], [1901]

It was situated opposite to Canal Street.

It was originally known as the STORES.

It had a beerhouse license.

#### 1871 Census

65, Halesowen Street – Beerhouse

[1] *Samuel Lloyd* (43), beerhouse keeper, born Tipton;

[2] *Sophia Lloyd* (40), wife, born Tipton:

*Samuel Lloyd*, beer retailer, Halesowen Street. [1872]

*Samuel Lloyd*, beer retailer, 65, Halesowen Street. [1873], [1884]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 20/9/1872 - Advert

“Lost, on Saturday, a small Black-and-tan Dog. Ears cut. Answers to ‘Tiny.’

Anyone returning it to *Samuel Lloyd*, ROLLERS ARMS, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, will be handsomely Rewarded. If detained will be prosecuted”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/12/1874 - Advert

“Lost, on Monday, December 14, a small black-and-tan Dog. Ears cut. Answers to the name of ‘Tiny.’

Anyone returning it to *S. Lloyd*, ROLLERS ARMS, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, will be handsomely rewarded.”

#### 1881 Census

65, Halesowen Street – ROLLERS ARMS

[1] *Samuel Lloyd* (55), beerhouse keeper, born Tipton;

[2] *Sophia Lloyd* (49), wife, born Tipton:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 17/9/1881

“George Harper (24), of Manchester, was brought up in custody, on remand, charged with passing counterfeit coin at Oldbury, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst.

Annie Curley, barmaid, at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street, said on the evening in question, prisoner went into the house and called for some wine and tendered in payment what she believed to be a base shilling. She refused to take it; he then gave her twopence instead. Prisoner then went away and returned in about 10 minutes and called for some beer, tendering again in payment what afterwards proved to be a base shilling. She received it and handed it to Mr. Perrins, who on examining it found it to be counterfeit.

PC Clarke said he heard that a man had been passing counterfeit coin at several public houses in Oldbury, and from the description he received of him he apprehended prisoner at 9.30 the same evening whilst on his way to the station. Witness asked him where he came from when prisoner said Wolverhampton. He saw the prisoner put his hand in his trouser pocket and drop something. At the Police Station he searched him and found in his possession in good money 21 sixpences, 1 fourpenny piece, 2 threepenny pieces, and four and sixpence halfpenny in coppers. Prisoner, in answer to the charge, said he expected it.

PC Nash said when prisoner was being taken to the Police Station he saw him drop from his trouser pocket the purse produced, which was found to contain 18 base shillings wrapped in tissue paper. Superintendent Hardman said he took the coins to Mr. Edward Dutton, watchmaker, Birmingham Street, who pronounced them to be base.

Edward Dutton said the last witness brought the coins to him on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. He tested them and found them to be counterfeit. They withstood the acid well on account of them being coated with silver, but they were very deficient in weight.

*Sophia Lloyd*, of the ROLLERS ARMS, Halesowen Street, said on the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst the prisoner went into that house and in payment for some beer tendered a counterfeit shilling. She gave him the change and put the shilling on one side in consequence of some remark made by another person in the tap room. Prisoner was remanded in order that the case might be brought before the Mint Authorities.”

AND

Dudley and District News 17/9/1881

“George Harper, a native of Manchester, was brought up on remand at the Oldbury Petty Sessions, before Messrs. Adkins and Heaton (magistrates), charged with passing a counterfeit coin at Oldbury on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Prisoner was also charged with passing bad coins at the house of a beerhouse keeper named *Lloyd*, in Halesowen Street, and at the HEN AND CHICKENS beerhouse kept by William Powell.

A remand was granted for eight days in order that the Mint authorities might be communicated with.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 22/10/1881

“Worcestershire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.....

George Harper (43), fitter, pleaded guilty to uttering a counterfeit shilling at Oldbury, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and was sentenced to six months’ hard labour.”

*James Love*, beer retailer, 65, Halesowen Street. [1888]

1891 Census

25, Halesowen Street

[1] *James Love* (51), edge tool maker, born Broseley, Shropshire;

[2] Sarah J. Love (58), wife, born Portsmouth;

[3] Elizabeth Slater (11), niece, scholar, born Wellingborough:

1901 Census

25, Halesowen Street – ROLLERS ARMS INN

[1] *John Murphy* (32), fishmonger and publican, born Oldbury;

[2] Mary A. Murphy (32), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Elizabeth Murphy (10), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Lily R. Murphy (8), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Maggie Murphy (4), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Louisa West (14), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Thomas Dennis* – see also JOLLY COLLIER.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.

It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

2. ROLLERS ARMS, Halesowen Street.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/8/1905

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee having decided to refuse fifteen Oldbury licenses, as the amount of the compensation fund available allows, sat yesterday at the Shire Hall, Worcester, to decide who are the persons entitled to compensation.....

Messrs. Mitchell and Butler (lessees) and *Thomas Dennis* (licensee) were declared to be interested in the ROLLERS ARMS, and the question of the claim of the freeholders was deferred for production of probate of a will.”

Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years’ purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years’ purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

ROLLERS ARMS, £192.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division.....

The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

ROLLERS ARMS, Halesowen Street, £310.

The committee made awards as follows.....

ROLLERS ARMS, £10 to the lessees, Messrs. Mitchell and Butler, £45 to the tenant, *Thomas Dennis*, and the balance to the freeholders.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28.”

The license was extinguished on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

### ROSE AND CROWN

51, (53), Halesowen Street, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Oldbury Railway Co.

George Bonser, Halesowen Street, Oldbury

#### LICENSEES

John Whittington [1881]

Elizabeth Whittington [1882]

Alfred Bagnall [1884] – 1885);

Benjamin Hickman (1885 – [ ]

Joseph George Adams [1886] – 1887);  
Mrs. Elizabeth Bonser (1887 – 1894);  
George Bonser (1894 – 1898);  
Ann Stiles (1898):

## NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

### 1881 Census

53, Hales Owen Street – PH No Sign

- [1] *John Whittington* (84), publican, born Soulby, Leicestershire;
- [2] *Elizabeth Whittington* (66), wife, born Hampton Cheale, Herefordshire;
- [3] William Griffiths (23), lodger, boat loader, born West Bromwich;
- [4] William Podmore (38), lodger, painter, birthplace not known;
- [5] Rebecca Nicholson (50), charwoman, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Daily Post 4/7/1882

“At the Police Court, yesterday, *Elizabeth Wittington* [sic], of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Hales Owen Street, was charged with selling ale during illegal hours, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May. Police-constable Hooper saw a boy leave the defendant’s premises on the day in question with a can containing ale. Defendant was fined 40s and costs.”

*Alfred Bagnall*, beer retailer, 53, Halesowen Street. [1884]

### Smethwick Telephone 28/8/1886

“The annual Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday.....

Mr. Shakespeare made an application on behalf of the Oldbury Railway Company, for a renewal of the license of the ROSE AND CROWN, Halesowen Street, which had been closed as a result of the construction of the railway.....

The magistrates then retired to consider the various applications, Mr. Avery remarking that, as Mr. Sadler was a director, the case in which the Oldbury Railway Company were interested, would be considered apart from him.....”

AND

### Birmingham Daily Post 25/8/1886

“The application of the Oldbury Railway Company was granted for the renewal of a license to a house which had been closed in consequence of a railway being constructed.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 1/1/1887

“*Joseph Adams*, publican, of Halesowen Street was charged with having permitted gambling at the ROSE AND CROWN, in Halesowen Street, on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst.

Joseph Smith stated that on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst, he and two others went to defendant’s house, when *Adams* was playing at cards with three others at ‘Don’ for beer. They waited about an hour and half, and he then played *Adams* for a quart of beer. *Adams* then struck him in the mouth.

Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the defence and cross-examined the witness. The evidence was similar to that given the Tuesday previous, which appeared in last week’s issue.

John Aston and Thomas Perry gave their evidence.

David Gough was called as a witness for the defence, and stated that he was present the whole of the time when the disturbance took place. When Smith entered he was about b \_\_\_ and half. They neither played for money or beer, but a friendly game.

Jacob Moss stated that he was there the whole of the time and saw no playing for money.

Elizabeth *Adams*, wife of defendant, stated that she refused to fill beer to *Adams* after he returned the second time. Her husband played a game at cards, but only a friendly game, to keep Smith quiet. Clara Field (servant) gave similar evidence, after which the case was dismissed.”

Mrs. *Elizabeth Bonser*, beer retailer, 53, Halesowen Street. [1888]

#### 1891 Census

51, Halesowen Street

[1] *George Bonser* (49), agent, born Dostill, Warwickshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Bonser* (48), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] John E. Bonser (26), son, carpenter, born Oldbury;

[4] Walter Eardley (36), lodger, painter, born Coventry:

*George Bonser*, beer retailer, 51, Halesowen Street. [1896]

*George Bonser* – see also VICTORIA STORES.

The license was surrendered, and cancelled on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1898.

#### Dudley Herald 10/9/1898

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Oldbury, were held on Tuesday..... Mr. Garner (Redfern and Sons, Birmingham) represented Atkinson’s Brewery Company in regard to their application for alterations to the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Halesowen Street. The Magistrates said their sanction would be given to the plans on the understanding that the license for the ROSE AND CROWN was surrendered.”

### ROSE AND CROWN

95, (38), Popes Lane, Tat Bank, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Elizabeth Duckhouse

Mrs. W. Whitworth, Coventry Road, Hay Mills, Birmingham

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (leased c.1905)

Mrs. S. Y. Harding, 5, Ashley Road, Gravelly Hill, Birmingham (acquired in 1922)

J. A. and A. Thompson, Orchard Street, Oldbury (acquired in 1932)

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired c.1946)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

#### LICENSEES

Stephen Hickman [1851] – [1861]

James Nock [1864] – [1880]

Mrs. Elizabeth Nock [1881] – [1882]

Mrs. Elizabeth Duckhouse [1884] – **1898**;

Showells Brewery and Co. Ltd. (**1898 – 1905**);

Harry Wilkinson Woodhouse [1901] manager?

Thomas Caldicott (**1905 – 1907**);

Alfred Bird (1907);  
Ada Bird (1907 – 1909);  
Josiah Hill (1909 – 1911);  
Leonard Joseph Hyde (1911 – 1912); manager  
Walter Hooper (1912 – 1913);  
William Henry Hadley (1913 – 1914);  
Charles Brown (1914);  
William Middleton (1914 – 1916);  
Simeon Jewkes (1916 – 1922);  
Elijah Briscoe (1922 – 1923);  
Thomas Horton (1923);  
Joseph Alt Kinsey (1923 – 1924);  
Edward Wright (1924);  
Anthony Evitts (1924 – 1927);  
Solomon Westwood (1927 – 1929);  
Joseph Edward Bowen (1929 – 1934);  
Frederick Parker (1934 – 1935);  
Walter Woolley (1935 – 1938);  
Rowland Davenport Massey (1938 – 1948);  
George Peters (1948 – 1954);  
Sydney Badon Button (1954 – [1962])

## NOTES

38, Popes Lane [1873], [1881], [1892]

95, Popes Lane [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921]

### 1851 Census

Popes Lane

- [1] *Stephen Hickman* (49), victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Hickman* (40), wife, born Sedgley;
- [3] *Mary Hickman* (14), daughter, born Tipton;
- [4] *William Hickman* (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Elizabeth Hickman* (9), daughter, scholar, born Tipton:

### 1861 Census

Popes Lane – ROSE AND CROWN

- [1] *Stephen Hickman* (59), coal miner and innkeeper, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Hickman* (53), wife, born Ettingshall;
- [3] *William Hickman* (21), son, iron puddler, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Elizabeth Hickman* (18), daughter, born Tipton;
- [5] *Mary Whitehouse* (76), lodger, widow, born Tipton:

### Birmingham Daily Post 17/9/1861 - Advert

“To be Let, the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 20/6/1862 - Advert

“Clearing-Out Sale, the ROSE AND CROWN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.

By Robert H. Jones. To be Sold by Auction, on Monday Next, the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, at Eleven in the forenoon, on the above Premises, the whole of the Licenses and Possession, Public House Effects, and Brewing Plant, including four-pull Beer Machine, metal-top Counter, copper Fountain, eight-day Timepiece, Mash Tubs, Coolers, Ale Casks, about seventy gallons of Ale, Drinking Tables, Benches, Chairs, Pictures, small

Tump of Hops, and other surplus Effects, in consequence of the Proprietor leaving the neighbourhood. The Licenses will be sold first.

Catalogues to be had at the Place of Sale, and of the Auctioneer, at his Offices, Church Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/1/1864

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, *James Nock*, of the ROSE AND CROWN, Tat Bank, was convicted of having had six men in his brewhouse drinking, at ten minutes before twelve o’clock in the forenoon of Sunday, the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, and was fined 2s 6d and costs. The case was proved by Police-constable Potter.”

Stourbridge Observer 17/9/1864

“William Lea Robinson applied for license for the ROSE AND CROWN, Oldbury. Mr. Lowe, on behalf of Mr. Durham objected. Ultimately refused.”

County Advertiser 30/9/1865

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, William Jones, licensed victualler, *James Nock*, licensed victualler, and Charles Biddlestone, licensed victualler, were each charged with selling ale on the race-course, at Oldbury, on Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. This was the day before Oldbury wake, and the defendants had tents on the race-course. Police-sergeant Simmonds proved the charges, and each defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

1871 Census

Popes Lane – ROSE AND CROWN

- [1] *James Nock* (50), mason (employing 3 labourers), born Sedgley;
- [2] *Elizabeth Nock* (39), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] William Nock (16), son, mason, born Oldbury;
- [4] James Nock (15), son, clerk, born Oldbury;
- [5] Harriett Nock (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Elizabeth Nock (7), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Sarah H. Nock (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] George Bell (28), boarder, carpenter, born Smethwick;
- [9] George Lowe (24), boarder, mason’s labourer, born Tamworth:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/1/1873

“Three colliers, named John Shaw, Joseph Bird, and Samuel Taylor, were summoned for violently assaulting Daniel McCormack, employed at Messrs. Chance’s Chemical Works. Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the defence.

The statements of numerous witnesses were to the effect that on Monday night week McCormack, the three defendants, and others were drinking at the ROSE AND CROWN Beerhouse, Oldbury. Most of them had imbibed enough liquor to render them contentious, and in this mood a discussion arose upon religious topics. The defendants professed to be Protestants, while the complainant acknowledged himself to be a Roman Catholic. Attacks were made upon the views of Roman Catholics, and were replied to warmly by McCormack. At length a man named Skelding, a cousin of the complainant, asserted that ‘the Roman Catholics worshipped images.’ Upon this insult to his church McCormack could no longer restrain himself, and he dealt his cousin a back-handed blow on the cheek, and told him ‘to hold his noise.’ Skelding instantly returned the blow, and made the complainant’s mouth bleed. A struggle ensued, but was stopped by the landlord. At this moment Mrs. McCormack rushed excitedly into the bar, and enquired who had struck her husband. McCormack said that it was her cousin, Skelding. The woman immediately seized a pint cup from the table and flung it at Skelding. The missile struck him on the forehead, and inflicted a severe wound, from which much blood flowed. This renewed the disturbance. Skelding turned upon Mrs. McCormack and threw her down. Her husband came to her assistance, and the landlord was indefatigable in seeking to expel the combatants. Mrs. McCormack, however, made matters worse. On regaining her feet she seized a quart jug, and hurled it at Skelding. He avoided the blow, and the missile was smashed to pieces upon the forehead of the defendant Bird. The defendants then interfered, and helped the landlord to eject the infuriated McCormacks. When a policeman arrived a few minutes afterwards the disturbance was over, and the land-



lord was bathing the wounded head of the man Skelding. The defendants were dismissed, and the Magistrates admonished McCormack for having originated the disturbance.

Mrs. McCormack was summoned for breaking the jugs, and was fined 1s and costs, and 3d damage."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1880 - Died

"On the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, after a short illness, aged 61 years, *James Nock*, ROSE AND CROWN, Oldbury; deeply regretted."

#### 1881 Census

38, Popes Lane – CROWN AND ANCHOR [sic]

[1] *Elizabeth Nock* (50), widow, licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] Sarah Nock (16), daughter, born Oldbury;

[3] Ann Fletcher (77), visitor, widow, born Tipton:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 16/2/1882 - Advert

"Van (Auctioneer's) for Sale, with extensive platform, and most beautifully fitted up with mahogany frames and glass cases; also living department, fitted up with the latest improvements for domestic comfort.

Address, Mrs. *Nock*, ROSE AND CROWN, Pope Lane, Oldbury."

*Elizabeth Nock* married George Duckhouse in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1882.

#### 1891 Census

Popes Lane – Public

[1] *Elizabeth Duckhouse* (60), widow, living on own means, born Oldbury;

[2] James Nock (34), son, bricklayer, born Oldbury;

[3] Elizabeth Nock (36), wife, born Oldbury;

[4] Bertha Nock (9), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Beatrice Nock (8), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] James B. Nock (7), son, born Oldbury;

[7] Elizabeth Nock (4), daughter, born Oldbury;

[8] Harry W. Nock (2), son, born Oldbury;

[9] Marian J. Nock (3 months), daughter, born Oldbury;

[10] Elizabeth Brown (14), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### 1901 Census

95, Popes Lane – ROSE AND CROWN INN

[1] *Harry Wilkinson Woodhouse* (33), unmarried, carpenter, born Manchester;

[2] Mary Jane Bottrill (46), widow, housekeeper, born Rugby;

[3] Dorcas Rice (18), domestic servant, born Tewkesbury:

A team from here took part in the Langley and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

#### 1911 Census

95, Popes Lane – ROSE AND CROWN

[1] *Leonard Joseph Hyde* (34), manager public house, born Birmingham;

[2] Elizabeth Ellen Hyde (32), wife, married 11 years, assisting in business, born Handsworth;

[3] Margaret Victoria Hyde (10), daughter, school, born London;

[4] Ellen Elizabeth Hyde (8), daughter, born Wellingborough, Northamptonshire;

[5] Leonard William Joseph Hyde (6), son, born Doncaster;

[6] Minnie Hyde (2 months), daughter, born Birmingham:

#### Smethwick Telephone 4/2/1922

"At Oldbury Superintendent Milsom reported that he had served notices of objection to the renewal of the

following licenses on the ground of redundancy.....  
ROSE AND CROWN, Popes Lane.”

*Thomas Horton* – see also NAVIGATION, Titford Road.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/5/1931

“Left alone in the house, a domestic servant employed at the ROSE AND CROWN, Popes Lane, Oldbury, was surprised to hear a door bang against the sink. On going to investigate she was still more surprised to see two men in the bar, one of them emptying the contents of the till into his pockets. On realising they were detected they pushed her against the wall and rushed out of the house.

The sequel to this was related to Oldbury magistrates yesterday, when Elijah Andrews, of no fixed abode, and Charles Edward Webb, of 27, Parsonage Street, Oldbury, were committed to the Worcestershire Assizes on a charge of breaking and entering and stealing £1 2s.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/5/1931

“Worcestershire Assizes, yesterday.....

Charles Edward Webb, aged 30, a labourer, and Elijah Andrews, aged 37, a labourer, pleaded guilty to breaking into the house of *Joseph Edward Bowen*, at Oldbury, and stealing £1 12s. They were sentenced to 12 months’ imprisonment.”

AND

Dudley Chronicle 11/6/1931

“The Assizes. Oldbury Cases Tried at Worcester.....

Two men, Charles Edward Webb (30), of 27, Parsonage Street, Oldbury, and Elijah Andrews (27), of no fixed abode, were indicted for breaking and entering the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Popes Lane, and stealing £1 12s.

Mr. A. J. Long, for the prosecution, alleged that the prisoners watched the licensee’s wife leave the house, and then, by climbing a wall and breaking open a door, entered the premises and proceeded to rob the till. They were surprised by a barmaid, but she was unable to detain them, and she gave information which led to their arrest.

Each prisoner was sentenced to four months’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/2/1934

“Oldbury magistrates yesterday granted an application by the owners for permission to make structural alterations to the ROSE AND CROWN, Popes Lane, so as to provide for better supervision and improved living accommodation.”

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Central Darts League. [1939]

1939 Register

Popes Lane – ROSE AND CROWN Public House

[1] *Rowland D. Massey*, date of birth 29/4/1881, public house manager, heavy work, married;

[2] *Elsie Massey*, dob 18/7/1883, housewife and helper in business, married:

It had a football team. [1952/3], [1953/4]

*Sydney Baden Button* – see also HOP AND BARLEYCORN, Tipton.

Closed

**ROSE IN JUNE**

11, Portway Road, (Shidas Lane), (Halesowen Street), OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

Rebecca Daniels [1851] – 1873):

## NOTES

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/2/1851

“W. Bailey of Oldbury states that if Jackson of Tividale means running, he will run him five or six score yards, for £10 or £25 a side. If not accepted, he will run Simcox or Jones of the Lye Waste on the same terms, or take three yards start of Nicholls of Toll End for £10 a side. The money is ready at the ROSE IN JUNE, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/11/1851

“William Bailey states that if Aston of Tipton is not romancing, he will run him five or six score yards level, for £10 or £25 a side, but will not give a start. The match can be made any night next week at the ROSE IN JUNE, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

### 1851 Census

Shidas Lane

- [1] *Rebecca Daniels* (45), widow, beer retailer, born Oldbury;
- [2] Hannah Nickliss (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [3] William Nickliss (14), son, born Oldbury:

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 29/2/1852

“W. Bailey of Oldbury informs Hale of Tividale that 440 yards is not his distance but he will run him 120 yards, or Astons of Tipton, Astons of Westbromwich, Simeon Jones of Lye Waste, or Daniel Whitehouse of Princes End, the same distance, or take three yards in 100 or four in 120 yards of Ellis of Halesowen, for from £5 to £20 a side. The money is ready at Mrs. *Daniels*'s, the ROSE IN JUNE, Oldbury.”

### Worcestershire Chronicle 1/6/1853

“*Rebecca Daniels*, of Oldbury, beerhouse keeper, of Oldbury, was fined 20s and costs for knowingly permitting card-playing for money, &c, in her house on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst; this being the second offence against the tenor of her license.”

*Rebecca Daniel*, beer retailer, ROSE IN JUNE, Shidas Lane [1855]

### 1861 Census

Portway Road – ROSE IN JUNE

- [1] *Rebecca Daniels* (56), widow, retail brewer, born Oldbury;
- [2] Rebecca Baily (13), servant, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1863

“Late on Sunday or early on Monday morning the house of *Rebecca Daniels*, the ROSE IN JUNE beer-house, was broken into. The thieves entered by the cellar window, and, from the appearances, they seemed to be well acquainted with the house. They must, however, have been disturbed, as they only took away with them some bacon, a chawl, and other provisions. Thus, unless some accident should lead to the dis-

covery of the offenders, there is nothing that will in all probability furnish a clue to the police to aid them in their endeavors to detect them.”

#### 1871 Census

11, Port Way Road

[1] *Rebecca Daniels* (68), mother, widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Elizabeth Nickless (17), grand-daughter, visitor, general servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1873

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Benjamin Duffield, WHY NOT, Talbot Street; *Rebecca Daniels*, ROSE IN JUNE; and Ann Sheldon, JUNCTION INN, Low Town, again appeared in support of their applications to be allowed time to improve their houses so as to bring them up to the standard of value required by the Act. Mr. Rolason, surveyor and valuer, of West Bromwich, attended in pursuance of an order to certify as to the value of the houses, and from his report it appeared that two of the houses were below the qualification.

The Magistrates intimated that they had not the power to adjourn the meeting further, and they thought that ample time had been given the applicants if they had chosen to avail themselves of the opportunity.

The license of Benjamin Duffield was renewed, as he had complied with the statute, whilst the two other applications were refused.”

### **ROYAL EXCHANGE**

17, Tat Bank Road, (115+116, Stone Street), Tat Bank, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

Thomas Franks, West Bromwich

Thomas Williams

J. A. and A. Thompson, maltsters, Oldbury

Isacke and Clark, 82, New Street, Birmingham (acquired c.1911)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (leased) (acquired c.1921) [1941]

J. A. and A. Thompson, Orchard Street, Oldbury (acquired c.1944)

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired c.1946)

#### LICENSEES

Thomas Walker [1880] – [1881]

George Bromwich [1884] – **1886**;

William Hollies (**1886**)

James Pennington (**1886 – 1890**);

Edward Jackson (**1890 – [ ]**)

Thomas Williams [ ] – **1894**);

Henry Round (**1894 – 1907**);

Mrs. Maria Round (**1907 – 1921**);

Thomas John Joseph Price (**1921 – 1932**);

William Adams (**1932 – 1940**);

Harvey Worthington (**1940 – 1942**);

Jack Nickless (**1942 – 1948**);

Alfred Mills (**1948 – 1950**);

Jack Nickless (1950 – 1956);  
Charles Henry Lloyd (1956 – 1959);  
F W Hodges (1959);  
William Smith (1959 – [1962])

## NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

### Birmingham Daily Post 23/2/1875 - Advert

“Beerhouse (good). To Let, the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tat Bank, Oldbury, close to large works. Other engagements. Good for enterprising couple.  
Apply, Edward Ellis, Publicans’ Valuer, 41, High Street, Wednesbury.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 1/1/1881 - Advert

“United Order of Free Gardeners Friendly Society, West Bromwich and Smethwick District.  
A Lodge of the above Order commenced at the house of *Thomas Walker*, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tat Bank, on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 1880. Every information can be obtained by applying at the above house.....”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 29/1/1881 - Advert

“Servant (Good General) Wanted.  
Apply Mrs. *Walker*, ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

### 1881 Census

115+116, Stone Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Thomas Walker* (44), coach builder, born Coleorton, Leicestershire;
- [2] Fanny Walker (41), wife, born Tiverton, Devon;
- [3] Frances M. Walker (19), daughter, pupil teacher, born Birmingham;
- [4] Sarah Ann Walker (17), daughter, pupil teacher, born Birmingham;
- [5] Thomas John Walker (13), son, assistant coach builder, born Oldbury;
- [6] Francis Joseph Walker (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] William Robert Walker (7), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Fanny Goss Walker (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [9] James H. Walker (2), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [10] Jane Felton (16), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

### West Bromwich Weekly News 3/9/1881

“Elijah Beddow was charged with refusing to quit the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tat Bank.  
*Thomas Walker*, landlord, said on the 15<sup>th</sup> ult defendant went to his house, and when witness thought defendant had had sufficient beer he asked him to leave, but he refused to do so.  
At last he felt constrained to eject defendant. Whilst doing so, defendant became very violent, which led to his being thrown into the gutter. (Laughter.)  
Defendant was fined 5s and costs, or 14 days’ hard labour.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1884 - Advert

“ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tat Bank, Oldbury. Very good Beerhouse. In-coming and rent low.  
Apply to William Henry Pass, Auctioneer and Public-house Valuer, 491, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 21/5/1887

“John Windmill (31), of Hall Farm, Langley Green, was fined 2s 6d and costs, or 14 days, for being drunk and quarrelsome in the ROYAL EXCHANGE, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Jackson appeared to prosecute.”

*Henry Round*, beer retailer, 17, Tatbank Road. [1896]

#### 1901 Census

17, Tat Bank Road

- [1] *Henry Round* (52), beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Miria Round* (52), wife, born Dublin;
- [3] Joseph Lewis (27), wife's son, general labourer, born Oldbury;
- [4] William Dunn (18), wife's son, general labourer, born Oldbury;
- [5] Kate Dunn (24), wife's daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] James Rayner (47), boarder, widower, chemical worker, born Oldbury;
- [7] James Rayner (8), boarder's son, born Oldbury;
- [8] Sarah Rayner (11), boarder's daughter, born Oldbury;
- [9] Lucy Rayner (8), boarder's daughter, born Oldbury;
- [10] Rose Whitehouse (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### 1911 Census

17, Tat Bank Road – ROYAL EXCHANGE Public House

- [1] *Maria Round* (61), widow, publican, born Dublin;
- [2] William Dunn (28), son, fitter's labourer, born Oldbury;
- [3] Sarah Rayner (21), niece, barmaid, born Oldbury;
- [4] Lucy Rayner (18), niece, domestic servant, born Oldbury;
- [5] James Rayner (18), nephew, clerk, warehouse, steel works, born Oldbury:

Mrs. *Maria Round*, beer retailer, 17, Tat Bank Road. [1912]

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 15/3/1913

“A case of interest to licensed victuallers came before the Bench, when *Maria Round*, licensee of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tat Bank, was summoned for selling beer in a bottle not properly labeled, to a child under 14 years of age, contrary to the Licensing Act, 1904.

Mr. Frank Dawes (Messrs. Bonser and Dawes) appeared for the defence.

PS Dainty gave evidence that on February 25<sup>th</sup> he was on duty near the above-named licensed premises, when he noticed a boy leave with a bottle, which contained no cork. He stopped him and upon examining the bottle found that it had not been corked, but the label required by the Act had been put across the top of the bottle, which witness produced. Witness took the bottle containing the beer to the house and saw defendant's niece, who admitted serving the beer, and said she was short of corks. He subsequently saw the defendant, who stated that she had been in business all her life, and would never have served the beer without being properly sealed.

In reply to Superintendent Davis, witness said he had received instructions to watch licensed houses in connection with the longpull, and it was whilst watching the house in question that he noticed this. There was no question of the longpull at this particular house.

Mr. Dawes, for the defence, said the Act required that children under 14 should be supplied in corked and sealed bottles, and the evidence of the police officer was that this beer was supplied in a sealed vessel, but not corked. On behalf of the defendant he pleaded guilty, but he would like to explain that on the night in question Mrs. *Round* was away from home, and the house was in charge of her niece, a young lady aged 23, who had lived with her 19 years, and understood the business. It seemed that they had been short of corks, and had ordered a fresh supply from the brewery, and when the boy came in for the beer there were a number left, but there was not one which would fit the bottle. The young lady, therefore, foolishly allowed the bottle to go sealed but not corked. Nobody else had been supplied in similar circumstances, and the boy only lived about 100 yards away, so he had not to take the beer far. The defendant was well known in the town as the keeper of this house, which she and her husband had kept for 19 years, and as it was in a poor quarter of the town, it spoke volumes for the conduct of the house during the 19 years that there had never been a conviction nor even a complaint against the management of the house until the present summons, and even in this poor district of Tat Bank defendant had never had to ask for the services of the police in the

conduct of that house. It was very rare that she was away, but it just unfortunately happened that on that particular night she went to Birmingham, otherwise this would not have occurred. She had asked him to express to the Bench her great regret that this had happened, as she had been very zealous for the upkeep of her house and license, and having regard to her 19 years good character he asked the Bench whether, under the circumstances, the justice of the case would not be met by the payment of costs. He submitted that it was not a serious offence, and defendant was very anxious that her character should be without a conviction. Superintendent Davis said there had been no complaints, and the house had been conducted very satisfactorily indeed, but in regard to what Mr. Dawes said, it was a question for the Bench to decide. If there had been an accident or oversight the case could have been withdrawn, but there was no accident or oversight. It was a deliberate action in not having corked the bottle.

The Bench having considered the case, the Chairman said the label only covered the neck of the bottle, and it was a case in which there had been a distinct breach of the law. However, they did not regard it as a serious case, and defendant would be fined 5s and costs.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1914

“Queen Mary’s Appeal ..... help our men who are in the fighting line.....

We have pleasure today in acknowledging the receipt of blankets from the WHEATSHEAF, the ROYAL EXCHANGE, and Nelson Street, Tat Bank, Oldbury.....”

*Thomas John Joseph Price* – see also BELL, Rood End.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/6/1932

“John Horton, aged 28, and John William Hickman, aged 20, labourers, were at Worcester Assizes yesterday charged with having robbed Frederick James Payne with violence at Oldbury on 15 March. Hickman pleaded guilty, and Horton not guilty.

It was stated by the prosecution that Payne, a hawker from Langley, foolishly displayed £35 in notes in the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Oldbury. Defendants were standing near, and when Payne left, made signals to each other and followed him out. Horton got into conversation with Payne, and they both went along the towing-path of the canal, where, it was added, Horton suddenly turned on Payne and savagely assaulted him. Before he fell Hickman appeared on the scene. When Payne came to himself all his money had been taken. Horton swore that when he left the inn he went straight home – only two doors away – and he denied having any understanding with Hickman,

The hearing was adjourned till today.”

AND

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/6/1932

“John Horton, aged 28, and John William Hickman, aged 20, labourers, of Oldbury, were each sentenced at Worcestershire Assizes yesterday to 18 months’ hard labour and ordered to receive 15 strokes of the ‘cat’ for robbing Frederick J. Payne, a hawker, of Langley, with violence.....

‘Robbery with violence has become prevalent of late, and we must stamp it out,’ said Mr. Justice Horridge. Supt. Mobbs described Hickman as a brutal, idle and pugnacious fellow, stupid but cunning. Horton, he said, was a keen and persistent thief, and undoubtedly the leader of the two men.”

#### 1939 Register

17, Tat Bank Road

[1] *William Adams*, date of birth 20/3/1898, manager, licensee, married;

[2] Doris (Adams) Willetts, dob 16/6/1902, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Doris E. Adams, dob 7/7/1928, at school, single;

[4] Hilda M. (Darby) Chew, dob 18/6/1917, bar general, single:

[Doris married Willetts in 1961.]

#### Birmingham Mail 17/7/1941 - Advert

“Bar-General top wages young.

ROYAL EXCHANGE M&B Tat Bank Road, Oldbury.”

*Charles Henry Lloyd* – see also BARREL.

Closed

## ROYAL EXCHANGE

103, (105), Tipton Road, (New Road), (Sedgley Road), TIVIDALE

## OWNERS

Mrs. Emma Southall [1894], [1901]  
Plant's Brewery Ltd., Netherton  
Hereford and Tredegar Breweries Limited

## LICENSEES

James Downes [1869]  
Thomas Dugmore [1871] – **1871**);  
Thomas Moss (**1871 – 1877**);  
Sarah Male\* (**1877** – [1881]  
Sarah Neale\* (**1881**);  
Isaiah Hall (**1881** – [1882]  
Henry Woodall [ ] – **1885**);  
Richard Leighton (**1885** – [ ]  
Ezra Cox [1886]  
Thomas Brown [1889]  
Joseph Brown [1891]  
Mrs. Emma Southall [1896] – [1904]  
Albert Paskin [ ] – **1905**);  
George Harry Yates (**1905** – [1907]  
Albert Paskin [1911] – [1912]  
John Lewis Maybury (**1913** – [ ]  
Joseph Collins [1916] – **1924**):  
William Hadley [1932] ?

## NOTES

105, Tipton Road [1881], [1891], [1894], [1911]  
103, Tipton Road [1896], [1904], [1932]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“Rowley Regis. The annual licensing meeting for this division was held on Friday, at COOKSEYS HOTEL, Old Hill.....

Mr. Mills said in his report of the beerhouses, the house of Jane Slim, Blackheath; William Weaver, PEACOCK, Cradley Heath; and *James Downes*, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tividale were disorderly.”



County Advertiser 30/10/1869

“James Downes, beerhouse keeper, Tividale, was fined 5s and costs for permitting drunkenness in his house.”

1871 Census

Sedgley Road

- [1] *Thomas Dugmore* (61), publican, born Newport, Shropshire;
- [2] *Eliza Dugmore* (60), wife, born Newport, Shropshire;
- [3] *Thomas Dugmore* (27), son, brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Samuel Dugmore* (19), son, brewer, born Rowley Regis:

London Gazette 23/1/1877

“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 *Thomas Moss*, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, New-road, Tividale, in the parish of Rowley Regis, Staffordshire, Grocer, Beer Retailer, and Carpenter.

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. William Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1877, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1877.

Wm. Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Solicitor for the said *Thomas Moss*.”

Dudley Herald 10/2/1877

“In liquidation ..... re *Thomas Moss*, innkeeper and shopkeeper, Tividale ..... Unreserved sale at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, New Road, Tividale ..... to be sold by auction ..... the whole of the public house fixtures and trade utensils, together with the licenses, goodwill and possession.”

1881 Census

105, Tipton Road – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Sarah Male* (29), married, publican, born Tipton;
- [2] *Charles Male* (10), son, scholar, born Tipton;
- [3] *Mary A. Male* (8), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;
- [4] *Edward Waldron* (24), cousin, action filer, born Warwick;
- [5] *Henry Jevons* (17), nephew, printer, born Tipton;
- [6] *Charles Jevons* (5), nephew, scholar, born Tipton:

\*possibly the same person

*Isaiah Hall* = *Isaiah Hale*

Dudley and District News 2/9/1882

“Old Hill annual Brewster Sessions were held at the Police Court on Wednesday.....

The following is the black list, and in each of the cases the licenses were suspended till the adjourned licensing meeting ..... Beerhouse Keepers.....

*Isaiah Hall*, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Sedgley Road, Tividale, drunk and disorderly, fined 2s 6d and costs.”

AND

County Advertiser 2/9/1882

“Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The beerhouse keepers whose names appeared on the black list were as follows.....

*Isaiah Hale*, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Sedgley Road, Tividale.....

Renewal of their licenses was suspended till the adjourned licensing day.”

#### Dudley and District News 30/9/1882

“This being the Old Hill adjourned licensing sessions the Bench granted a renewal of the licenses which were suspended at the last annual general sessions. The Chairman stated that the magistrates had very carefully considered each case, and they had decided to renew the licenses on the understanding that some assurance was given on the part of each defaulter, that their respective houses should be better conducted in the future. The Bench were determined that the law should be enforced, and if the defendants were guilty of any further offence against the Licensing Laws they would be severely punished and their licenses forfeited. The Chairman added that Henry Heath, who was convicted for selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, was now taking out a six days’ license instead of a seven days’, and his license was renewed on that condition; and if any of the others wished to have six days’ licenses the Bench would be pleased to grant them.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/6/1886

“At the Police court, yesterday, *Ezra Cox*, publican and grocer, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Tividale, near Dudley, was fined £1 10s 4d, including costs, for selling coffee adulterated with 48 per cent of chicory.”

#### Dudley Mercury 19/10/1889

“Joseph Barnes and William Barnes, both of Great Bridge, were charged with being disorderly, and refusing to quit the premises of *Thomas Brown*, EXCHANGE INN, Tipton Road, Tividale, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst; William Barnes was also charged with assaulting *Thomas Brown*, on the same date.

Defendants went into complainant’s house and called for a pint of fourpenny. They had not been there long before they commenced a row. They were asked to go out, but they refused to do so. They left eventually, but returned, and again created a disturbance, and on complainant asking them to leave, William Barnes kicked him on the thigh.

Defendants were fined 10s and costs for being disorderly, and William Barnes was fined 5s and cost for the assault.”

#### 1891 Census

105, Tipton Road – ROYAL EXCHANGE

[1] *Joseph Brown* (53), beerhouse keeper, born Brewwood, Staffordshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Brown* (52), wife, born Bloxwich:

#### County Advertiser 24/3/1894

“Rowley Regis Local Board ..... Medical Officer’s Report.....

Attention had been called to the state of the house No.105, Tipton Road, Tividale, belonging to *Emma Southall*. It is used as a beerhouse. Both cellars were damp from the leakage of either a closet or a disused drain. The ceiling and roof were in a ruinous condition, and the house generally dilapidated. He did not consider it fit for human habitation, and asked that an order might be made for it to be closed. It was without any water supply. He trusted the delayed order for the supply of water at Tipton Road and Gilbert Street, Tividale, would be enforced this month. The Water Works Company are laying a main down the Tipton Road at the present time.....

With regard to the two cases of defective closet accommodation mentioned in the report, the Chairman thought that proper notices should at once be served for two additional closets to be erected. He had spoken to the Chairman of the Water Works Company on the question of the supply of water to Tividale, and that gentleman had repudiated the idea that the company were at all dilatory in the carrying out of orders.”

#### County Advertiser 21/7/1894

“Rowley Regis Local Board.....

The Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. Nicklin) reported that during the past month 474 ashpits attached to 647 closets have been emptied at a cost of £126 15s or an average of 5s 4d per ashpit over the whole area.

During the same period 14 houses had been limewashed, 83 houses had been disinfected, and the clothing of 183 persons disinfected. These were chiefly from children with measles.....

The closets at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tipton Road, and the houses adjoining, belonging to Mrs. Eliza-

beth [sic] *Southall*, were now pulled down, and new ones were being erected at a greater distance from the houses.”

Mrs. *Emma Southall*, beer retailer, 103, Tipton Road, Tividale. [1896], [1900], [1904]

County Advertiser 14/8/1897

“Emma Deakin, of Tipton Road, Tividale, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. She was also charged with damaging a window, value 2s 6d, the property of *Emma Southall*, landlady of the ROYAL OAK [sic] INN, Tividale.

Police-constable Robinson proved the case of drunkenness, and the landlady stated that defendant deliberately smashed the window.

Defendant was fined £1 2s, including costs.”

County Advertiser 25/6/1898

“*Emma Southall*, landlady of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Tipton Road, Tividale, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises, and also for supplying ale to a drunken person on the 28<sup>th</sup> May. Mr. Clulow, of Brierley Hill, prosecuted on behalf of the Chief Constable, and Mr. H. Tinsley, of Dudley, defended.

Mr. Clulow explained that at five minutes past nine on the night in question, Police-constable Nichol was on duty in Tipton Road, Tividale, when he saw a man named Pugh, who lived near, going in the direction of the public house. He was staggering about from side to side, and in a very drunken condition. The officer saw him enter the house, and a short time after followed him in. In the tap room there were a number of men drinking, and amongst them he saw Pugh sitting down near the table drinking from a jug. It was evident to everyone that the man was drunk, and the officer pointed out his condition to the landlady, and he asked her how she came to supply him. She replied, ‘I did not notice he was drunk, he came in and called for a pint of ale and my son served him.’ The officer left, but shortly returned in company with Police-constable Robinson, and just as they were entering Pugh came out assisted by the landlady, who was keeping him from falling down. Robinson questioned the landlady as to who served Pugh with beer, and she replied, ‘Yes, I know he is drunk, but I did not think he was so bad. My son supplied him, and he has only had one pint.’ When Robinson served the summons defendant said Pugh came in the afternoon, and she served him with a pint of ale. He came in again in the evening when he was quiet. She further said that she should say Pugh was drunk before the magistrates. When he served Pugh with the summons he denied the offence, but when the landlady told him that he was in the house on the date in question he admitted it.

Police-constables Nichol and Robinson gave evidence in support of this statement.

For the defence, Mr. Tinsley submitted that in the conduct and manner of Pugh whilst he was in the house there was nothing to show that he was drunk.

Mrs. *Southall* was called, and she denied that Pugh was drunk. She also denied that she made any admissions to the police officers.

Defendant’s son, John *Southall*, and a man named Joseph Kinsey also gave evidence.

The Bench dismissed the first case on payment of costs, and in the second case inflicted a fine of £5 and costs. The total costs and fines amounted to £8 11s.

William Pugh, of Gilbert Street, Tividale, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises named on the same date. Police-constable Nichol proved the case, and defendant was fined 1s and costs.”

Dudley Herald 30/7/1898

“Emma Deakin, of Gilbert Street, Tividale, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, with using threats to *Emma Southall*, and with damaging two panes of glass valued at 5s, the property of *Emma Southall*, and also with being drunk and disorderly on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst.

PCs Nichol and Robinson and *Emma Southall* gave evidence.

In the case of threats she was bound over to keep the peace for three months, and in the other cases the fines and costs defendant was ordered to pay amounted to £3 2s 6d.”

County Advertiser 17/9/1898

“Emma Deakin, a well-known character, residing at Tividale, was charged with using threats towards *Emma Southall*, landlady of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Tividale, on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. Defendant did not appear. Complainant alleged that on the date named defendant came to her house in a drunken condition, and threw a brick at the window, breaking it. Defendant said she would dash her brains out, and made use of very foul language. Witness thought she was bound over the last time she was summoned. Inspector Given: She went to jail in default of finding sureties. Complainant said she was afraid to sit in the house. Defendant was again bound over to keep the peace for three months.”

#### Dudley Herald 4/8/1900 - Notice

“The Licensing Acts, 1872 and 1874.

To the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to the Superintendent of Police of the District in which the House and Premises hereinafter mentioned are situate, and to all others whom it may concern.

I, *Emma Southall*, of ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Tipton Road, Tividale, in the County of Stafford, Beer-house-keeper, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to apply at the next General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Old Hill Division of the County of Stafford, to be holden at the Police Court, Old Hill, aforesaid, on Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 1900, for a Certificate authorising the grant to me of an Excise License to Sell by Retail Intoxicating Liquor, to be consumed on the said Premises thereunto belonging, situate and being the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Tipton Road, Tividale, in pursuance of the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, 1828, and Acts amending the same, of which house and premises I am now the owner and occupier.

Given under my hand this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1900.

*Emma Southall*.

Sharpe and Darby, Solicitors, West Bromwich.”

#### County Express 25/8/1900

“The annual licensing sessions for the petty sessional division of Rowley Regis were held on Wednesday..... *Emma Southall*, landlady of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Tividale, applied, through Mr. C. H. Darby, for a full license for that house. Mr. T. W. Clulow, from the office of Mr. J. W. Clulow, opposed the application on behalf of the RED LION. Mrs. *Southall* said she had kept the house for some time and it was her own property. There was a large population round, and she had a numerously signed testimonial to support the application. She was frequently asked for whiskey and brandy etc by travellers and was unable to supply them. A short time ago there was an accident at a marl hole near, and they came for some spirits and she could not supply them. Cross-examined, there was a full licensed house a short distance away. Asked as to why so many of the names on the memorial were evidently written by the same person, she said the names of those people who could not write, but who had been present when the names were written, and some had put their crosses by them.

The application was refused.”

AND

#### County Advertiser 25/8/1900

“Mr. C. H. Darby applied for a full license for Mrs. *Emma Southall*, landlady of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Tipton Road, Tividale. The house had always been carried on satisfactorily. The grounds on which she made the application were that sometimes accidents happened and people were brought into the house for spirits, and in a case of that sort she had had to send for some from other places. Travellers often called for spirits, and she had to send them away.

Mr. J. W. Clulow opposed the application on behalf of Mr. Whale, of the RED LION INN, and said that these two houses were only about fifty yards apart, and there were only seventy-nine cottages round about. The Bench refused the application.”

#### 1901 Census

Tipton Road – ROYAL EXCHANGE

[1] *Emma Southall* (70), widow, innkeeper, born Cricklade, Wiltshire;

[2] Hannah Sullivan (49), domestic servant, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/10/1901 - Advert

“ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tipton Road, Tividale, near Dudley.

Messrs. Gray and Walker are instructed by the Owner, Mrs. *Southall*, to Sell by Auction, at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday Next, October 24, at Half-past Four for Five pm promptly, the Freehold, with immediate possession, of the above Capital Home-Brewing Beerhouse, and Ten Cottages adjoining.

This Property is situated on the main road from Wolverhampton to Tipton and Oldbury, near to Dudley, Dudley Port, and Albion Railway Stations, and trams to Dudley, West Bromwich and Great Bridge.

This House is situate in the midst of a large number of ironworks, brickfields, and manufactories, and must always command a large trade.

The Beerhouse will let for £50 per annum, and the Cottages produce at weekly rentals £78, making a total rental of £128 per annum.

The Fixtures, Fittings, Brewing Plant, and Stock-in-Trade will be required to be taken to at valuation in the usual way.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Hooper and Taylor, Solicitors, Bank Chambers, Dudley; or to the Auctioneers, 8, Temple Row, Birmingham.”

AND

Smethwick Weekly News 5/10/1901 - Advert

“ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tipton Road, Tividale, near Dudley.....

The Public House Premises comprise Club Rooms, Three Bed Rooms, Bar, Tap Room, Kitchen, Scullery, Brewhouse, Garden, Piggeries, Yard (with gateway entrance), Stables, &c.....”

*Emma Southall* – see also CRYSTAL PALACE.

*Albert Paskin* – see also ASH TREE, Tividale.

County Advertiser 3/8/1907

“*George Harry Yates*, licensee of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Tipton Road, Tividale, was summoned for permitting drunkenness upon his licensed premises, and also for supplying a drunken person on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. J. W. Clulow prosecuted for the chief constable, and Mr. W. A. Foster defended.

The case for the prosecution was that on the date named Police-constables Heatherley and Walton saw a man named Jabez Bassett leaving the house in a drunken state.

The defence was that the man was perfectly sober, and that he was ordered to leave the premises because he was singing and dancing.

The Bench fined defendant £3 and costs, amounting in all to £5 17s 6d. Bassett was fined 20s and costs for being drunk upon the premises.”

1911 Census

105, Tipton Road

[1] *Albert Paskin* (37), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Rowley;

[2] Samuel Paskin (76), father, widower, retired sheet iron roller, born Rowley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/2/1920

“At the annual licensing sessions for Old Hill yesterday, Inspector Robotham ..... objected to the renewal of the licenses of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tividale, and the BARLEY MOW, Springfield, on the grounds of redundancy.”

Dudley Chronicle 5/6/1920 - Advert

“To Brewers.

Notice of Sale by Auction of Seven Valuable Freehold Fully-Licensed and On-Beerhouses, with Cottages and Lands, in and around Dudley and District.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL,

Dudley, on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1920, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, as follows.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, New Road, Tividale (Beerhouse On), under Management.....

The Auctioneers desire to call attention to the above important Sale of Licensed Properties, which are situate in well-populated districts, several being close to large works, and all capable of doing excellent trades. The houses are held either on short tenancies or under management, so that early possession of all may, if required, be had, or in the meantime purchasers will have the advantage of the valuable trading agreements.....”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on the ground of redundancy.

#### Dudley Chronicle 13/3/1924

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill Petty Session Division was held at the Police Court on March 5.....

Objection was taken to the renewal of the license of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Tipton Road, Tividale, kept by *Joseph Collins* and owned by the Hereford and Tredegar Breweries Limited, on the grounds of redundancy.

PS Sharratt gave evidence to the effect that the weekly sale was four barrels of beer. Within a distance of 500 yards there were six fully licensed premises and four beerhouse on licenses. The structural condition of the house was bad.....

The Bench retired and after deliberating in private for some time, the Chairman said that the four houses of which the Bench had taken details would be scheduled for compensation at Stafford.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/7/1924

“At a meeting under the Licensing Consolidation Act the Staffordshire Compensation Authority refused yesterday to renew the licences of fifteen houses on the ground of redundancy.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tividale, ante 1869 beerhouse.”

AND

#### 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.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE, a beerhouse at Tividale.”

#### 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.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE, Tividale, £1,100.”

It closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1924.

## **ROYAL OAK**

1, Causeway Green Road / 1, Langley Green Road, Langley Green, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Mrs. Ada (Butler) Smith, Aldridge

Houlton, Birmingham  
Daniel Moulton [1877]  
Hutton Brewery Ltd., Cato Street, Birmingham  
City Brewery Co. Ltd., Birmingham  
Holders Brewery Co. Ltd. [1909], [1911]  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired c.1920)  
Punch Taverns  
Star (Heineken UK) (acquired 5/3/2018)

## LICENSEES

Joseph Field [1851]  
E Field [1854]  
Joseph Field [1855] – [1861]  
Charles Essex [1863] – [1869]  
Gideon Smith [1881] – **1886**;  
Ann Elizabeth Smith (**1886 – 1887**);  
William Fantom (**1887 – 1888**);  
Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Fantom (**1888 – 1895**);  
Alfred Smith (**1895 – 1912**);  
Mrs. Ada Rebecca Smith (**1912 – 1921**);  
Frederick Benjamin ‘Fred’ Butler (**1921 – 1941**);  
Gertrude Butler (**1941 – 1944**);  
Lilla Phoebe Hamblett (**1944 – 1945**);  
Ronald Frederick Ward (**1945 – 1946**);  
John Charles ‘Jack’ Summerton (**1946 – 1952**);  
Francis George Lawton (**1952 – 1959**);  
Dennis Burns (**1959 – 1960**);  
Frederick Ashcroft (**1960 – 1961**);  
William Storey (**1961 – 1962**);  
Ronald Turner (**1962 – [ ]**)  
Arthur Davis [ ]  
Kevin Michael Byrne [1982]  
M S Daley [1990]  
Mohon Singh [1997]

## NOTES

[1844]

Smethwick Telephone 20/6/1952

‘Smethwick and Round About’ by W. Ellery Jephcott

“.....At the junction of Langley Green Road stood the RED LION public house, which has been rebuilt and now bears the sign of the ROYAL OAK.....”

It had a beerhouse license.

*Joseph Field*, retailer of beer, Langley Green. [1851]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 5/11/1854

“At Mr. *E. Field*’s ROYAL OAK, Langley Green, on Monday last, a sparrow match was shot by 12 sub-

scribers at 10s, each, for a fat pig, 12 score. After some excellent shooting Messrs. Cottis and Hadley tied, having killed 17 birds out of 18 each. Mr. Cottis then paid Hadley his moiety of the stakes and took the pig.”

#### 1861 Census

Langley Green – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] *Joseph Field* (67), sawyer, born Warley;

[2] *Hannah Field* (66), wife, born Langley;

[3] *William Field* (32), son, sawyer, born Langley;

[4] *Alice Field* (3), grand-daughter, born Langley;

[5] *Hannah Field* (35), niece, house servant, born Bristnall Fields:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/2/1863

“At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, *Charles Essex*, beerhouse keeper, Langley Green, was charged with having kept his house open for the sale of beer during prohibited hours. As this was the first known offence, the Bench allowed the case to be dismissed, on defendant paying costs.”

#### County Express 29/5/1869

“*Charles Essex*, ROYAL OAK INN, was charged with having his house open for the sale of liquors after eleven o’clock on the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst.

Police-constable Jones said he was on duty on the Tuesday night last near defendant’s beerhouse, and seeing it open at a quarter to twelve, went in, and saw defendant hand a man a pint of ale. When he charged him defendant said he would not be bounced over by any policeman. After the officer had left, having threatened to take out a summons against him, as he was going up the street, defendant called out that he could have him up if he liked, he wasn’t going to be insulted by him in that way, he did not care for him. Defendant had been at the house fourteen or fifteen years. There had been a tea party at his house that evening. There were forty or fifty in the house.

Defendant said he had had a tea party that evening, and as he was doing but little business he thought he would run the risk for once.

The Bench remarked that he had no right to insult the police and that he was doing wrong in keeping his house open. He would be fined 10s and costs, amounting to £1 6s.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/9/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Hales Owen division was held yesterday at the Public Office.....

There were 84 applications for certificates under the New Beer Act, which were all granted with the exception of *Joseph Pendrill*’s, HEN AND CHICKENS, Oldbury, which was refused altogether; and that of *Charles Essex*, the ROYAL OAK, Langley, which was adjourned for a fortnight.”

#### County Express 14/8/1875 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the ROYAL OAK, Langley Green, near Oldbury.

To Horse Dealers, Hauliers, Parties Furnishing, and Others.

Messrs. Hawkins and Son will Sell by Auction, on Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1875, Four Powerful Working Horses, with their Gearing; Two Capital Iron Merchant’s Wagons, Two Broad-wheel Carts, Plough and Harrows, Household Furniture, Handsome Engravings, Chimney and Toilet Glasses, Mahogany, Oak and Deal Tables, Mahogany Corner Cupboards, Sofas and Couches, Mahogany Centre Loo Table, Eight-day Time-pieces, Windsor and Cane-seated Chairs, Feather Beds, Mattresses, Bedsteads, Bed Linen, Violin, Violoncello, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock. The Horses and Wagons will be sold at Two o’clock.

Auctioneer’s Offices, 32, Dudley Street, Brierley Hill.”

#### 1881 Census

Causeway Green Road

[1] *Gideon Smith* (41), publican, born Langley;



- [2] Elizabeth Smith (40), wife, born Bush Lanes, Worcestershire;  
[3] Annie Smith (18), daughter, milliner, born Bush Lanes, Worcestershire;  
[4] Bertha Smith (15), daughter, born Bristnall Fields:

West Bromwich Weekly News 6/8/1881

“John Thomas, Langley, was charged with refusing to quit, and assaulting David Smith. Prosecutor said, in consequence of the defendant refusing to quit the ROYAL OAK, Langley, he sent for the police. As he was going he met the defendant, who without any provocation, struck him on the face. Fined 5s and costs for being drunk, and 20s and costs, or one month hard labour, for the assault.”

*Ann Elizabeth Smith* married *William Fantom* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1887.

Birmingham Daily Post 31/12/1887 - Advert

“Sale of Properties, January 17, 1888.....

Lot 3. Langley Green. (By direction of the Executrix of the late Mr. Daniel Moulton.)

A Valuable Freehold Full-Licensed Public House, known as the ROYAL OAK, situate at the corner of Causeway Green Road and Langley Road, Langley Green, near Oldbury, and Two Cottages adjoining, with their appurtenances, the whole let to Mrs. *Smith*, at an old-fashioned rent.

This is a well-situated corner Tavern in a good neighbourhood for business, and being free from Lease is particularly well worth the attention of Brewers.”

*William Fantom* died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1888.

*Ann Elizabeth Fantom* = Ann Elizabeth Fanthom

1891 Census

Langley Road – ROYAL OAK INN

- [1] *Ann E. Fanthom* (50), widow, publican, born Warley;  
[2] Hannah Hodgetts (19), domestic servant, born Langley Green:

Mrs. *Ann Elizabeth Fantom*, beer retailer, 1, Causeway Green Road, Langley. [1896]

1901 Census

1, Causeway Green Road

- [1] *Alfred Smith* (30), publican, beerhouse, born Oldbury;  
[2] *Ada R. Smith* (30), wife, born Oldbury;  
[3] Alfred W. Smith (7), son, born Oldbury;  
[4] Sarah Ada Smith (5), daughter, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/9/1901

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The following licence holders presented plans for alterations to their premises.....

*Alfred Smith*, ROYAL OAK INN, Langley Green.....

The magistrates examined the plans, and Mr. Wilson stated that several of them had personally examined the premises ..... Refused.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/4/1909

“Mr. A. M. Chance presided at the special Licensing Sessions at Oldbury yesterday, when Mr. J. S. Sharpe, on behalf of Holders Brewery Ltd, applied for permission to rebuild the following houses: SYCAMORE INN (L. V.), Clay Lane; SPREAD EAGLE (full licence), Park Lane; and the ROYAL OAK (beerhouse), corner of Langley Green Road and Causeway Green Road.

Mr. Sharpe said the police had objected to the renewal of the licence of the SYCAMORE, because the premises were structurally unsuitable. The plans provided for the rebuilding of the premises, which were

old-fashioned and dilapidated. The domestic accommodation would be greatly improved, and in consideration of a slight increase in the drinking area they would surrender the licence of the RAILWAY INN, Langley Green Road, an ante-69 beerhouse. With regard to the other two applications there would be no increase in the drinking area, but the domestic quarters would be much improved in each case. The ROYAL OAK would be set back some distance, and 150 square yards of land would be given up for improving the corner. Mr. A. Edwards, architect, of Birmingham, submitted plans, and said the cost would be about £1,000 in each case. The alterations would be completed in the licensing year.

Mr. Chance asked that the RAILWAY INN should be closed at Midsummer, and the applications were then granted, subject to the surrender being satisfactory.”

#### 1911 Census

Causeway Green Road – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *Alfred Smith* (40), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Ada Smith* (40), wife, married 18 years, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Sarah Smith* (16), daughter, still at school, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Alfred William Smith* (17), son, auditor's clerk, born Oldbury:

*Alfred Smith*, beer retailer, 1, Causeway Green Road. [1912]

Mrs. *Ada Smith*, beer retailer, 1, Causeway Green Road, Langley. [1916]

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/2/1916

“At Halesowen yesterday Alfred William Smith, a centre-forward of the Birmingham FC, residing at the ROYAL OAK, Langley Green, was fined 20s for riding a motor-cycle the rear identification plate of which was obscured.”

#### 1939 Register

1, Causeway Green Road

- [1] *Frederick B. Butler*, date of birth 6/10/1874, licensee, beerhouse on, married;
- [2] *Gertrude Butler*, dob 6/11/1902, housewife, married;
- [3] *Florence (Billington) White*, dob 2/6/1908, barmaid, single:

*Fred Butler* was the brother of *Ada Smith*.

He married *Gertie Billington*, who was a barmaid at the pub.

*Frederick Butler*, beer retailer, 1, Causeway Green Road, Langley. [1921]

*Jack Summerton* was married to *Edith*.

He was born in 1909.

He died in 1976.

See also KING WILLIAM, Dudley, TURF, and SHRUBBERY, Tipton.

*Arthur Davis* married *Floss Butler*.

A Full license was granted on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1949, and confirmed on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1949.

*Frederick Ashcroft* – check GEORGE, Smethwick.

A team from here took part in the Smethwick and District Charity Darts League. [1981/2], [1986/7]

#### London Gazette 11/11/1982

“*Kevin Michael Byrne*, residing at 56 Westbury Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17 8JH, unemployed and previously residing and carrying on business at the ROYAL OAK, Causeway Green Road, Langley, Old-

bury, West Midlands as a Tenant Publican.  
Court - Birmingham.  
Date of Filing Petition - 26th October 1982.  
Date of Receiving Order - 26th October 1982.  
Whether Debtor's or Creditor's Petition – Debtor's.

It was restored in 1984.

A team from here took part in the Dudley Bowls League. [1986], [1987]

[2014]

Closed [2016]

#### Halesowen News 7/6/2021

“A fire-damaged former Oldbury pub will be converted into a huge 21 bed HMO, if plans get the go-ahead. A proposal to convert the former ROYAL OAK INN on Causeway Green Road into a house of multiple occupation has gone in to Sandwell Council. The application, from Lichfield-based Neil Boddison Associates, includes the building of a third floor as well as the installation of loft dormer windows and a new boundary wall with railings. Plans show five bedrooms with en-suites on the ground floor and a communal kitchen and six bedrooms with en-suites and a communal kitchen on the first and second floors. On the third floor there's four bedrooms with en-suites and a landlord's store. There are four car parking spaces. The building has been ravaged by fire, with part of it having collapsed. House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) living involves sharing part of the accommodation. It applies to both bedsit-style housing and shared housing where a group of people who are not related share a house or flat.”

#### Halesowen News 23/11/2021

“A former Oldbury pub will be converted into a huge 22 bed HMO after planners gave the scheme the thumbs up. A proposal to convert the former ROYAL OAK INN on Causeway Green Road into a house of multiple occupation has been approved by Sandwell Council. The huge HMO will have three floors, with an extra floor added onto the former pub. There will be just four parking spaces with access from Langley Green Road. A report commissioned by the developer states this is 'ample' as many households do not have cars. The application, from Lichfield-based Neil Boddison Associates, shows five bedrooms with en-suites and a communal kitchen on the ground floor and seven bedrooms with en-suites and a communal kitchen on the first and second floors. On the third floor there's three bedrooms with en-suites and a communal kitchen as well as a landlord's store. The proposal features a new boundary wall with railings. The decision was registered on November 12.”

### **ROYAL OAK**

31, (43), Dingle Street, Rounds Green, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

James Law, Rounds Green, Oldbury  
Benjamin Law  
Alfred Thompson  
J. A. and A. Thompson  
Frederick Smith Ltd. [1904]  
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1959)

## LICENSEES

Benjamin Law [1861] – [1873]  
William Bister [1877]  
John Benjamin Hartland [1880] – [1881]  
Samuel Babbs (1881 – 1886);  
Samuel Boswell (1886 – 1887);  
Henry Fairley (1887);  
Mrs. Catherine Bates (1887 – 1888);  
George Hughes (1888 – 1889);  
Thomas Reuben Preston (1889);  
Thomas Goodwin (1889 – 1891);  
Frank Edward Stubbs (1891 – 1894);  
Enos Stanley (1894 – 1896);  
Thomas William Alexander (1896);  
J. A. and A. Thompson Ltd. (1896 – 1897);  
James Hartland (1897 – 1899);  
Frederick Smith Ltd. (1899 – 1906);  
James Swallow [1901] manager?  
William Arthur Hill (1906 – 1910);  
David Willetts (1910 – 1913);  
John Clarke Trueman (1913 – 1929);  
Jeremiah Rogers (1929 – 1936);  
Edith Rogers (1936 – 1937);  
James Knott (1937 – 1942);  
Adelaide May Knott (1942 – 1960);  
Thomas Yale (1960 – 1961);  
Ronald Horace Jeffrey (1961 – 1962);  
Michael David Ford (1962);  
Ernest Wilde (1962 – [ ]

## NOTES

43, Dingle Street [1871], [1873], [1881]  
31, Dingle Street [1891], [1896], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939]

### 1861 Census

#### Dingle Street

- [1] *Benjamin Law* (45), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] Ann Law (44), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Mahalah Law (22), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Eli Law (20), son, butcher, born Oldbury;
- [5] Herbert Law (18), son, puddler, born Oldbury;
- [6] Sarah Law (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] Benjamin Law (13), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Ann Law (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [9] Jane Law (8), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [10] Mary Law (6), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [11] Eliza Law (3), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [12] Unis Law (1 month), daughter, born Oldbury;

Mahalah Law married *William Bister* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1867.

Worcestershire Chronicle 1/3/1871

“Worcestershire Adjourned Sessions.....

The trial of prisoners commenced at ten o’clock yesterday (Tuesday) morning, before Mr. R. P. Amphlett, MP, Chairman, and Sir Henry Lambert, Bart, when the following were sworn on the Grand Jury.....

*Benjamin Law*, Oldbury, brickmaster.”

1871 Census

43, Dingle Street – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] *Benjamin Law* (55), brick manufacturer and publican, born Tipton;

[2] Ann Law (54), wife, born Tipton;

[3] Benjamin Law (23), son, brick manufacturer, born Oldbury;

[4] Ann Law (19), daughter, assistant, born Oldbury;

[5] Jane Law (18), daughter, assistant, born Oldbury;

[6] Eliza Law (14), daughter, assistant, born Oldbury;

[7] Mary Law (16), daughter, assistant, born Oldbury;

[8] Eunice Law (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[9] George Smith (6), grand-son, scholar, born Oldbury:

*Benjamin Law* was also a brickmaker of Churchbridge. [1873]

See also WHITE HORSE, Newbury Lane.

Ann Law married *John Benjamin Hartland* on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1873.

London Gazette 16/3/1877

“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 *William Bister*, of the ROYAL OAK, Rounds Green, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Grocer.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. Thomas Charles Cheston, Solicitor, 148, Moor-street, Birmingham, on the 28th day of March, 1877, at two o’clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 8th day of March, 1877.

Thos. Chas. Cheston, 148, Moor-street, Birmingham, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1891- Died

“On the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst, at Marraway Street, Mahalah, the dearly beloved wife of *William Bister*, and second daughter of Mr. *Benjamin Law*, of Rounds Green, Oldbury. Deeply regretted.”

*William Bister* died in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1902.

*John Benjamin Hartland* = John Benjamin Heartland

1881 Census

43, Dingle Street

[1] *John B. Heartland* (29), steel tilter and licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Ann Heartland (29), wife, born Rowley;

[3] Fanny Heartland (7), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] Frank Heartland (2), son, born Oldbury;

[5] Hannah Pritchard (22), general servant, born Lincolnshire:

Smethwick Telephone 12/7/1884

“On Monday an inquest was held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Rounds Green, touching the death of Mary Jones (63), widow, of New Street, Oldbury, who died on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. It appeared that on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May deceased fell and cut her head badly, and from that time she had suffered from pains in the head. Mr. Charles Lyddon, surgeon, said he had attended the deceased, and was of opinion that death resulted from softening of the brain and the membranes covering the brain. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned. At the same place an enquiry was held respecting the death of Simeon Harvey, aged eighteen months, son of John Harvey, labourer, of Back Lane, Titford, whose dead body was found in a pool of water in his father’s garden on Sunday afternoon. It was stated that the child had been playing in the garden, and it is supposed that he accidentally fell into the water. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. Mr. R. Docker, coroner, held an enquiry at the ROYAL OAK INN, Rounds Green, respecting the death of Jane Milward (23), wife of John Milward, labourer, of Dingley Street, Rounds Green, who died in childbed. As the enquiry was likely to be protracted, it was adjourned for a week.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/7/1886

“At Oldbury County Court yesterday, *Samuel Babbs*, lately trading as a licensed victualler at the ROYAL OAK INN, Dingle Street, and now residing at Dock Row, Rounds Green, edge-tool cutter, came up for his public examination, before Mr. J. S. Watson (registrar). The statement of affairs showed total liabilities £301 3s 6d, and assets nil.

Mr. C. Woollett (deputy official receiver) applied for the examination to be adjourned, on the ground that the deficiency account supplied by the bankrupt did not contain any details, it being simply a blank sheet of paper. The only reason assigned was that he was unable to supply any information. A question as to a bill of sale would also have to be gone into.

The examination was adjourned until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August.

Mr. Forrest appeared for the bankrupt, and Mr. W. Podbury (from the office of Mr. Shakespeare) represented the creditors.”

AND

Smethwick Telephone 24/7/1886

“Bankruptcy Examinations at Oldbury.....

At the County Court on Monday, the public examination was fixed of *Samuel Dabbs* [sic], lately trading as licensed victualler, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Dingle Street, and now residing at Dock Row, Rounds Green, near Oldbury, and following the employment of an edge-tool cutter. The debtor’s statement of affairs showed a deficiency of £301 3s 6d. He commenced business at the ROYAL OAK, Rounds Green, in November, 1881, with a capital of £90. He arranged to pay £250 for the fixtures, good will, stock, &c; paid £90 on account, and gave a bill of sale as a security for the balance. The business appeared to have been unsuccessful, and the present position of affairs was attributed to that fact. On the 24<sup>th</sup> June a distress was levied for arrears of rent, amounting to £12 10s. He then consulted the bill of sale holders and an arrangement was made with them, and the landlord gave up possession on the following day. There were no assets.

Mr. Woollett applied for an adjournment on the ground that the deficiency account was not satisfactory, but was in fact a blank sheet. The application was granted, and the examination accordingly adjourned.”

Birmingham Mail 9/6/1887 - Advert

“Inn (excellent full-licensed), good position, near large works; rent low; giving up the business; good brewing plant and inventory; stables and piggeries.

Apply on premises, ROYAL OAK INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury.”

Dudley Mercury 12/5/1888

“On Thursday night, Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, Rounds Green, respecting the death of Joseph Evans (38), miner, Rounds Green, who was killed by a fall of coals whilst employed in the Lye Cross Colliery. The inquiry was adjourned to enable the Government Inspector of Mines to attend.”

County Advertiser 30/6/1888

“On Thursday evening Mr. E. Docker (coroner) resumed the adjourned inquiry at the ROYAL OAK INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, into the circumstances attending the death of Josiah Evans, miner, Dingle Street, who met with his death of the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, whilst employed in the Lye Cross Conygre Colliery, Oakham, near Rowley. Mr. W. B. Scott, Government Inspector of Mines, was present, and Mr. Latham (manager) represented the colliery.

John Hyde, pikeman, stated that he and deceased descended the pit to examine the workings on the day of the accident. Witness left deceased in the place where the accident occurred whilst he went to another part of the mines. Upon returning he found that a quantity of coal had fallen, burying the deceased. Witness called for assistance and deceased was speedily extricated. He had previously examined the pit and found it safe.

In answer to Mr. Scott, witness said it was the duty of Joseph Smith, the deputy, to examine the pit, and he met Smith at the ‘station’ on the morning in question, and he said that everything was safe. If he had not met Smith he would not have entered the mines, as Smith was the responsible person, and had to make the report. There was plenty of timber in the stall where the accident occurred. Witness believed the accident was the result of a ‘slip.’ He thought the loose coal would have been detected if the working had been examined previous to Evans’s examination. He could not say that the doggy had told him that the workings were safe. He had not read the new rules.

Mr. Scott reminded witness that the new rules were more stringent than the old ones, and should be read by all miners.

Thomas Bunn said he saw the deputy in the stall where deceased was killed, but he did not sound the coal with a pike to see if it was safe.

John Smith, deputy, said he descended the pit at 5.30am, and examined it before meeting the men at the ‘station.’ He had not tested the coal with a pike. He was the ‘responsible person,’ and signed the report book.

Mr. Scott: You did not knock the side and roof, but merely looked at it? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Scott: Do you know that you were not carrying out the new Act of Parliament? The fourth section of the Act requires that the responsible person shall make an examination of all sides and roofs. – Witness: I always endeavour to carry it out the Act.

Mr. Scott: And this is the way you carry it out at the Earl of Dudley’s pits?

Witness added that he had not read the new rules.

Mr. Scott: They are passed to reduce the number of deaths caused by falls of coals.

Dr. Lydden also gave evidence as to the injuries sustained.

The Coroner said that it was evident that there had been a certain amount of neglect, and that the Act of Parliament had not been carried out.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and requested the Coroner to caution the deputy to be more careful in the future.”

### 1891 Census

31, Dingle Street

[1] *Thomas Goodwin* (71), widower, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] *Mary Ann Roberts* (18), domestic servant, born Birmingham:

### Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1893

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, Caroline Smith, of the ROYAL OAK INN, Rounds Green, was charged with selling ale on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, without a license. Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended.

Mr. G. Smith, caretaker at the Oldbury Public Buildings, proved with being supplied with half a pint of beer in defendant’s house on the day named.

Police-constable Hobson stated that in consequence of the Bench having declined on the previous Tuesday to grant a transfer of the house in question to Mrs. Smith the premises were closed until the following Wednesday evening, when they were reopened, and witness upon going there found several men in the house and intoxicating drinks being sold.

Mr. Sharpe, for the defence, explained that Mrs. Smith reopened the premises on the advice of an Excise officer, and that she proposed to renew her application for a transfer; but the Bench, considering that an offence had been unintentionally committed, fined the defendant 14s including costs.

Mr. Sharpe then applied for the transfer of the license to Mrs. Smith. Superintendent Chare objected on the ground that the applicant, whilst keeping the Dewdrop Inn, Broad Heath, in 1888, was fined 20s and costs for permitting drunkenness. The magistrates declined to grant the transfer.”

*Thomas William Alexander* – see also HALL END TAVERN, West Bromwich.

#### 1901 Census

31, Dingle Street

- [1] *James Swallow* (57), steel melter, born Attercliffe, Yorkshire;
- [2] Charlotte Swallow (20), wife, born Deepfields;
- [3] Annie Millward (22), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Frederick Smith Ltd. were fined £5 and £2 15s 6d costs, on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1904, for permitting drunkenness on their licensed premises, and also for selling to a drunken person.

#### 1911 Census

31, Dingle Street

- [1] *David Willetts* (58), public house keeper, born Oldbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Willetts (57), wife, married 37 years, assisting in business, born Oldbury;
- [3] George Willetts (25), son, polisher, born Oldbury;
- [4] Walter Willetts (14), son, polisher, born Oldbury:

*David Willetts* – check also VILLAGE TAVERN.

*Jeremiah Rogers* was in possession on a Protection Order at the time of the Licensing Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1929.

He was married to *Edith*.

#### 1939 Register

31, Dingle Street – ROYAL OAK (2 of 4)

- [1] *James Knott*, date of birth 4/2/1910, straightener, steel tube, married;
- [2] *Adelaide M. Knott*, dob 23/7/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;

#### Tipton Herald 21/5/1960

“Tim Brookshaw, champion National Jump jockey for the 1959 season, presented the prizes to the winners of the Tividale Darts League at the Groveland Club, Sedgley Road East, on Monday night.

Mr. A. Chater, League Chairman, said in his opinion the past season had been the best ever. He commended the work of the League committee as a whole and singled out the Secretary, Mr. A. Pearson, for special praise.

The premier award went to ROYAL OAK, Rounds Green, who were competing in the league for the first time. Runners-up were the GEORGE, Brades Village.”

*Michael David Ford* – see also BELL, Rood End.

Closed

### **ROYAL OAK**

6, (4), Park Street, (Park Lane), (Park House Lane), Churchbridge, OLDBURY



## OWNERS

William Birch (later at High Street, Langley, Oldbury)

J. Jordan and Co.

J. W. J. Kingstone Ltd. [c.1920]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1929]

## LICENSEES

William Hadley [1862]

Emily Cattell [1864] – [1865]

William Birch [1876] – **1892**;

Moses Mann (**1892 – 1914**);

Elizabeth ‘Betsy’ Mann [1911]

George Henry Moore (**1914 – 1918**);

Abraham Thomas Turley (**1918 – 1925**);

Harry Wallace Grove (**1925 – 1926**);

John Bradley Lugg (**1926 – 1927**);

William Northall (**1927 – 1930**);

## NOTES

4, Park Street [1881]

6, Park Street [1891], [1901]

### Birmingham Journal 29/3/1862 - Advert

“A Capital Opportunity. The ROYAL OAK Old-Licensed Inn, Park House Lane, near Oldbury, and near Messrs. Chance Brothers and Co.’s Works, Messrs. Albright and Wilson’s, and adjoining the large and extensive Iron Works and Foundry of Mr. John Kimbyrley.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, that capital and well-situated Old Licensed Inn, now doing a first-rate business.

The House consists of large Front Tap and Smoke Room, back Tap Room, Bar, four Bed Rooms, two Cellars, capital Brewery, Malt Room, Stable for three horses, Coach-house, Piggery, with a large and entire Yard, and never-failing supply of hard and soft Water.

Brewing Sixteen Bushels of Malt per week, with a good Spirit Trade.

The Proprietor is leaving in consequence of taking to a Farm.

Rent very low, and the valuation can be reduced to suit the purchaser.

For particulars and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

The licences, fixtures, fittings and possession were for sale by private treaty in May 1863, the proprietor retiring from the public trade. Rent £16pa.

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 23/4/1864 - Advert

“Park House Lane, Oldbury.

Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Inn, and Nine Other Dwelling Houses and Premises, situate at Park House Lane, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, and near the important Works of Messrs. Chance Brothers and Company, Messrs. Albright and Wilson, and Messrs. Simpson and Company’s Iron Works and Foundry. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph Parkes (by order of the Mortgagee), at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Monday, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1864, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then and

there to be produced.

All those nine Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, together with that important Old-licensed Inn, known by the sign of the ROYAL OAK INN, fronting Park House Lane aforesaid, in the occupations of *Emily Cattell*, Henry Foley, James Burns, James Garagan, John Bull, William Carless, John Flannagan, and three void, and produces an annual rental of £75 16s.

The Public-house consists of Four Bed Rooms, Club Room, Front Smoke Room and Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, Bar, capital Brewhouse, Malt and Hop Rooms, Coach-house and Stabling, Piggeries, two excellent Cellars, with soft water cistern and a good supply of hard water; with a large lock-up yard. The Houses are supplied with water from the South Staffordshire Water Works Company.

The above is worthy the attention of a Capitalist as an investment.

For further particulars, apply to William Shakespeare, Esq, Solicitor, Church Street, Oldbury; or to Mr. J. S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/12/1867 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Park Street, near Messrs. Chance’s Works, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by A. Atree, This Day (Tuesday), under a Bill of Sale.

Household Furniture; including Feather Beds, Hair and Wool Mattresses, Carpet, Toilet and Chimney Glasses, Mahogany Bedsteads, Drawers, Night Commode, Couch, Tables, Chairs, Brewing Plant, Machine, Barrels, &c, as described in Catalogues; commencing at Eleven.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/9/1877 - Advert

“Housekeeper Wanted, suitable for public business.

Apply to ROYAL OAK INN, Park Lane, Oldbury.”

#### 1881 Census

4, Park Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *William Birch* (54), publican employing 6 men, born Oldbury;

[2] Hannah Birch (40), wife, born Stourbridge;

[3] Ellen Birch (15), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Isaac Burton (14), step-son, born Oldbury:

*William Birch* was also a car proprietor, Birmingham Street. [1884], [1888]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1885

“On Wednesday evening Robert Horne (35), carter in the employ of Mr. Thomas Goode, of Langley, met with his death in Park Lane. It appears deceased, who was bringing a load of grain from West Bromwich, whilst proceeding along Park Lane fell off the cart and sustained serious injuries to the head, from the effects of which he expired a few minutes afterwards. The body was removed to the ROYAL OAK INN, Park Street, to await an inquest.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/3/1886

“*William Birch*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK, Park Street, Oldbury, was charged with selling intoxicants during illegal hours on the 12<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. H. Forrest defended.

About ten minutes to twelve o’clock on the night in question the landlady was seen to supply beer to Maria Dunn.

Defendant, who pleaded guilty, was fined 40s and costs; and Maria Dunn, for being upon the premises, was ordered to pay 2s 6d and costs.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 28/8/1886

“The annual Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday.....

The following persons had been summoned for offences against the licensing laws, and dealt with as follows ..... Licensed Victuallers.....

*William Birch*, selling during closing hours, March 9<sup>th</sup> last, fined 40s and costs.....

In the case of those persons who had been summoned and convicted, their houses having been well conducted since, and no further complaints being made against them, the licenses were all renewed except in the cases of David Bates and Edward Waterhouse, which were refused.”

#### 1891 Census

6, Park Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *William Birch* (56), farmer and publican, born Oldbury;

[2] Hannah Birch (49), wife, born Stourbridge:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 13/1/1900

“The Poor Man’s Friend Sick and Dividend Society. On December 30<sup>th</sup> a dinner was held in connection with the Sick and Dividend Society held at the ROYAL OAK, Park Street, which was excellently served by the host and hostess Mr. and Mrs. *Mann*.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/7/1900

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, Park Street, Langley, respecting the death of Mercy Roberts (16), who formerly resided in Park Street, who was drowned in a marlhole at Churchbridge, on Saturday last. The mother admitted that deceased was subject to fits. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned.”

#### 1901 Census

6, Park Street

[1] *Moses Mann* (35), publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Elizabeth Mann* (30), wife, born Ely;

[3] Ethel Williams (14), domestic servant, born Langley:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 4/1/1902

“On December 28<sup>th</sup> a dinner was held in connection with the Poor Man’s Sick and Dividend Society, held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Park Street, which was excellently served by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Mann*. Bro. Atkins was voted to the chair.....”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 25/10/1902

“Sick and Dividend Society. According to the annual report, the society held at Mr. *Moses Mann*’s (ROYAL OAK INN, Park Street), is making steady progress. The membership is increasing, and has gone up in a short time from 20 to 76.

The last year’s dividend was 13s, after all expenses being deducted, a very valuable item. A new feature has been introduced, by which a candidate upon joining becomes at once entitled to participate in the annual dinner, free of charge.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/3/1910

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury division were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding over the magistrates. The principal business was the consideration of six licences which the magistrates proposed to refer to the Quarter Sessions for compensation on the ground of redundancy. The houses in question were the CART AND HORSES, West Bromwich Street; BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street; ROYAL OAK, Park Lane; NAGS HEAD, Flash Road; HOPE AND ANCHOR, Halesowen Street; and BOAT INN, Tat Bank.....

Mr. Albright then announced that the magistrates had decided to refer only four licenses to the Quarter Sessions at Worcester this year instead of six as originally proposed. They would therefore renew the licenses of the BIRD IN HAND and ROYAL OAK.”

#### 1911 Census

Park Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *Betsy Mann* (41), married, licensed victualler, public business, born Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire;

[2] Mabel Smith (22), niece, born West Bromwich;

[3] Charles Smith (20), nephew, grocer's assistant, born Smethwick:

West Bromwich Weekly News 18/1/1913

“An enjoyable dinner and smoker in connection with the Ward Committee of the Unionist Association was held at the ROYAL OAK, Park Street, on Wednesday evening. Mr. J. Bird presided.....”

*Abraham Thomas Turley* was married to Charlotte.

He died in 1952.

See also ODDFELLOWS ARMS, West Bromwich.

Plans for alterations were approved on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1920.

Smethwick Telephone 21/1/1928 - Advert

“Re J. W. J. Kingstone, Ltd, Smethwick.

Important Sale by Auction of 20 Licensed Houses in the County Boroughs of Smethwick and West Bromwich, and at Warley and Oldbury, all within a radius of six miles of the centre of the City of Birmingham, and comprising in separate lots.

8 Valuable Fully Licensed Houses.

7 ‘On’ Beerhouses, and 5 ‘Off’ Licenses.

Together with the Seven Quarter Brewery, Offices and Premises, known as the Summit Brewery, and various Freehold Shop and Dwelling House Properties adjoining the several Licensed Houses.

By Messrs. Jones Son & Vernon, FAI, at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1928, at 4pm precisely (unless sold previously by private contract).....

Lot 3. The ROYAL OAK INN. Freehold, Fully Licensed, Park Street, Oldbury.”

Dudley Chronicle 1/3/1928

“Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon, of West Bromwich, held a successful property sale at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham. The lots included many licensed properties in West Bromwich, Oldbury, and Smethwick, and so keen was the competition that all the lots were sold, the sale realising altogether well over £60,000, whilst three public houses, the price of which were not included in this figure, were sold privately. They were the ROYAL OAK INN, Park Street, Oldbury; the TIGER INN, Earl Street, Oldbury, and the ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street, Oldbury.”

The license was surrendered and the house closed on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1930.

Dudley Chronicle 25/9/1930 - Advert

“Sale by Auction of centrally-situate Freehold Manufacturing Premises, Residences and Dis-Licensed Property, situate in Oldbury and Warley Woods. All with Vacant Possession.

To be Offered for Sale by Messrs. Jones, Son & Vernon, FAI, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1930, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock.....

Lot 3. The ROYAL OAK, Park Street, Oldbury.

The Freehold Dis-licensed Premises, Park Street, just off Park Lane, the 'Bus Route from Oldbury to Langley, Smethwick and Birmingham.”

**ROYAL OAK**

11, Talbot Street, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Henry Forrest  
Oldbury Conservative Club

### LICENSEES

Henry Forrest [1855] – 1887);  
Maria Yeomans (1887 – 1888):

### NOTES

#### Birmingham Journal 5/10/1850 - Advert

“The ROYAL OAK, Oldbury.

By W. L. Turner. To be Sold, the Possession and Fixtures of the above-named Retail Public House, situate near the Market Hall, and in a populous neighbourhood; the Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation, will not exceed £35. The present Proprietor is owner of the house, and is retiring from business. Apply to W. L. Turner, Public House Agent and Valuer, PARROTT ARMS, Oldbury.”

*Henry Forrest*, retailer of beer, Talbot Street. [1851]

#### Worcester Journal 17/3/1855 - Deaths

“After a short illness, aged two years, Frances Emmeline, only daughter of Mr. *H. Forrest*, of the ROYAL OAK, Oldbury, near Dudley.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1860

“A second meeting of the working classes was held on a large space of land at the back of the ROYAL OAK, Talbot Street, on Wednesday evening, to consider the present high price of butchers’ meat, and to take the necessary steps for bringing about a reduction of the same, in consequence of it being much higher here than at the West Bromwich, Dudley, or Birmingham markets. The meeting was well attended, and the chair was occupied by Mr. Farmer, of the Eagle Foundry, who, at considerable length, explained the object of the meeting; after which a resolution was moved to the effect that the meeting pledged itself to abstain from purchasing butchers’ meat until it was reduced to a reasonable price. A second resolution was passed recommending those who cannot or will not wholly abstain to reduce their usual consumption to one-half, or less if possible. Both resolutions were unanimously agreed to, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the business.”

#### 1861 Census

Talbot Street – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *Henry Forrest* (37), sword and bayonet blade forger and victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Hannah Forrest (40), wife, born Dudley Port;
- [3] Samuel N. Forrest (15), son, solicitor’s clerk, born Birmingham;
- [4] Laura Forrest (5), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Ellen Forrest (3), daughter, born Oldbury:

At Worcestershire Winter Assizes, in December 1862, Hannah *Forrest*, of the ROYAL OAK, Oldbury, appeared as a prosecution witness in the case of William Ockold who was charged with murdering his wife. He was found guilty and hanged.

[See GEORGE AND DRAGON.]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/1/1863 - Died

“On the 24<sup>th</sup> ult, after a short illness, aged 5 years, Ellen, the beloved daughter of *Henry Forrest*, of the

ROYAL OAK INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

*Henry Forrest* was also a brewer and sword and bayonet manufacturer of 15, Talbot Street. [1864], [1873]  
He was described as being also a sword and bayonet maker. [1865]  
He issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Daily Post 3/10/1865 - Advert

“To be Sold by Private Contract, a well and substantially-built Dwelling House, comprising Parlour, Hall, Sitting Room, three Bed Rooms, Chambers, Brewhouse, Coal and Lumber Shed, Piggeries, and other Out-buildings, together with a splendid Garden, situate in Stirchley Street, near Kings Norton.  
For particulars, apply to *Henry Forrest*, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 10/2/1866 - Advert

“Notice is Hereby Given, to Mr. J. E. Noakes, that unless the Wagon left by him at the ROYAL OAK INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, be Fetched away within Seven Days from this date, the same will be Sold to defray expenses.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1866.

(Signed) *Henry Forrest*.”

Birmingham Journal 8/2/1868 - Advert

“Wanted, First-class Bayonet Finishers.

Apply to Messrs. *Forrest* and Taylor, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1869 - Advert

“Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned, *Henry Forrest* and Samuel Grigg Taylor, carrying on business as Bayonet Manufacturers, at the Globe Works, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, under the style or firm of *Forrest* and Taylor, has been This Day Dissolved by Mutual Consent.

Dated the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1869.

*Henry Forrest*, Samuel Grigg Taylor.

Witness to the signature of *Henry Forrest*, Samuel H. Forrest, Solicitor, Oldbury.

Witness to the signature of Samuel Grigg Taylor, W. Shakespeare, Solicitor, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/6/1869 - Advert

“Very handsome and showy Pony, 12½ hands, 6 years old; warranted sound, quiet to ride and drive.  
Apply, ROYAL OAK, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1869 - Advert

“Wanted, a Strong Girl. One used to a Public-house.

Apply, Mrs. *Forrest*, ROYAL OAK, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/10/1869 - Advert

“To Machinists and Others. To be Let, a small Factory, with Shopping, Warehouse, Store Rooms, Engine-power, Shafting, Stamp, Oliver, Vices, Presses, &c.

Apply, *Henry Forrest*, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/10/1869 - Advert

“To Gun Makers and Others. A large quantity of Finished and other Bayonets for Sale.

Apply, *H. Forrest*, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/4/1870 - Advert

“A Very Fast-trotting Mare (Bay), 14 hands.

Apply, ROYAL OAK INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

### 1871 Census

11, Talbot Street – ROYAL OAK

[1] *Henry Forrest* (48), sword and bayonet maker and licensed victualler, born Cradley;

[2] *Hannah Forrest* (50), wife, born Dudley Port;

[3] *Laura Forrest* (15), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] *Frances Forrest* (9), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] *Mercy Harrold* (17), general servant, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1872 - Advert

“Girl (strong) Wanted, about 20, with good character.

Apply, ROYAL OAK, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 13/11/1872 - Advert

“Cob, Iron-gray, 14-3, 5 years old; splendid action and fast; warranted sound and quiet to ride and drive.

Apply, *Henry Forrest*, Oaks Brewery, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 28/2/1873 - Advert

“Pony for Sale, 12 hands high; splendid action, high stepper, fast, and suitable for four-wheel; age 5 years.

Apply, *Henry Forrest*, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 5/6/1874 - Advert

“Girl (good, strong) Wanted. Good character.

Apply, ROYAL OAK INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 1/1/1876 - Advert

“Young Man Wanted, for Brewer’s Dray.

Apply, *H. Forrest*, Brewer, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

### Wolverhampton Express and Star 14/10/1876

“Last night a crowded meeting of miners was held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Oldbury, to consider the wages question.

Mr. Wilding took the chair, and advised the men to unity of action in demanding an increase of wages.

Mr. Thomas Griffiths (miners’ agent) stated that a great many men were leaving that district for Cannock Chase and the North of England, where the rate of pay was greater by 6d a day.....

A resolution was then put to the meeting and heartily carried, urging the employers to give back to the men the difference in wages which was taken from them in May last.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 9/4/1878 - Advert

“Brewers, Maltsters, and Grocers. A splendid grey Mare, 16 hands; fine action, sound, good worker, and quiet.

Apply, *H. Forrest*, Oaks Brewery, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

### Dudley Herald 25/10/1879

“A well-attended meeting of miners was held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Oldbury, on Monday night, Mr. Henry Rust presiding. Mr. Thomas Griffiths (miners’ agent) and Mr. H. Barnes (secretary of the Miners’ Union) addressed the meeting, and it was resolved, ‘That this meeting regrets to hear that the coalmasters could not see their way clear to advance the price of coal and colliers’ wages at their quarterly meeting, more especially as the coal was raised at many of the collieries, and hopes that at an early date they will advance wages to the extent of 6d per day, feeling assured that the present state of trade will justify such action.’”

### Dudley Herald 3/7/1880 - Advert

“Twentieth Annual Report of the Honourable Order of Engineers’ Sick and Benefit Friendly Society, held at

the ROYAL OAK INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, Worcestershire. No.1 Society.....”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 18/9/1880 - Deaths

“On the 17<sup>th</sup> inst, in the 61<sup>st</sup> year of her age, Hannah, the beloved wife of *Henry Forrest*, of Oldbury, brewer. Friends will please accept this intimation.”

1881 Census

11, Talbot Street

[1] *Henry Forrest* (58), widower, brewer, born Cradley;

[2] Frances Forrest (19), daughter, born Oldbury;

[3] Jane Chambers (16), general servant, born West Bromwich:

West Bromwich Weekly News 14/5/1881

“A Meeting of Miners was held last night, at the ROYAL OAK, Talbot Street. Mr. R. Rust explained that the meeting was called to consider the question of the proposed establishment of a Permanent Relief Fund. He said the Employers’ Liability Act was very good as it went, but it did not go far enough. The great principle of the Act was to prove assistance for men who met with accidents, but did not meet the requirements of the men in particular, inasmuch as if the men sought compensation they would have to waste a considerable time.....”

London Gazette 11/10/1881

“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 7th day of October, 1881, suspended for three months the Registry of the Honourable Order of Engineers’ Sick and Benefit Friendly Society, Register No.540, held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Talbot-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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 24/1/1882 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted, Age 20.

ROYAL OAK INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/2/1882

“A meeting of miners was held last night, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Oldbury. Mr. H. Rust, who presided, said he was sorry to say that the rules relating to the Permanent Provident Society, which had been sent round to the collieries in the district, had been kept in the offices instead of being distributed amongst the men. This action on the part of the employers forced them to the conclusion that some of them were opposed to the establishment of the society. If that were so, it would be the duty of the men who felt an interest in the scheme to adopt some measures to ascertain why the masters were opposed to it.

Mr. H. Barnes said at some of the collieries in the Walsall district the advance of ½d per day, conceded recently to thin coal miners, had not yet been paid.

A resolution was adopted, approving of the Provident Society; and it was also decided to appoint a deputation to wait upon the masters on the subject.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1882

“A crowded meeting of miners was held last night, at the ROYAL OAK, Talbot Street, Oldbury, at which the following resolution was adopted unanimously: That we tender our thanks to Mr. E. Fisher Smith, for his promptness in giving a reply to the secretary of the Federation of Miners who waited upon him this morning. Also, we hereby agree to resume work at once at an advance, viz, 4d per day on thick coal, and 2d per day on thin coal.”



Birmingham Daily Post 11/1/1884 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted, age 20 to 22.

Apply, Miss *Forrest*, Oaks Brewery, No.11 Talbot Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/6/1887 - Advert

“To Brewers and Publicans. The Oak Brewery, Talbot Street, Oldbury.

Messrs. Gray & Walker have received instructions from Mr. *Forrest* to Sell by Auction, on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> inst.

The whole of the Excellent Four-Quarter Brewing Plant, comprising copper Spargers and Washers, large Malt Hopper, Crusher, 32-bushel Mashtub, 350 and 500 Gallons Copper and Iron Furnaces, a 40-gallon iron Furnace, Wort-coolers, Hop-press, 600-gallon Fermenting Vat, Copper Refrigerator and Attemperator, Rack-ing Squares; Three 108-Gallon Burton Union Casks; Underback, copper Piping; Sixty Brewers’ Casks, 500 and 300 Gallon Store Casks.

Also, the Household and Public House Furniture, comprising iron and wood Bedsteads, feather Beds, Wash-stands and Dressing Tables, Chests of Drawers, Windsor Chairs, oblong Drinking Tables, Benches, Spirit Jars and Barrels, pewter Measures, six-tap Spirit Font and Piping, set Steps, Block, Washing, Wringing Machine, Kitchens Utensils.

7-HP Vertical Steam Engine and Boiler, and numerous Effects.

Sale to commence at half-past 10 o’clock.

Catalogues may be had from S. H. *Forrest*, Esq, Solicitor, Oldbury; or at the Auctioneers’ Offices, 31, Temple Row, Birmingham.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 24/9/1887

“Mr. Young, instructed by Mr. *Forrest*, applied for a full license to be granted to Mr. William Townsend, at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME. He explained that they had held a beer license for a long time, and they were not applying for a new license but simply the removing of the license from the ROYAL OAK, in Talbot Street, to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME. He knew it made a difference whether they were making an additional license in the place, or simply removing one in Oldbury. The ROYAL OAK had been purchased for the purpose of having a Conservative Club, and they would not want the license any longer, and if the Magistrates would transfer the spirit license to Mr. Townsend they would not apply for the renewal of that license. If this was not done, they would apply for the removal of that license to another place. No objection would be made to the character of Mr. Townsend, he being a gentleman who had carried on that house respectably for some time. There was not another full licensed house until they got to the CROSS GUNS, over 300 yards away, and this house being close to the station, where there was no refreshment room, it would be a convenient place where persons coming there on business would be able to take some refreshment and get to the station even after the train was signalled in time to catch it. He then described the accommodation of the premises, and said there were several large works in the immediate neighbourhood, and no other house where spirits were sold. The premises were on a lease at a rent of £46, including the license as a beerhouse. It was let for £30 apart from the license. He presented two petitions in favour of the license, one signed by the members of the Oldbury Conservative Club, the other by a large number of ratepayers and householders in Oldbury.

Mr. W. Townsend was then called, and confirmed the statements made by Mr. Young.

Mr. Shakespeare appeared to oppose the license on behalf of Mr. Joseph Parkes of the RAILWAY INN.

Mr. Shakespeare (to witness) [Mr. Townsend]: How much are you rated at? – Witness: £29.

Mr. Shakespeare: You are underrated are you not? Why have you not gone and asked the Assessment Committee to increase your rates? (Laughter.) It was nothing but an old barn when you took to it, was it not? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Shakespeare: And they rebuilt it and had the whole work done in a week, beginning at 12 o’clock on the Sunday night, and finishing at the end of the week in time to begin the wake. – Witness: No, sir.

Mr. Shakespeare: How much would you pay for the house if there was no license? – Witness: £20.

Mr. Shakespeare: What, for that hole? – Mr. Young: Oh, don’t call it a hole.

Mr. Shakespeare: Now on your solemn oath are you not rated at £19 and not at £29? – Witness: The last

rate was £19.

Mr. Shakespeare: Then what do you mean by saying that you was rated at £29? Is this your father's house?

– Witness: Yes.

Mr. Shakespeare: Does it not belong to Palmer's Trustees? – Witness: Yes.

And does your father pay more than £20 per year for this very house to Palmer's Trustees? – Witness: I cannot say what he pays.

Mr. Shakespeare: Are there not waiting rooms at the Station, where people can be comfortable without going to a public house and being uncomfortable? Is not the RAILWAY INN nearer to the station than your house? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Shakespeare: And is not the FOUNTAIN INN within 100 yards, and the BRIDGE INN within another 20, besides \_\_\_ on the way? – Witness: They are further than that apart.

Mr. Shakespeare: Then is there another beerhouse 70 yards away, called the ROYAL OAK, and the CROSS GUNS, the HARMONIC INN, and the NOAHS ARK, all within 300 yards? \_\_\_ there is the WHITE HORSE.....

John Allen, architect and surveyor, of West Bromwich, gave evidence ..... He thought the house independent of the license was worth 12s per week, and he thought the garden land alone worth £12 per annum out of that.

Mr. Shakespeare, addressing the Bench, said he was quite sure the Magistrates and everybody in Court must have been truly astounded with the statements of the learned council, and he thought that he must have been speaking of some place 100 miles away from Oldbury when he described these handsome premises and the large population, and its being just the place to stop and have a glass extra and get drunk before the train came in. (Laughter.)

He then renewed the evidence in favour of the application, which he considered very vague and misleading, and contended that the requirements of the neighbourhood did not call for a license, and the qualification was not made out.

The Magistrates returned to consider their decision, and after some ten minutes absence returned, when Mr. Avery said the Justices had carefully considered the evidence of all the circumstances in favour of the license to Mr. Townsend, and they had decided to refuse it.

Mr. Forrest said the renewal of the license of the ROYAL OAK would in that case be granted as a matter of course.

Mr. Avery: Yes.”

There was no application to renew the license on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1888.

## **ROYAL OAK**

Tat Bank, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

## **LICENSEES**

Jordan [ ] – 1860)

## **NOTES**

Birmingham Journal 6/10/1860 - Advert

“Oldbury. Capital Retail House of Business, ROYAL OAK, Tat Bank.

By C. Wootton. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the above capital Retail House, now doing a good trade, with all conveniences appertaining thereto. Rent only £15. Coming-in, at a fair valuation, about £40. The present Proprietor having taken to an old-licensed House is the sole reason for leaving. For particulars, apply to the Auctioneer and Publicans' Valuer, Paradise Street, West Bromwich; or upon the Premises."

Birmingham Journal 3/11/1860 - Advert

"Unreserved Sale, at the ROYAL OAK, Tat Bank, Oldbury, the Property of Mr. *Jordan*, who has taken another Business.

To be Sold by Auction, by C. Wootton, on Tuesday Next, the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, commencing in the morning at Eleven o'clock.

All the excellent Brewing Vessels, Barrels, Public House Fixtures, &c; comprising ten sweet well-bound Barrels, twelve-strike Mash Tub, excellent Coolers, two large Gathering Tubs, capital Malt Crusher, excellent four-pull Beer Machine, Piping and Taps, Tap Table, Drink Tables, Cups, Jugs, Glasses, Fixtures, Ale Measures, Thermometer, two sets of Bedsteads, Two Pockets of good Hops (Worcester, 1856), and other Effects.

Auctioneer's Office and Residence, Paradise Street, West Bromwich."

**SAVING HAND**

68, Pound Road, Causeway Green, Langley, OLDBURY

OWNERS

William Hodgetts, Whiteheath

J. Hodgetts, Langley, Oldbury

J. A. and A. Thompson, maltsters, Oldbury (leased) [1899]

Joseph Squires, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham [c.1911]

LICENSEES

Benjamin Slim [1843]

Sarah Slim [1850]

Sarah Hurley [1851]

John Stanfield [ ] – **1852**);

John Bell (**1852** – [ ]

Samuel Attwood [1870]

David Bastable [1872] – [1872]

Samuel Attwood [1873]

Thomas Shaw [ ]

Joseph Johnson [1879]

John Thompson [1880] – **1890**);

Mrs. Mary Ann Thompson (**1890** – **1907**);

Betsy (Thompson) Griffiths (**1907**);

Robert William George Winfield (**1907** – [ ];

Samuel Rudge Jnr. [ ] – **1908**);

James Arthur Burton (**1908** – **1914**):

## NOTES

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/1/1843 - Advert

“Important Freehold Properties, at Causeway Green.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Newbold, at the house of Mr. Benjamin George Hurley, called the GATE INN, at Bristnall Fields, near Worley Wigorn, on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1843, at five o'clock in the afternoon, under such conditions as will be produced, an in the under-mentioned or such other lots as will be determined at the time of sale.....

Lot 4. A desirable and very old-established Public House, known by the sign of the SAVING HAND, fronting the road leading from Portway to Birmingham, in the occupation of *Benjamin Slim*, comprising good tap-room, parlour, back kitchen, brewhouse, two capital cellars, and three chambers, with various Outbuildings, consisting of a Nail Shop, Stable, and Pigstye, and an excellent Garden and well of water. Rent £14 per year.

All the above Property, which is Freehold, is situate at Causeway Green, in the hamlet of Worley Wigorn, in the vicinity of several working Colliers; and many scientific and practical Mine Proprietors and Agents entertain decided opinions that the Land contains valuable strata of Clay, Coal, and Ironstone.....”

An inquest was held here in 1868.

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/3/1868

“G. Bailey of Oldbury will run any of the following men 120 yards level: J. Onions of Round Green, R. Bennett of Langley Green, Price of Church Bridge, Homer of Musham Green, G. Round of Blackheath, or J. Bagott of Greets Green; or will take two yards in 120 of Howells of Oldbury, or one of Kirkham of West Bromwich. To take place in eight weeks from signing articles, but for not less than £10 or £15 a side. A match can be made any night next week, at the SAVING HAND, Causeway Green.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1872

“Benjamin Davis, of Causeway Green, was charged with being upon the premises of a publican named *David Bastable*, also of Causeway Green, and drinking during prohibited hours on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst.

A policeman gave evidence to the effect that he saw the defendant leaving the publican's house with a pint of beer, and that he saw him try to hide it.

Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the defence, and contended that as the offence occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, and the summons was not issued till the 21<sup>st</sup>, the defendant could not be convicted because the old Act of Parliament was not in force at the time the summons was taken out, and the new Licensing Act did not come into force until the 10<sup>th</sup> instant. The Magistrates concurred, and the summons was dismissed.”

### London Gazette 7/12/1877

“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 *Thomas Shaw*, of Hancox-street, Bristnall-fields, Warley Wigorn, in the county of Worcester, Miner, formerly of the SAVING HAND INN, Causeway Green, Warley Wigorn aforesaid, 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. William Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 21st day of December, 1877, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 5th day of December, 1877.

William Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

### Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/1/1879

“Last night's *London Gazette* notifies that the following persons have filed their petitions for liquidation or composition ..... *Joseph Johnson*, Causeway Green, near Oldbury, beerhouse keeper, and also of Black Heath, nail factor and grocer.”

### Dudley Herald 25/1/1879

“A meeting of the creditors of Mr. *Joseph Johnson*, nail merchant, Black Heath, was held at the office of Mr. S. Forrest, Church Street, Oldbury, the debtor’s solicitor, yesterday morning. The report of the receiver stated that the debtor commenced business in 1865 as a nail factor. He had recently suffered considerable loss in consequence of the nailers’ strike, and bad debts, resulting from the depression of trade. The amount of liabilities was £1,429 3s 8d; secured creditors, £721; unsecured creditors, £709 3s 8d; assets, including stock-in-trade, £82. It was decided to wind up the estate in liquidation.”

#### Dudley Herald 15/2/1879 - Advert

“In Liquidation. Re *Joseph Johnson*.

To be Sold by Private Treaty the Licenses, Goodwill, Stock, and Fixtures of the well-known Old Licensed House called the SAVING HAND, Causeway Green, near Oldbury.

For further particulars apply to Luke J. and E. M. Sharpe, accountants, 47, Ann Street, Birmingham, or S. H. Forrest, Solicitor, 21, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### 1881 Census

Causeway Green

- [1] *John Thompson* (40), brickmaker, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Mary Ann Thompson* (39), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *William Thompson* (17), son, brickmaker, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *John Thompson* (16), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Josiah Thompson* (14), son, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Betsy Thompson* (12), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Emma Jane Thompson* (5), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [8] *Emma Holloway* (11), servant, born Oldbury:

*John Thompson* issued tokens from here.

#### Sporting Life 26/11/1883

“Mr. *John Thompson*, proprietor, SAVING HAND INN, Causeway Green, Oldbury, Birmingham, announces a series of fortnightly handicap sweepstakes to be contended for at his house, which is situated within ten minutes’ walk of the Langley Green and Rowley Stations on the Great Western Railway.....”

#### Sporting Life 1/12/1883

“Sporting Diary. This Day (Saturday, December 1). Shooting.....

At Mr. *J. Thompson*’s, SAVING HAND INN, Causeway Green, Oldbury, Birmingham.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/8/1887

“*John Thompson*, landlord of the SAVING HAND INN, Causeway Green, was charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. Mr. H. Jackson appeared for the defence. After hearing the evidence of several witnesses, the case was dismissed.”

#### Harborne Herald 26/4/1890

“A very successful little concert was given at Causeway Green on April 19<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of Mr. Keatch’s Sunday services. Mr. *Thompson*, of the SAVING HAND, with his usual kindness and liberality, lent his piano, and the members of the Blackheath Glee Club, and Causeway Green Football Club, gave valuable assistance. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Joseph Reed for acting as chairman, and to Mr. Arthur Monchlor for getting up the concert.”

#### 1891 Census

Causeway Green

- [1] *Mary A. Thompson* (49), widow, licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Josiah Thompson* (24), son, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Betsy Thompson* (22), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[4] Emma J. Thompson (16), daughter, dressmaker's apprentice, born West Bromwich;

[5] Mary Hamblett (16), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1891

"Mrs. *Mary Ann Thompson*, SAVING HAND INN, Causeway Green, applied for permission to keep her licensed premises open until eleven o'clock on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>. It was explained that the applicant's being a country house she was compelled to close at 10pm. Superintendent Speke mentioned that the Hales Owen justices, who had jurisdiction over two public houses close to the applicant's, had granted an extension of one hour on the nights named to all the country houses in their district. The Bench declined to grant the extension."

#### County Advertiser 24/6/1899 - Advert

"To Brewers, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Important Sale of Freehold Licensed Premises, and other Properties, at Oldbury, Titford, Causeway Green, and Bristnall Fields, in the Parish of Halesowen.

H. King and Son are favoured with instructions from Messrs. Hodgetts to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.....

The SAVING HAND, Pound Road, Causeway Green, Warley Wigorn, let to Messrs. Thompson, under lease expiring 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1906.....

Plans and particulars may be had of Mr. T. Jarvis Hodgetts, Surveyor, 21, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham; Messrs. Bourne and Co., Solicitors, Dudley; or of the Auctioneers, Stourbridge."

AND

#### Smethwick Telephone 24/6/1899

".....Sale by Auction, on Thursday Next, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899.....

Lot 7. The SAVING HAND, Pound Road, Causeway Green, in the Township of Warley Wigorn, a Fully-Licensed Freehold Property, with large Garden and Premises, held under lease by Messrs. Thompson, for a term which expires 25<sup>th</sup> March 1904, and contains an area of 1,543 square yards. This is a well-known old-fashioned Inn, and is doing an excellent trade."

#### 1901 Census

68, Pound Road – SAVING HAND INN TAVERN

[1] *Mary Ann Thompson* (59), widow, publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Betsy Thompson* (32), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[3] Frederick Wheldon (6), grand-son, born Langley:

*Betsy Thompson* married *Joseph Griffiths* on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1906.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1911.

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1911

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday.....

An objection was made by Superintendent Hill to the renewal of the licence of the KINGS ARMS, Birmingham Street, on the ground of redundancy ..... Objection was also made to the renewal of the SAVING HAND INN, Causeway Green, also on the ground of redundancy .....The Bench referred both houses for compensation."

#### 1911 Census

68, Pound Road

[1] *James A. Burton* (33), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] Ellen E. Burton (32), wife, married 11 years, born Smethwick;

[3] Cyril J. Burton (11), son, born Oldbury;

[4] Doris M. Burton (9), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Nellie Burton (7), daughter, born Oldbury;  
[6] Arthur Burton (5), son, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/2/1912

“At Oldbury Licensing Sessions yesterday Superintendent Davis presented his report.....  
The licenses of the KINGS ARMS INN and the SAVING HAND INN were referred to compensation last year, but the compensation authority had not yet dealt with them.....  
Mr. Albright said that there seemed little doubt that all the arrears of compensation would be cleared off in the present year, and the houses closed, although the amount of money available now would be considerably decreased by the absorption of a large portion of the county in Greater Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/7/1913

“The Worcestershire Licensing Committee met at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday to consider the cases of several houses referred for compensation.....  
There was no objection to the reference of the SAVING HAND INN, Causeway Green, Oldbury, a fully licensed house.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/10/1913

“At the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, the Worcester Licensing Committee held a meeting to consider the claims for compensation in respect of eleven houses.....  
The amounts claimed and awarded respectively were.....  
SAVING HAND, Causeway Green, Oldbury (£2,242 17s 4d), £1,525.....  
Mr. Willis Bund said the claims were obviously inflated, and it was extremely difficult for the committee to know what to do, especially because the evidence was in many cases deficient. He was afraid the claimants would be disappointed with the awards, but he could not help it.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/2/1914

“Oldbury Sessions yesterday.....  
Superintendent Rudnick stated ..... The licenses of ..... the SAVING HAND, Causeway Green, which were referred for compensation, were still in force, the compensation money not having been paid.”

Evesham Standard 28/3/1914

“A meeting of the County Licensing Committee was held at the Shirehall on Monday.....  
The Committee approved of the proportions in which compensation should be paid in the following cases.....  
SAVING HAND, Causeway Green, Oldbury. Total compensation, £1,525; £15 to *James Arthur Benton*, licensee; £78 14s 2d to the registered owner, Joseph Squiers; £1,151 15s 10d to mortgagees; and £280 to the tenant, John William Janes Kingstone, brewer, Smethwick.”

Compensation was paid on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1914.  
The license was extinguished on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1914.

*James Arthur Burton* – see also SPRING COTTAGE, and JUNCTION, Queens Cross, Dudley.

Dudley Chronicle 31/10/1914

“As was briefly reported in our last issue, Friday was Licensing Day in Dudley.....  
There were nineteen temporary licenses brought for confirmation, and only in one did the police make any objection. This was the case of *J. A. Burton*, formerly of Oldbury, to whom a temporary license of the JUNCTION INN, has been granted.  
Mr. J. T. Higgs appeared for the applicant, who, in reply to his solicitor, said he had had 20 years’ experience in the trade, as his mother had held a license for that period without any complaint. From 1904 till 1908 he was the licensee of the SPRING COTTAGE, Oldbury, without conviction or complaint. After that he kept the SAVING HAND, at Oldbury without any conviction, although there was a complaint that he was

drunken, which was not true, as he was suffering from sciatica at the time. The license of the JUNCTION was granted to him on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, and there had been no complaints. He left the SAVING HAND owing to it being closed through redundancy. He received compensation, and had invested the money in acquiring the tenancy of the JUNCTION which was a tenants license and not an application from the brewers, and if he lost that money he would be ruined.

In reply to the Bench, the Chief Superintendent said applicant had conducted the JUNCTION properly, but the police at Oldbury alleged that applicant suffered from delirium tremens, and that his wife was addicted to drink.

Applicant: It was no use me saying I was not on the drink, I was; but it was because I was put about owing to the house being closed. Sometimes my wife is very funny in the head, but it is not a matter of drink, she suffers from illness.

The Chief Superintendent: It is only fair to say that this man kept a house from 1908 to 1914 without any complaints, and that the police officer who alleges the drunkenness is now away at the front.

The Magistrates' Clerk: There was no complaint about this man as a license holder? – No, sir.

The Clerk: The complaint is that after the house was closed he drank? – Yes, sir.

Mr. Edward Smith: How has he gone on since he has had this temporary license? – The Chief Superintendent: There have been no complaints. It is a quiet house as rule.

After consultation with his colleagues (one of whom strongly objected to the granting of the license) Alderman Hughes said to the applicant, 'If you will promise us that there shall be no complaint and that you will not touch the drink, we will grant the license. If you suffer from delirium tremens you may injure yourself and others, and would be unfit to have a license.'

The Applicant: I don't think there is any need to be afraid of that no. I only took the drink because of the trouble.

The application was granted."

It became a private dwelling in 1930s.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/12/1945

"Auction Sale of Freehold Properties and Land, Rounds Green, Brades Village, Langley, Oldbury and West Bromwich.

By Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon, FAI, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Monday, December 17, 1945, at 6.30pm prompt.....

Causeway Green, Wolverhampton Road Area.

Lot 10. The Dislicensed OLD SAVING HAND INN, No.68, Pound Road, near its junction with the New Wolverhampton Road. Frontage to Pound Road 40 $\frac{2}{3}$  yards. Area approximately 1,660 square yards. Let to Mr. B. Potter at 8s 7d weekly. Gross £22 16s 4d per annum. This valuable Freehold Site abuts in the rear to within a few yards of the Wolverhampton Road, and would provide a building depth therefrom."

Demolished

#### SEVEN STARS

56, Park Lane, (Park House Lane), (Seven Stars Bridge, Canalside), OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

John White

#### LICENSEES



Isaac Parkes [1829]  
Mary White [1841] – [1842]  
Samuel Parkes [ ]  
Stephen Whitehouse [1849] – [1851]  
William Markwick [1854 – [1855]  
Myra Markwick [ ] – **1858**;  
Jane Fisher (**1858** – [ ]  
Edwin Fisher Markwick [1860] – [1883]

## NOTES

It was known as the BRIDGE. [1854], [1860], [1861], [1870], [1872]

*Isaac Parkes*, SEVEN STARS, Canal Side, Oldbury. [1829]

### 1841 Census

Seven Stars Bridge

- [1] *Mary White* (70), victualler;
- [2] David White (25), carpenter;
- [3] Helena White (20);
- [4] Eliza White (1);
- [5] Elizabeth Beech (12), fs;
- [6] Ann Stevens (13), fs:

### Birmingham Journal 24/7/1841

“Insolvent Debtors. To be heard at the Court House, at Birmingham, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1841.....  
David White, formerly of Halesowen Street, in Oldbury, Salop, carpenter, builder, and grocer; then of the Canal Side, Oldbury aforesaid, carrying on business as a licensed victualler and carpenter; and late a lodger at the SEVEN STARS public house, Canal Side, Oldbury aforesaid, carpenter.”

### Birmingham Journal 21/8/1841

“Insolvent Debtors’ Court ..... Remanded.....

David White, late of the SEVEN STARS, Oldbury, carpenter and victualler, for six months, from the date of his vesting order.”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 17/1/1842 - Advert

“Legacy of £50 and Interest in Monies arising from Sale of Property at Oldbury, Salop.

To be Sold by Auction, by S. Bloore, jun, on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January inst, at five o’clock in the afternoon (by order of the Assignees of David White, an Insolvent Debtor, and free of auction duty), at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, subject to conditions to be produced at the time of sale, in two lots as follows.

Lot I. A Legacy of £50, bequeathed to the insolvent, David White, late of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, Coal-dealer, which Legacy is payable on the death of the Testator’s Widow, *Mary White*, now aged 78 years or thereabouts, out of the produce of the sale of the Messuages and Premises hereinafter mentioned, being the real and copyhold Estate of the said Testator, that is to say.

All those two Copyhold Messuages, Stable, and Outbuildings, now in the respective occupations of Samuel White and John Beach. Also all that Freehold Messuage or Public House, called the SEVEN STARS, now in the occupation of the said *Mary White*, the Testator’s Widow. And also all those six Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, now in the respective occupations of Bradley, Smith, White, Stevens, Turton, and Stevens, together with all appurtenances thereto, the whole producing, at low rents, £84 3s per annum; all which said Messuages and Premises adjoin or nearly adjoin each other, and are situate on the Canal side, near to the Seven Stars Bridge, at Oldbury, and the same were directed to be sold, after the death of his said

Widow, by the said will of the said John White, deceased (a copy of which may be seen at the office of Mr. William Barlow, Solicitor, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, at any time before the sale).

Lot II. An equal Fourth Part of the surplus produce of the Sale of the said Copyhold and Freehold Messuages and Premises, so to be made after the death of the said Testator's Widow (after the payment of a mortgage of £100 and interest, the said Legacy or Sum of £50, and the expenses of the sale), subject as to this lot to the contingency of the said David White dying in the life-time of the Testator's said Widow, leaving issue. David White is about thirty years of age and is married; his wife is living, and they have one child, a daughter of about two years of age.

The purchaser will have to pay the legacy duty of £1 per cent on receipt of the Legacy and his share of the produce of the sale of the Premises.

Any further information may be had by applying to Mr. William Barlow, Solicitor, Bennetts Hill, or the Auctioneer, New Street, both of Birmingham."

#### Birmingham Journal 15/5/1847

"On Thursday, a very painful accident occurred to a child, named Elijah Stevens, whose parents reside in Oldbury. He was playing about a railway, used for carrying coals from one of the collieries to the canal, when a train of waggons came along, and one of them passed over his body, killing him on the spot. The inquest was held yesterday, at the SEVEN STARS INN, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/9/1848 - Notice

"In the County Court of Staffordshire, at Oldbury. 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1848.

Whereas a Petition of *Samuel Parkes*, formerly of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, journeyman cooper; afterwards of the SEVEN STARS TAVERN, in Oldbury aforesaid, publican; then of Oldbury aforesaid, cooper; and now of Oldbury aforesaid, journeyman cooper, 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 Parkes*, under the provisions of the statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Samuel Parkes* is hereby required to appear in Court before Nathaniel Richard Clarke, Esquire, the Judge acting in the matter of the said petition, on the twenty-third day of September instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the Court House, at Oldbury aforesaid, for his First Examination touching his debts, estate, and effects, and to be further dealt with according to the provisions of the said statutes; and notice is hereby given, that the choice of Assignees is to take place at the time so appointed.

All persons indebted to the said *Samuel Parkes*, or who have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Joseph Heapy Watson, Esquire, official assignee, acting in the matter of the said petition, at his office, at the Court House, in Oldbury aforesaid.

George Watson, Attorney, Oldbury."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/10/1849 - Advert

"Oldbury. Valuable Freehold Public House, with Stabling and large Garden, Freehold Dwelling Houses, and Copyhold Land, with the Mines and Minerals under the whole thereof.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins and Co, on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October inst, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the PARROT ARMS INN, in Oldbury (by direction of the Trustees of the Will of Mr. John White, deceased), in the following or such other lots as may be determined upon at the time of sale, and subject to conditions then to be read – the under-mentioned eligible Freehold and Copyhold Property, situate in Oldbury aforesaid.

Lot 1. The very substantial and old-established Public House or Inn, known by the sign of the SEVEN STARS, in the town of Oldbury, with Stabling, Outbuildings, Pump, and large Garden thereto, now in the occupation of Mr. *Stephen Whitehouse*; together with all the Mines and Minerals lying under the same....."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 17/10/1849

"At the Halesowen Petty Sessions, last week, there were heard no fewer than ten informations against brickmakers of that locality for wholesale evasion of the excise duties. Dr. Bateman, the excise solicitor, appeared in support of the informations, and Mr. Thomas Harding, of Birmingham, was specially engaged to defend each case....."

Mr. Joseph Whitehouse and Mr. *Stephen Whitehouse*, of Oldbury, were fined £60, and condemnation of 33,693 bricks.....

It appeared that the whole of the parties had been detected through the vigilance of Mr. Coomber, Supervisor of Excise, Wednesbury. Mr. Harding urged in each of the cases different mitigatory circumstances, and the penalties, which were more than £3,000, were ultimately reduced to about £300. We are informed that the large brickmakers of Birmingham and other towns have for some time past found it impossible to compete with those of this neighbourhood, and the above proceedings may possibly afford an explanation of the principal cause of this fact, as it has really for some time past been suspected to be.”

### 1851 Census

Park House Lane

[1] *Stephen Whitehouse* (48), brickmaker, master, employing 20 men and women, born Tipton;

[2] Harriett Whitehouse (48), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Solomon Whitehouse (18), son, brickmaker's clerk, born Oldbury;

[4] Stephen Whitehouse (12), son, brickmaker's apprentice, born Oldbury;

[5] Emanuel Whitehouse (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] Betsy Franks (14), house servant, born Oldbury;

[7] Samuel Franks (17), carter and servant, born Oldbury:

*William Markwick* married Harriett Fisher on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1835.

*Harriett Markwick* died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1848.

Thomas Markwick, beer retailer, boot and shoe maker, and shopkeeper, SEVEN STARS AND BRIDGE INN, Park Lane. [1855]

*William Markwick*, victualler, BRIDGE INN, Park Lane. [1855]

*William Markwick* died on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1857.

### Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/12/1858

“A special sitting of the Magistrates was held on Friday last, in the Big House, Church Street, Oldbury, to inquire into the truth of the statement of Joseph Baker, a steel worker, at Langley Green, near that town, to the effect that he was acquainted with the circumstances attending the death of a woman, named Catherine Moore, aged thirty-six, a hawker of drapery goods, who was found drowned in the canal near the Seven Stars Bridge, on the Oldbury and Birmingham turnpike-road, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 1854.

An inquest was held upon the body of the woman Moore at the time, and a verdict of Found Drowned was returned.

During last week the man Baker, whilst intoxicated in a public house, avowed that he knew the two men who murdered her. The police were informed of this statement, and Serjeant Simmonds went to the house of Baker's parents, with whom he lived, and who said that he had made similar assertions to them.

A search was made for Henry Webb, one of Baker's companions, and he was brought up as a witness, at the private offices of the Clerks to the Justices.

Mr. James Ballard, licensed victualler, of the LOCOMOTIVE INN, Oldbury, the only accused person now living, attended to defend himself from the aspersions cast upon his character by Baker.

Henry Webb, the person who overheard the prisoner's observations in the SEVEN STARS, was examined. He stated that her was in the room of the public house when Baker, who was sitting as if in a reflective mood, said, ‘Yes; I saw it all with my own eyes; they are the murderers.’ One of the company present, astonished by this remark, said, ‘What did you see?’ and Baker replied, ‘Oh, I saw the body in the water; I wanted to pull it out, but Ballard got hold of me and wouldn't let me, whilst Markwick stood watching on the bridge.’ On being asked how it was that he saw the men, Baker said he encountered them on his road home.

Serjeant Simmonds stated that Baker had made similar statements when he was sober as well as when he was intoxicated. Baker had also said that he intended never to ‘spilt,’ but that he could not keep the secret, for his conscience would not let him be quiet.

Mr. Ballard stated that he was altogether innocent of the extraordinary charge now brought against him. He could prove an alibi, as he was in business in London at the time named by Baker.

In reply to the Magistrates, Baker said, ‘I have no remembrance of having made such statements; and if I have, I must have been out of my senses.’

The Magistrates expressed their astonishment at Baker's conduct, and severely reprimanded him. They also expressed a hope that, for the sake of surviving family and friends of Mr. Markwick, and in justice to Mr. Ballard, full publicity would

be given to the issue of the inquiry. Mr. Ballard left the Court without a stain on his character. They did not believe a sentence of what Baker had said; they thought he was insane.”

*William Markwick* – see also OLD BOAT.

*Myra Markwick* = Mirah Markwick

Birmingham Journal 9/10/1858 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale, at the SEVEN STARS BRIDGE INN, near the Chemical Works, Oldbury.  
To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Tuesday Next, October 12<sup>th</sup>, upon the Premises as above.  
The whole of the Public House Fixtures, Screens, capital Drinking Tables, Bar Fixtures, Counter, Spirit Casks, Spirit Fountain, Ale Machine, Brewing Vessels, well-seasoned Casks, Stock of Ale and Spirits, Household Furniture, and other Effects, belonging to Mrs. *Markwick*, who is changing her residence.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1858 - Advert

“Postponement of Sale.  
The Sale advertised to take place This Day (12<sup>th</sup> October), at the SEVEN STARS BRIDGE INN, near the Chemical Works, Oldbury, is Postponed.  
William Hawkins, Auctioneer.”

*Myra Markwick* – see also EAGLE TAVERN.

*Edwin Fisher Markwick* = Edward Fisher Markwick

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1860

“Samuel Lowe, a respectable-looking young man, was charged with breaking open a dovecote and stealing eight pigeons.

The prosecutrix, Sarah Harris, deposed that on the evening of February 2<sup>nd</sup>, about eight or nine in the evening, she fastened up her pigeons (eight in number) securely, but the next morning she found the dovecote broken open, and the pigeons gone. Since then two had returned. She had obtained the pigeon now produced (which was one of those lost by her) from a Mr. Green, a pigeon dealer, in Oldbury, who had purchased it from Mr. *Markwick*.

*Edwin Fisher Markwick* deposed that the prisoner had given him a pigeon, which he sold to the Mr. Green mentioned by the last witness; but upon cross-examination, he said that he did not sell it till the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, and that the prisoner had given it to him two days before – which was actually before the pigeons were stolen from the prosecutrix. He declined, moreover, to pledge his oath as to the identity of the pigeon produced with the one given him by the prisoner.

After hearing Mr. H. Plunkett, who defended the prisoner, and who said the prisoner ought never to have been taken into custody, the Bench at once dismissed the case.”

Worcester Journal 15/12/1860

“Worcestershire Winter Assizes.....

John Dunn, 22, miner, was indicted for maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm upon *Edwin Fisher Markwick*, at Oldbury, on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. Mr. Best prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended.

The prosecutor is an innkeeper, at Oldbury, and at closing time on the night in question the prisoner remained in the passage after the other customers were gone. Prosecutor asked him why he did not leave with the rest, when he replied, ‘Thee doesn’t want to kick up a row, dost Ned?’ Prosecutor said he only wished him to leave the house. A man named Frayne then came from the back of the house, seized prosecutor by the throat, and held him against the wall while prisoner struck him several times on the forehead, and stabbed him on the hand with a knife.

Mr. Beety, surgeon, was of opinion that the wounds were inflicted by a small knife.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to four years’ penal servitude.”

1861 Census

## Park Lane – BRIDGE INN

- [1] *Edward F. Markwick* (23), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Markwick* (23), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *William Markwick* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *William Markwick* (12), brother, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Sarah Ann Lawfield* (11), visitor, born Stourbridge;
- [6] *Mary Ann Tranter* (16), visitor, born West Bromwich:

### Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1862 - Advert

“The SEVEN STARS INN, Oldbury. By Mr. Robert H. Jones.

To be Let (on Lease if preferred), this very excellent old-established Licensed House, with immediate possession, the Proprietor retiring from business.

The Premises consist of a spacious Bar, two Parlours, Tap Room, Sitting Room, five Bed Rooms, two roomy and lofty Cellars, splendid Bowling Saloon, between 50 and 60 feet long, which is occasionally used as a Club Dining Room; large and cool Brewhouse, Stables, Piggeries, and convenient Out-offices.

The House is now doing a good trade, for which it is admirably fitted up; is situate in the heart of the largest and most flourishing Works of the district, has a double frontage to the Canal and high road, and has been profitably occupied by the Proprietor, who is now retiring, and his late Father, for about 50 years.

Rent £30. Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a valuation.

Apply to Mr. Robert H. Jones, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Accountant, Church Street, Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/2/1864

“W. Foster of Oldbury, hearing that Tudor of Dudley Port is not satisfied with his late defeat, he will run him again 120 yards and allow him a yard start; or Baggott of Westbromwich can be on on the same terms; or he will run him 100 yards level; either match for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready any time at *E. Markwick's* SEVEN STARS INN, Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/8/1864

“*E. F. Markwick* of Oldbury has a bitch (Fly) he will match to run Mr. Oak's Famous of Birkenhead the best of 15 courses at rabbits, for £10 a side, to run on any enclosed ground in England, Famous to be 13lb weight, and Fly 14lb; Mr. J. Holden of Manchester to be stakeholder and to appoint a referee; or any other party can be on at the same terms by sending a deposit to Mr. Holden, and articles to *E. F. Markwick*, SEVEN STARS INN, Oldbury, Worcestershire.”

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

“Copenhagen Grounds, Manchester ..... Monday.

Very few persons visited these grounds this afternoon, and the only event decided was a match at rabbits, for £10 a side, between R. Smith's Bess of Westbromwich and *E. F. Markwick's* Fly of Oldbury, 11 out of 21 courses, 45 yards law, neither dog exceeding 14lb weight. The betting was 2 to 1 on Bess, and Mr. Hayes (the proprietor) acted as stakeholder and referee. The result was that Mr. Hayes declared the non-favourite (Fly) the winner of the match.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1869

“At Oldbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, before Mr. W. H. Dawes and Mr. H. Chance, a ‘dog trainer,’ named Edward Wilkinson, was charged with assaulting *Edwin Marwick*, a beerhouse keeper, residing near the Seven Stars Bridge. Mr. W. Shakespeare appeared for the complainant.

On the evening of the 8th inst, the complainant met the defendant in the BIRD SHOW, Church Street, when the latter charged the former with having been the originator of various reports reflecting upon his character, which were untrue. Complainant expressed his desire not to have anything to say to him, when the defendant struck him thrice upon the nose, which caused him to have two black eyes for nearly a week.

A witness, named John Shakespeare, said he saw the defendant ‘loose out three good blows, and no mistake,’ upon the complainant.

Defendant had been several times previously convicted, and was now fined £1 and costs, in all 33s, or in

default fourteen days' hard labour."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/12/1869

"Mount Pleasant Grounds, Coseley. Mr. Hampton's enclosure received a fair share of patronage yesterday, a 200 yards Dog Handicap Sweepstakes, for 20 guineas, being the fixture; and as the performers were supposed to be the three cracks of the district, the interest evinced was of the keenest description. The competitors were Mr. *Markwick's* Fan, and Mr. Turner's Nelson, of Oldbury, and Mr. R. Burrill's Orange Girl, of Londonderry, near Smethwick, matched to run the above distance on handicap terms, give or take 2½ yards to the pound. The trio of canine celebrities should have run punctually at one o'clock, but ordinary sporting events are proverbially subject to delay, and the scaling of the dogs, which ceremony was performed at Mr. *Markwick's* SEVEN STARS INN, Oldbury, was not over till long after the appointed hour, the consequence being that they did not show on the grounds till after two pm, *Markwick's* Fan placed on scratch, Turner's Nelson 5yds 7in start, Burrill's Orange Girl 13yds 7in start. Mr. Plant, of Tansey Green, was appointed to despatch them by report of pistol, and, after retiring some ten yards, the report was heard, the trio bounding off without hitch or delay, a magnificent race ensuing all the way, Fan catching Orange Girl a 'score' from home, and Nelson (who had just passed the 'Girl') a dozen yards therefrom, and winning by a short length; Nelson defeating Orange Girl for second place by a foot....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/7/1870 - Advert

"Freehold Property, Oldbury, Worcestershire.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, on Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1870, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, at the SEVEN STARS INN, Oldbury (by direction of the Mortgagee), and subject to conditions to be produced.

All those Eight Freehold Dwelling Houses, adjoining the SEVEN STARS INN, in the town of Oldbury, with the Stables or Cowhouse, Shop, Outbuildings, and Land in front thereof and adjoining thereto, now or late in the several occupations of J. Burn, G. Burns, Lawrence, Beach, Corker, Wright, Walker, and another, at weekly rents amounting to £48 2s per annum; together with all appurtenances thereto belonging, and the Mines and Minerals under the same.

For particulars, apply to Mr. Samuel Danks, Solicitor, Waterloo Street; or E. and C. Robins, Surveyors and Auctioneers, New Street, Birmingham."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/1/1871

"Burn's Peter of Birmingham, and Turner's Nelson of Oldbury, run 200 yards on handicap terms, for £10 a side, on January 16. £2 a side is down in the hands of Mr. *Markwick*, of the SEVEN STARS INN, Oldbury."

1871 Census

Park House Lane – SEVEN STARS INN

- [1] *Edwin Fisher Markwick* (33), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Markwick* (33), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *William F. Markwick* (13), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Edwin Markwick* (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Hannah Bowen* (19), domestic servant, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Josiah Pinfeld* (19), lodger, labourer, born West Bromwich;
- [7] *Edwin Buckley* (18), lodger, labourer, born Bromsgrove:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 29/6/1872

"Mr. *Markwick* of Oldbury hearing that Mr. Jubb of Woodside is not satisfied with his defeat of Luce, will match his dog Jerry to run Luce again, the best of 21 courses, 60 yards law, for £25 a side, in a month from signing articles, on any enclosed ground in England. A match can be made at *E. Markwick's*, SEVEN STARS INN, Oldbury, at any time."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/7/1872

"Mr. Jubb of Woodside is ready to match his bitch Luce against Mr. *Markwick's* dog, the best of 21 courses,

60 yards law, for £20 or £25 a side, on the same ground the last match was made for. If Mr. *M.* will name a house to meet at a match can be made, but not at Mr. *Markwick's* house.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/8/1872

“Navigation Coursing Grounds, Bromford, near Birmingham.

The rabbit coursing match between Jubb’s bitch Luce of Woodside and *Markwick's* dog Jerry of Oldbury drew a good assemblage to the grounds on Monday ..... Luce secured 11 to Jerry’s 8.....”

Sporting Life 31/10/1874

“In answer to Mr. Banks, of Blackrod, Mr. *Markwick*, of Oldbury, will match his bitch Fan to run his (Banks’s) Violet, for his own sum, and at his own time, at Lea Brook Grounds, Wednesbury, and Mr. *Markwick* will allow £2 for his (Banks’s) expenses. An answer to Mr. *Markwick*, SEVEN STARS INN, Oldbury, and a deposit to the proprietor of the grounds will ensure a match.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1875

“*E. F. Markwick*, landlord of the SEVEN STARS, Park Lane, Oldbury, was charged with allowing drunkenness in his house on the 21<sup>st</sup> November, also with being drunk himself in his own house, and fighting. Police-constables Raybould and Burley were called into the defendant’s house to quell a disturbance; they found two men fighting in the kitchen, and the landlord quietly looking on. While they were turning the two men out who were fighting, the landlord struck one of the customers, named Hyland, and endeavoured to turn him out. The constables had to forcibly lead the landlord into the bar, and detain him there for some time.

The defence was that the landlord had sent for the constables to turn men out who had come in drunk and quarrelsome, and that one of the men returned, and began to quarrel with the defendant, who endeavoured to put him out.

The defendant was fined £10 and costs, and his license was endorsed.”

Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

“The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Oldbury division were held on Monday, at the Police Court.....

The cases of James Downing, BRICKMAKERS ARMS, and *Edward Fisher Markwick*, SEVEN STARS, on the Black List, which had been adjourned from the General Licensing Sessions, were then considered.....

Mr. Avery said with reference to *Markwick* that he had been convicted of a grave case of permitting drunkenness, for which he had been fined £10 and costs and his license endorsed. It also appeared that on two previous occasions he had been convicted and fined for offences against his license, although one was about ten years ago. The magistrates had grave doubts as to whether he was a proper person to whom they could grant a renewal of the license; but, having regard to the fact that the house had subsequently been respectably and orderly conducted, they had ultimately decided to grant the license, and to warn him that if he was again convicted he would place his license in great peril.”

Mary Ann *Markwick* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1880.

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 23/10/1880 - Advert

“Parties in search of an old-established Old-licensed Public-house.

To Let, in consequence of the death of the landlady, the SEVEN STARS INN, Park Lane, Oldbury, never been out of the family; comprising large Tap-room, Parlour, Bar, Smoke-room, Cooking Kitchen, five Bed Rooms, Store Room, Brewhouse, with modern Brewery Plant; good Cellars, excellent Stabling, large Garden, and Piggeries, surrounded by extensive Works. A Lease will be granted. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone wishing to embark in the business. In-coming about £500.

Apply on the Premises; or to Hawkins and Son, Hotel Valuers, 26, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

*Edwin Fisher Markwick* married Sarah Jane Willetts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1881.

## 1881 Census

56, Park Lane – SEVEN STARS

[1] *Edwin F. Markwick* (43), victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Sarah J. Markwick (31), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Edward Markwick (20), son, fitter, born Oldbury;

[4] Emma Bissell (14), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

## Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1883

“*Edwin Markwick*, of SEVEN STARS INN, Park Lane, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of Arthur Bradley, ALBION INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, on the 18<sup>th</sup> ult.

Police-constable Camden proved the case, and defendant was fined 40s and costs, in all £2 8s.”

## Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1891

“Yesterday afternoon a meeting of the Oldbury Local Board was held.....

The Technical Instruction Committee reported that a letter had been received from Mr. A. M. Chance on behalf of the Oldbury Alkali Company Limited, stating that they were willing to let the committee have the premises formerly known as the SEVEN STARS public house, in Park Lane, to be used as workshops, for a period of three years, rent free. The committee had accepted the offer of Mr. Chance, and requested the clerk to write thanking him for the same. The total attendance at the various classes at the Technical School for the past month was 871.”

## SEVEN STARS

103, (38), Dudley Road, (Tividale Road, Rowley Regis), TIVIDALE

## OWNERS

Samuel Growcott, Laureston House, Raglan Road, Smethwick

Thomas Cox (acquired in October 1897 for £1,070)

Windsor Castle Brewery (acquired in 1927)

Grigg and Brettell Ltd. (acquired in 1938)

Ansells Ltd.

## LICENSEES

David Sewell [1860] – 1881);

Elisha Waring (1881 – [1891]

Thomas Cox [1896] – 1927);

Edith Mary Cox (1927 – 1938);

George Henry Short (1938 – 1942);

Leslie Male (1942 – 1943);

Doris Male (1943 – 1951);

William Henry Hadley (1951 – 1952);

Stanley Raymond Price (1952 – 1957);

Albert John Mussey (1957 – 1958);

Derek Jones (1958 – 1962);

Mavis Sweeny (1962 – 1963);

George H Cox (1963 – 1965);

Howard Johnson (1965 – 1966);



Peter Evans (1966 – [ ])

## NOTES

Tividale Road, Rowley Regis [1871]  
38, Dudley Road [1881], [1891], [1901]  
103, Dudley Road [1911], [1939], [1940]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

*David Sewell* = David Lessell

### Birmingham Journal 29/9/1860 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Public House and Premises, known as the SEVEN STARS INN, situate near the Junction at Tividale, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, and County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Tuesday Next, October the 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. Pratt, the JUNCTION INN, at Tividale aforesaid, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that recently-erected and very desirable Freehold Public House, known as the SEVEN STARS INN, with Brewhouse, Stable, Piggeries, Yard, and Premises belonging thereto, situate near the Canal Bridge, and Mr. Whitehead's Ironworks, at Tividale aforesaid, now in the occupation of the proprietor, Mr. *David Sewell*, and of the annual value of £25.

The above Property is well deserving the attention of small capitalists either for investment or occupation, being in the immediate vicinity of several large works and fronting the Dudley, Oldbury, and Birmingham Turnpike Road; it has been recently and substantially erected, and is well supplied with both hard and soft water.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Brooke Robinson, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, Dudley.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 2/10/1860 - Advert

“Freehold Public House.

By Mr. Bateman, This Day (Tuesday), a Six o'clock, at the JUNCTION INN, at Tividale, Rowley Regis. That recently-erected Freehold Public House, known as the SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale.”

*David Sewell*, beer retailer, Tividale. [1861], [1868]

*David Lessell* was also a grocer. [1861]

### Birmingham Journal 9/3/1861 - Advert

“Unless the Wearing Apparel left by George Woodhouse at *David Sewell*'s, SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale, is fetched away within Fourteen Days from the date hereof, they will be Sold to defray expenses.

*David Sewell*.”

### 1861 Census

Tividale – SEVEN STARS Beerhouse

[1] *David Sewell* (34), beer seller and grocer, born Lincoln;

[2] Sarah Sewell (36), wife, born Marley, Herefordshire:

*David Sewell*, retailer of beer, Tividale. [1862]

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1869 - Advert

“Lost, from Tividale, on Sunday last, a Liver-coloured Spaniel, with a white spot on the breast, about 16 months old, answers to the name of ‘Rover.’ Anyone bringing him to *David Sewell*, SEVEN STARS, Tividale, will be Rewarded for their trouble.

NB. Any person detaining the Dog after this notice will be prosecuted.”

Stourbridge Observer 7/5/1870

“John Cam was charged with assaulting *David Sewell*, beerhouse keeper, Tividale, on the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. There was no evidence to show an assault had been committed, and the Bench dismissed the case.”

1871 Census

Tividale Road

[1] *David Sewell* (42), publican (beerhouse), born Lincoln;

[2] Sarah Sewell (40), wife, born Tibberdon, Staffordshire;

[3] Thomas Watson (33), labourer at a public house, born South Wales:

Stourbridge Observer 12/8/1871

“*David Sewell* was charged with keeping his house open after eleven o’clock at night for the sale of drink. Mr. Jackson, of West Bromwich, defended.

Police-constable Satchwell said he was stationed at Tividale. On the 18<sup>th</sup> ult he visited the defendant’s house at 11.55pm. He was at the door about five minutes before he could get admittance. When he got in all the lights were put out. He had some matches with him, and he struck them, and went into the club room, where he found the defendant and two men. There was porter on the table, and glasses, one of which was nearly half full. He asked defendant why he kept the house open so late, and he said the men were auditing some books belonging to a club.

Cross-examined: I live next door to defendant. Have not been unfriendly with him.

Mr. Jackson submitted there was no evidence to convict, and the case was dismissed.”

Dudley Herald 12/2/1876 - Advert

“Came Astray on Tuesday last, the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, a Fox Coloured Greyhound Dog, with Black Muzzled Nose. If not claimed in three days will be sold to defray expenses.

*David Sewell*, SEVEN STARS, Tividale.”

County Advertiser 12/2/1876

“*David Sewell*, licensed victualler, SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale, was charged with selling ale on Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, between half-past two and six o’clock. Mr. Jackson, of Westbromwich, defended.

Police-constable Sylvestre said he was on duty on the day named, near the defendant’s house. At about five o’clock in the afternoon he saw a man named Thomas Watts, a lodger at defendant’s house, leave it with a large bottle under his arm. He followed him, and on examining the bottle found it to be full of ale. The man said it was his own property, and he ‘told the Missis to fill it before he went out.’ He questioned Mrs. *Sewell* about it, and she said she supplied the ale to the man before two o’clock to take to some men, and he took it with him at five o’clock.

Mr. Jackson, in defence, said the defendant had kept the public house which he now occupied for thirty years without any complaint being made, and therefore would not be likely to endanger his reputation by any wilful disobedience of the law.

Mrs. *Sewell*, wife of the defendant, said Watts had lodged at her house for six years. On the day in question he had his dinner at her house, and she supplied him with the ale between one and two o’clock, to take to some men with whom he worked. He left the house but did not take the ale, and returned again about five o’clock to fetch it. It was paid for on the next day.

Thomas Watts said he was a boat unloader and lodged at the house of the defendant. He had the ale supplied him between one and to o’clock, and put it by, intending to take it with him to work. He, however, forgot it, and came back about five o’clock for it.

The Bench considered the offence proved, and fined defendant 20s and costs, but did not endorse the license.”

County Advertiser 2/3/1878

“Joseph Eveson, boiler-maker, and Benjamin Baker, an employee at the Brades Steel Works, both of Brades

Road, Tividale, were brought up on the charge of stealing two live ducks, belonging to *David Sewell*, proprietor of the SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale.

A little boy, named Isaac Hill, of Brades Village, said that on the Sunday afternoon previous he was going along Gipsy Lane, Brades Village, near the canal, two other boys being in his company. On the other side of the canal he saw the two accused along with another person named Merrick (not in custody), and heard the report of a gun. Merrick ran away, carrying the gun, and witness noticed that two ducks which had been swimming on the water of the canal just before were shot, and appeared to be dead, while another one was 'kicking.' Baker went down to a bridge and broke a branch off a tree, with which he got the two dead ducks out of the water. He put them under his jacket, and then went to Eveson, who was on the bridge. The prisoner Baker came up to him and his companions, and told them not to say anything, 'and they'd catch the one that shot them,' after which the prisoners walked away, each with one of the ducks in his possession. He went to Mr. *Sewell*, the prosecutor, and told him what had taken place.

Another boy, named Hadley, who saw Merrick fire the gun at the ducks, gave evidence similar to Hill's, and a third boy was also called.

The prosecutor, Mr. *Sewell*, spoke to receiving information of his ducks being shot, and to finding one of the three (produced) in the hedge at the side of the canal near the place where the boys said they saw the ducks. Police-constable Hicklin deposed that he arrested the prisoners, after which the prisoner Eveson made a statement that he was innocent; the other prisoner reserving his defence.

Mr. Bassano then committed both of them to the Sessions for trial, refusing to allow bail."

[At Staffordshire Sessions Joseph Eveson and Benjamin Baker were found guilty and each sentenced to three months' hard labour.]

*Elisha Waring* = Elijah Waring = Elijah Warring

#### 1881 Census

38, Dudley Road

[1] *Elisha Waring* (40), coal miner and publican (beerhouse), born West Bromwich;

[2] Mary Waring (33), wife, born Gornal;

[3] John W. Waring (10), son, scholar, born Glascote, Warwickshire;

[4] *Edith M. Waring* (7), daughter, scholar, born Glascote, Warwickshire;

[5] Sarah Merrick (28), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

#### Dudley Herald 21/1/1882

"Sale by Auction ..... on 31st January.....

SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale ..... now in the occupation of *Elisha Waring* ..... annual rental of £24."

AND

#### Dudley and District News 28/1/1882 - Advert

"Sale by Auction ..... on 31st January.....

Lot 2. All that valuable Public House and Premises, situate near to the JUNCTION INN, Tividale, having extensive Stabling and Outbuildings. The House consists of large Bar, Shop, Parlour, Kitchen, large Club Room, and two Bed Rooms, and is now in the occupation of Mr. *Elisha Waring*, producing the annual rental of £24."

#### Dudley and District News 18/2/1882

"*Elisha Waring*, landlord of the SEVEN STARS INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours on the night of Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> inst.

While on duty in the Dudley Road about 11.20 on the night in question PC Winfield observed a light in the defendant's house and on looking through the window saw the defendant sell a quantity of ale to a woman named Hadley, he himself being drunk. About 12.30 Hadley came out with a bottle of ale under her shawl and when the witness went into the house the defendant was making use of most filthy language in the presence of his wife, who remonstrated with him several times. Defendant's excuse was that Hadley had been called in to assist in clearing out the house, and the ale found in her possession had been given to her, along with some food in lieu of wages. She, however, had been allowed to remain on the premises about an hour

after she had finished her work.

This evidence was corroborated by Fanny Hadley, who was afterwards charged with being on the premises during prohibited hours.

Mr. Cooksey appeared for the defence.

*Waring* was fined 10s and costs, his license not to be endorsed. Hadley being fined 1s and costs or 14 days. The magistrates said that it was a very peculiar thing that when publicans were summoned for such offences it was always alleged that the beer was given, which if true, would make them about the most benevolent people in the world.”

#### Dudley and District News 2/9/1882

“Old Hill annual Brewster Sessions were held at the Police Court on Wednesday.....

The following is the black list, and in each of the cases the licenses were suspended till the adjourned licensing meeting ..... Beerhouse Keepers.....

*Elisha Waring*, SEVEN STARS, Dudley Road, Tividale, selling ale after hours, fined 20s and costs.”

#### Dudley and District News 30/9/1882

“This being the Old Hill adjourned licensing sessions the Bench granted a renewal of the licenses which were suspended at the last annual general sessions. The Chairman stated that the magistrates had very carefully considered each case, and they had decided to renew the licenses on the understanding that some assurance was given on the part of each defaulter, that their respective houses should be better conducted in the future. The Bench were determined that the law should be enforced, and if the defendants were guilty of any further offence against the Licensing Laws they would be severely punished and their licenses forfeited. The Chairman added that Henry Heath, who was convicted for selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, was now taking out a six days’ license instead of a seven days’, and his license was renewed on that condition; and if any of the others wished to have six days’ licenses the Bench would be pleased to grant them.”

#### Dudley and District News 29/3/1884

“Francis Shelley, Tividale, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Elijah Waring*, on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst, at Dudley Road, Tividale. PC Winfield proved finding the defendant there in the tap-room drunk. Later on he visited the house again, and the defendant was still there. Fined 10s and costs.”

#### Dudley and District News 5/4/1884

“*Elijah Waring*, of the SEVEN STARS INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 15<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Hooper appeared for the defendant.

PC Wingfield said that about 9-30 on Saturday night, the 15<sup>th</sup> ult, he, in company with PC Mountney, visited the SEVEN STARS beerhouse. In the tap-room they found a man named Francis Shelly, who was very drunk. He had a pint cup of ale before him. Witness then said to defendant, who was present in the tap-room, ‘Are you giving this man ale, and he in such a state as this?’ Defendant replied, ‘There is a club meeting here, and they have got him drunk in the club-room.’ They then left the house, but visited it again about 10-30 the same night. They went into the tap-room and there found the man Shelly sitting in a corner with a pint cup before him, which was nearly full. Shelly was making use of very bad language. When the defendant saw them he said to him, ‘Come Frank, you are drunk and you must go.’ Shelly got up and attempted to go out. He staggered about and as he was going out he fell against witness. The constable then called the landlord’s attention to his condition, and told him he should report the matter. Defendant followed them out of the house into the road, and said he hoped they would say nothing about it that time and he would watch that it did not occur again; but they had given him the ale in the club-room.

PC Mountney gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Hooper, for the defence, said that a similar case to that had recently been decided at a Court of Quarter Sessions, where it was held that a publican could not be convicted for permitting drunkenness when a man entered his house in a state of intoxication. He hoped the construction that the Bench would now put upon the case would be in accordance with that decision. He admitted that the man was drunk, for that was shown beyond dispute by the two officers, but that was not his point. He could prove by an independent witness

that the man was drunk before he went on the premises, and that the man was not in the house an hour before the officers saw him. He could also prove that the man had the ale in the club-room. He would now ask them if they could convict the defendant for permitting drunkenness when he was drunk before he went into the house. He held that on face of the decision he had referred to his client could not be convicted, for he had not permitted drunkenness.

The Bench decided to take their own course, and not conform to the decision of the Court of Quarter Sessions.

Defendant was fined 40s and costs, or one month.

Mr. Hooper said he should give notice of appeal.”

#### County Advertiser 30/8/1884

“The annual brewster sessions for the Parish of Rowley Regis were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

The license of *Elisha Waring*, SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale was refused.”

#### County Advertiser 27/9/1884

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division was held at Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday.....

The following persons, whose names appeared on the black list, and whose licenses were held over from the annual licensing session, now had their licenses renewed ..... *Elisha Waring*, SEVEN STARS, Tividale.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1887 - Advert

“400,000 good second-hand Bricks for Sale, 7s 6d 1,000 on ground. Delivered to BOOT AND SLIPPER or CAPE ARMS 12s 6d 1,000; Wellington and Winson Green Wharf, 13s; Brookfields and Icknield Port Wharf, 13s 6d 1,000.

To see them, apply *Elisha Waring*, SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale, near Tipton.”

#### 1891 Census

38, Dudley Road – SEVEN STARS

[1] *Elisha Waring* (49), beerhouse keeper, born West Bromwich;

[2] Mary Waring (44), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Edith Waring* (17), daughter, born Glascote, Warwickshire:

#### County Express 15/8/1891

“Cricket. Fixtures for Today.....

Tividale SEVEN STARS, v Harts Hill 2<sup>nd</sup>.”

*Edith Mary Waring* married *Thomas Cox* in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1892.

*Thomas Cox*, beer retailer, 38, Dudley Road. [1896], [1904]

#### Smethwick Telephone 23/10/1897

“.....Mr. Samuel Jones has received instructions from the trustees of the late Mr. Samuel Growcott, to offer for Sale by Auction at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1897, at Seven o'clock pm, prompt.....

Lot 1. All that substantially built and commandingly situate Freehold Free Beerhouse known as the SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale.

The house has a good frontage to the main Oldbury and Dudley Turnpike Road, near its Junction to the Tipton Road, and contains capital Front Taproom with Bay Window, large Front Smoke Room with Bay Window, Bar, Kitchen, Three Good Bedrooms, Clubroom; and Three Capital Cellars, Verandah, Brewhouse &c. In the Yard are Capital Stabling for Six Horses, Fowl Pen and usual Outbuildings.

The house is let to the present tenant Mr. Samuel [sic] *Cox*, under Lease, which expires in September next. There has been no change in Tenancy for the last eighteen years.

It is well worth the attention Brewers, Maltsters, Capitalists and others.....”

Smethwick Telephone 30/10/1897

“Mr. Samuel Jones, of Oldbury and Smethwick, instructed by the trustees of the late Samuel Growcott, held a very successful sale of freehold properties on Tuesday evening at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. The freehold beerhouse, known as the SEVEN STARS, Tividale, was started at £500, and after a spirited competition was knocked down to Mr. Cox, the present tenant, for £1,070.”

Dudley Herald 11/6/1898 - Advert

“Tividale SEVEN STARS Cricket Club.

Matches Wanted, home and away, with local teams.

Apply, *Thomas Cox*, secretary, SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale, Tipton.”

1901 Census

38, Dudley Road – 7 STARS INN

[1] *Thomas Cox* (30), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Edith M. Cox* (27), wife, born Glascote, Warwickshire;

[3] *Elisha Cox* (7), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Mary Cox* (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Ellen Cox* (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Elizabeth Tranter* (16), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Tipton Herald 11/7/1903

“At Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, John Gordon, alias Douglas, who declined to disclose his address; John Bourton, Adderley Street, Bordesley Green; John Henry Green, Mill Street, Aston Road, Birmingham, were brought up on remand, charged with being in possession and attempting to pass base coin at Tividale on Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. F. Hooper, Birmingham, defended Bourton and Green.....

*Thomas Cox*, landlord of the SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale, was the next witness called. He stated that about ten minutes past two on Saturday two men came into his house. He did not know them at the time, but now identified them as Gordon and Bourton. They called for gin and bitters. Witness told them he did not sell it, whereupon Gordon called for two glasses of ale. He then tendered a 5s piece. Witness took it from him and examined it, and not being satisfied with it asked Gordon if he had any smaller change. To this Gordon said, ‘Wait till my mate comes in. He’s gone outside.’ When Bourton arrived he gave him 1s. Gordon said there was nothing wrong with the 5s and rung it on the floor. Witness told Gordon he was not satisfied with it and he should not take it. He next saw the men in Court the following Monday morning. There were five other men, making in all seven. He identified the two who came into his house the previous Saturday. He had not the slightest doubt about them. When they came into his house one was dressed in a dark grey suit, and the other a blue serge suit. In answer to questions by Mr. Hooper witness said his house was about 150 yards from the previous witness’s. When the prisoners came in they stood in the passage. He had never seen any of the men before, to his knowledge.

Mr. Hooper: What made you notice them? – Witness: I had word that they were passing base coin in the district from a man in the tap room.

Mr. Hooper: So you thought it best to make a mental photograph of these men? – Witness: Yes.

And this made you suspicious? – Yes. Someone had, I believe, gone for the policeman then.

You lost nothing by the transaction? – No.

In answer to further questions, witness said he identified the prisoners at the police station the following Monday. They were there amongst five other men, ill dressed in respectable clothes. He picked the prisoners out, and had not the slightest hesitation about either of them.

Mr. Hooper: If I tell you that Bourton was miles away at the time, would you hold the same opinion? – Witness: I would. I have not the slightest doubt.....

A remand was granted for a week.

Mr. Hooper: Then I have to apply for bail.

This was refused.”

[For the full article see under BROWN LION.]

County Advertiser 18/7/1903

“On Wednesday, at Rowley Regis Police Court – before Messrs. A. H. Bassano, C. W. Bassano, J. W. Tilley, and G. H. Holcroft – John Gorton (21), alias Walter Douglas, labourer, who refused to give his address, but belongs to Birmingham; John Henry Green (24), alias John Turst, glassworker, of Mill Street, Aston, Birmingham; and John Bourton (21), horse dealer, of Adderley Street, Bordewsley, Birmingham, were charged in custody on remand with uttering base coin at Tividale on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, and also with having base coin in their possession on the same date. Mr. F. Hooper, of Birmingham, appeared to defend Green and Bourton. Mary Hill, sister of the landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Tividale, stated that on the afternoon of the date named, the prisoners Gorton and Bourton visited the public house, and were supplied with some drink and cigarettes. Gorton tendered a five shilling piece, which witness examined and refused to accept, as she did not care to take it. Gorton said, ‘It is all right; I wish I had a thousand of them.’ Witness, however, told him that she should not take it, and Bourton then paid for the drink. In reply to Mr. Hooper, witness said she still adhered to her statement made on the previous Wednesday that Bourton was the man who came into the house with Gorton.

*Thomas Cox*, landlord of the SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale, said that the prisoners Gorton and Bourton visited the house on the date named and purchased two glasses of ale. A five shilling piece was handed to witness in payment of the ale, but this he refused to take as it did not seem to be satisfactory to him, and he had also received an intimation, whilst the prisoners were in the house, that bad money was being passed in the district.

James Griffiths, of High Street, Tipton, stated that on the afternoon of the date named, he saw Police-constable Heatherley searching for three men who were running away in the direction of Dudley Port. The officer asked witness to follow them and he did so upon his bicycle. They crossed over the London and North Western Railway and witness caught them up. He rode alongside the prisoners for about forty yards and called upon three young men to assist him to capture them, but they all refused. Witness then caught Gorton and held him until Police-constable Heatherley arrived upon the scene. The other two prisoners ran away across the fields.

Police-constable Heatherley stated that whilst he was chasing the prisoners he noticed Gorton put his hand in his left hand pocket, pull out something, and throw it away. Upon arriving at the spot witness found sixteen base crown pieces (produced). Witness conveyed Gorton to Old Hill Police Station, and the other two prisoners, when charged with the offence, said they did not know where Tividale was.

Mary Salter, wife of Charles Salter, of the VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, Oldbury, stated that on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst the prisoners Gorton and Bourton visited her house and were supplied with some drink. Gorton gave her a five shilling piece and witness handed him 4s 6d change. She could not say whether the coin was a base one as she had since disposed of it.

Police-sergeant Evans, of the Birmingham police, deposed to seeing the three prisoners leaving a public house in Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. They separated, but witness subsequently saw them together again at the Snow Hill Station. The same evening, upon receipt of a telephonic message from Old Hill, he arrested Bourton, who in reply to the charge, said he did not know where Tividale was, and he had been in the city all that day.

Detective Harris deposed to arresting Green, who also denied being at Tividale.

Police-constables Lawson and Foulkes described a conversation they heard between the three prisoners at Handsworth Station on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst, after they had been remanded and were being escorted to Winson Green Gaol. Gorton said, ‘I wish I had never seen — Tividale,’ to which Green replied, ‘I have never been there before, and I will watch I don’t go again.’ Bourton said, ‘Nor me, I don’t know where Tividale is.’

Harry Arthur Griffiths, jeweller, of High Street, Cradley Heath, deposed to examining the sixteen five shilling pieces found by Police-constable Heatherley; they were all counterfeit.

When charged with the offences by the magistrates’ clerk (Mr. T. Cooksey), Gorton said, ‘I plead guilty to attempting to pass one base coin not knowing it to be bad. These two fellows (pointing to the other prisoners) were not with me on the afternoon, although they were with me on the morning when seen by Sergeant Evans.’

The other prisoners pleaded not guilty, and Mr. Hooper, on their behalf, urged that there was no evidence

whatever against Green, and that the witnesses were mistaken as to Bourton. Both men were in Birmingham during the day in question. A number of witnesses were called to prove this, but eventually the Bench committed the prisoners for trial at the Assizes, bail being refused.

Mr. A. H. Bassano (the presiding magistrate) complimented James Griffiths, the cyclist, for the pluck he displayed to secure the arrest of the three prisoners. Superintendent Pilliner said the police much appreciated the valuable assistance they received from Griffiths, through whose efforts the prisoners had been brought to justice.

Detective Harris gave Superintendent Pilliner particulars of the prisoners' antecedents, which raised the ire of Bourton, who attempted to assault Harris, and declared his intention of killing him for giving the Staffordshire police particulars, which he characterised as an injustice. Owing to his violence it was necessary for a policeman to stand near to him in the dock."

#### Staffordshire Sentinel 27/7/1903

"The County Assizes.....

John Gorton, 21, clerk, and John Henry Green, 24, glass blower, and John Bourton, 21, horse dealer, were charged with uttering to *Thomas Cox*, on July 4<sup>th</sup>, at Tividale, Rowley Regis, a piece of counterfeit coin resembling a 5s piece, well knowing it to be false and counterfeit. Gorton was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, Green was discharged, and Bourton was sentenced to five months' imprisonment."

#### Tipton Herald 14/11/1903

"A supper and smoking concert was held on Tuesday night last at the house of Mr. *Thomas Cox*, the SEVEN STARS, Tividale, in commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mr. Tom Cambridge, one of the old school of pedestrians. After a capital repast, well served by Mr. and Mrs. *Cox*, the chair was taken by Mr. Sydney Bartlett, of Dudley....."

#### 1911 Census

103, Dudley Road

- [1] *Thomas Cox* (40), publican and brewer, born Tividale;
- [2] *Edith Mary Cox* (37), wife, married 18 years, assisting in business, born Glascote, Tamworth;
- [3] *Elisha Cox* (17), son, rail breaker, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Mary Cox* (15), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Ellen Cox* (13), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

*Thomas Cox*, beer retailer, 103, Dudley Road, Tividale. [1912]

#### Dudley Chronicle 16/2/1928

"Annual Licensing Sessions for Rowley Regis.....

They had all the applications for renewals before them, and they had given consideration to them with a view to reducing their number. They had decided to defer until the adjourned licensing day the licenses of.....

SEVEN STARS, Dudley Road, Tividale, on the ground of redundancy."

#### Dudley Chronicle 15/3/1928

"The adjourned annual Licensing Meeting was held at Old Hill Police Court last week.....

With regard to six licenses, adjourned at the annual Licensing Sessions for further consideration on the grounds of redundancy, the chairman said they had decided to renew the licenses of three of them ..... SEVEN STARS, Tividale."

#### 1939 Register

103, Dudley Road

- [1] *George H. Short*, date of birth 5/1/1880, publican, married;
- [2] *Ann Elizabeth Short*, dob 4/8/1875, wife, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Doris (Short) (Male) Aspain*, dob 6/3/1909, bar general, single:



*George Henry Short* – see also MINERS ARMS, Tividale.

Closed

### **SLATERS ARMS**

Birmingham Street, OLDBURY

### **OWNERS**

### **LICENSEES**

Haywood [1865]

### **NOTES**

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/10/1865

“W. Howells of Oldbury will run Baggott of Gritts Green 120 yards, with two yards start, or will run E. Morris or O. Newey the same distance, for £5 or £10 a side. Howells will be at *Haywood's*, the SLATERS ARMS, Oldbury, this day (Saturday), from eight to ten o'clock, prepared to make a match with either one.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/10/1866 - Advert

“To be Let, the SLATERS ARMS, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Coming-in about £25.”

### **SPADE MAKERS ARMS**

23, Hunt Street / Union Street, (Furnace Row), OLDBURY

### **OWNERS**

Mrs. Samuel G. Thompson, Oldbury  
Walter Enoch Middleton  
Showells  
Atkinsons Ltd.

### **LICENSEES**

Jackson [1867]  
Thomas Ashfield [1871] – **1872**);  
Charles Aston (**1872** – [1873]  
William Brant [1884] – **1888**);  
Mary Ann Brant (**1888** – **1891**);  
Walter Enoch Middleton (**1891** – **1898**);

William Henry Taylor (1898 – 1903);  
Arthur Russell Perrins (1903 – 1904);  
Thomas Evitts (1904 – 1907):

## NOTES

### SPADE AND SHOVEL

It had a beerhouse license.

It was known locally as the “Bug and Blanket”.

#### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/8/1867

“S. Crompton and W. Glear of Oldbury have signed articles to run 100 yards, for £5 a side, on Monday, September 2. £2 10s a side is down in the hands of Mr. *Jackson*, SPADE MAKERS ARMS, Oldbury, who is stakeholder, and a further deposit of £1 a side has to be made to him this (Saturday) evening.”

#### Stourbridge Observer 2/9/1871 - Advert

“To Let, a Beerhouse, situated in one of the best places in Oldbury; doing a steady business. Rent, £18. Fixtures about £15. Good-will reasonable.

Apply to *Thomas Ashfield*, SPADEMAKERS ARMS, Oldbury.”

*Charles Aston*, beer retailer, Hunt Street. [1873]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/6/1873 - Advert

“Oldbury. To Let, the SPADEMAKERS ARMS, Hunt Street. Illness cause of leaving. In-coming and rent low.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1884

“At the Oldbury Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. G. Heaton and E. B. Phillips – Alexander Nock (45), puddler, of Hales Owen Street, was charged, on remand, with unlawfully wounding Giles Hill, iron-worker, of Causeway Green, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

Complainant said that on the day named he and the defendant quarrelled and fought while together in the SPADEMAKERS ARMS, Hunt Street. Witness went to the GOLDEN LION INN, Hales Owen Street, but was followed by the defendant. When he left that public house the defendant followed him about a quarter of a mile, and struck him a violent blow on the back of the neck. He (prosecutor) could see that he had either to fight or be killed, so he fought. They had about four rounds, and during the fight defendant kicked him on the ankle and knocked him down. Whilst he was upon the ground defendant had a running kick at his right arm and broke it. He had been under the care of a surgeon since.

Alice Wood deposed that she saw the prosecutor and defendant fighting in the street, and during the last round defendant kicked prosecutor twice. Defendant also kicked the prosecutor whilst he was on the ground.

Mr. C. Torbitt, surgeon, said the prosecutor’s left leg was badly bruised and swollen, and his right arm was broken. He considered that the injuries were caused by kicks.

Police-constable Clarke stated that when he arrested defendant the latter replied that complainant fetched him out of two or three public houses and would make him fight.

At the close of the case for the prosecution a consultation took place between the parties, and subsequently Mr. Shakespeare made an application for the case to be adjourned. He pointed out that in the meantime the defendant was willing to pay 5s per week to the prosecutor for two months.

The Bench decided to adjourn the case for a month to see whether this arrangement would be carried out.”

#### Wolverhampton Express and Star 22/12/1885

“*William Brant*, of the SPADEMAKERS ARMS, Hunt Street, was charged with selling during prohibited hours on Sunday morning, the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Police-sergeant Stanton said at 11.20 on the morning in question he saw a woman named Caddick in the defendant’s house, with some beer in a jug. Upon seeing witness the woman tried to hide the jug under her shawl. The landlady declared that it had not been paid for, but that she had given it to Caddick out of sympathy, owing to the woman being in trouble. This statement was now repeated, but Caddick denied that she tried to conceal the beer.

The case was dismissed.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 28/8/1886

“The annual Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday.....

The following persons had been summoned for offences against the licensing laws, and dealt with as follows  
..... Beerhouses.....

*William Brant*, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1885, selling during closing time, dismissed.”

#### 1891 Census

23, Hunt Street

- [1] *Walter E. Middleton* (26), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Maria Middleton* (26), wife, born Staffordshire;
- [3] *James F. Middleton* (6), son, scholar, born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Bertie Middleton* (4), son, scholar, born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Jane New* (26), domestic servant, born Staffordshire:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/8/1892

“*John Wakefield* (46), anvil-maker, of Union Street, Oldbury, was charged on remand with unlawfully wounding *Samuel Wincott*, a youth residing in Halesowen Street, Oldbury, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst.

On the day named *Samuel Wincott* was sent by his mother to the SPADEMAKERS ARMS in Hunt Street, and as he was walking along the passage the defendant threw a pint jug at his wife. The jug missed defendant’s wife and struck prosecutor in the face, inflicting serious injuries, for which he had to be treated at Dr. *Buttery*’s surgery.

The charge was reduced to one of common assault, and defendant was fined 40s and the costs, 19s, with the option of twenty-eight days’ imprisonment.”

*Walter Enoch Middleton*, beer retailer, 23, Hunt Street. [1896]

Check also TURKS HEAD, West Bromwich.

#### 1901 Census

23, Hunt Street – SPADE MAKERS ARMS

- [1] *William H. Taylor* (43), public house manager and ironworker, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Eliza J. Taylor* (39), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Louis Taylor* (10), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Walter Taylor* (8), son, born Sedgley;
- [5] *Fanny Plant* (14), domestic servant, born Eccleshall, Staffordshire:

#### Black Country Bugle

Letter from Mr. J. E. Evitts, Tividale

“.....My mother was the licensee of a public house in Oldbury called the SPADE MAKERS ARMS but better known locally as the ‘Bug and Blanket’. It was owned by Showells Brewery of Langley and the license was in my mother’s name because my father was employed by The Birmingham Canal Company and was not allowed to have two jobs at the same time.

.....It closed in 1908, the year I was born ..... *Sally* lived in Union Street, opposite the back gates of the pub and was an habitual drinker who had been convicted of drunkenness on many occasions and was placed on the Black List. My mother used to tell us that she would let *Sally* have one half pint each day after she was

sentenced, served to her at the rear of the pub.....”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1905.  
It was refused by the Compensation Authority on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1905.

Birmingham Mail 24/6/1905

“The adjourned meeting of the Worcester County Licensing Committee was held today at the Shirehall, Mr. Willis Bund presiding, for the consideration of licenses of houses in Oldbury which had been reported by the local justices as not being necessary for the requirements of the district.....

In the cases of the SPADEMAKERS ARMS and the BEEHIVE the counsel concerned were Messrs. Morton and Brown for the justices and Matthews and Lawrence for the parties concerned. The evidence related to the value of the property, the sales, requirements of the district, etc.....

After deliberating half an hour, the justices decided that all the houses brought before them were unnecessary, but not being certain how far compensation money would suffice to meet the claims to be paid, drew up an order of precedence in which houses are to be dealt with, houses not paid for keeping open provisionally till they are dealt with.”

Smethwick Telephone 1/7/1905

“The adjourned principal meeting of the Licensing Committee for the County of Worcester was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, on Saturday, Mr. J. Willis Bund presiding. The sixteen houses reported by the Oldbury Justices were considered, and the committee ultimately decided that all the licenses were unnecessary. As they were not aware how far the compensation money would go, the committee arranged the houses in order, and as many of the licenses as possible will be done away with. The order is as follows.....

14. SPADEMAKERS ARMS, Hunt Street.”

Birmingham Mail 22/12/1905

“An important memorandum has been issued by the inland revenue commissioners affecting the basis of compensation for licensed houses which have been compulsorily closed. It will be remembered that fifteen such houses were refused the renewal of licenses at Oldbury, and the question of compensation was argued by counsel before the Worcestershire Licensing Committee a few weeks ago. That committee intimated that the rent was the basis upon which the compensation should be assessed, but counsel urged that this was preposterous. The claimants preferred to leave the matter to the decision of the inland revenue commissioners. The latter have sent a letter to the committee, upholding its view that the rent should be the basis, allowing nothing for the trade done on the premises or to the brewers for tied houses. The Commissioners say that the computation of the sum to be paid in any case requires the determination of three factors, namely, the value of the licensed premises, the depreciation in value of the trade fixtures, and the value of the premises without the license. They have, as a rule, capitalised the annual value of the licensed premises upon the four per cent basis, or at twenty-five years’ purchase, and only exceeded this in cases where there was a distinct prospect of improved annual value, and only fallen below it where there was evidence to suggest that the present value could not be maintained in future. They have employed surveyors of taxes to take estimates of the probable annual value of premises when deprived of their licenses, and of the probable number of years’ purchase of such annual value that premises would fetch, an allowance being made for the cost of the alterations necessary to fit the premises for earning the annual value as estimated. Accordingly, although exact figures have not yet been received, the amounts payable for the Oldbury houses above referred to may be given approximately as follows.....

SPADEMAKERS ARMS, £175.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1906

“A meeting of the Worcester Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Worcester, yesterday, to consider the awards made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, determining the amounts to be paid as compensation to owners, holders, or others interested in the non-renewal of licenses in the Oldbury division.....

The licenses refused and the amount of compensation awarded in each case was as follows.....

SPADE MAKERS ARMS, Hunt Street, £485.

The committee made awards as follows.....

SPADE MAKERS ARMS, Hunt Street, £10 to *Thomas Evitts*, licensee, and £475 to Atkinson's Brewery, registered owners.

Payment of the compensation money was fixed to take place on March 28."

#### Evesham Standard 5/1/1907

"County Quarter Sessions ..... Licensing Committee's Work.....

The Chairman called attention to the report of the Licensing Committee, which, he said, set out what had been done in the county in 1905. Sixteen cases were sent up to the committee from Oldbury. The compensation in these cases amounted to £7,146. All the cases had been dealt with, except the SPADEMAKERS ARMS.

The SPADEMAKERS ARMS and the GREYHOUND, Oldbury, appealed to the Inland Revenue, who awarded the sums of £425 and £420 respectively, but on appeal to the High Court the Inland Revenue consented to have the figures altered to £1,250 and £850. The Inland Revenue asked the committee to go into the matter for them, but the committee required evidence as to the accuracy of the figures. The committee were right in requiring that evidence, having regard to the fact that the claims made in respect of houses amounted to £40,278. In one case the claim was over £5,000, and the claimants agreed to accept £1,385. He mentioned that to show that the figures were much in excess of what the Inland Revenue thought ought to have been given, and should be closely examined. But in this case the Inland Revenue thought fit to adopt the figures without any examination beyond the statutory declaration and gave the full amount. The money had been paid in all cases except that of the SPADEMAKERS ARMS, and in that case no agreement was submitted to the Committee, and they resolved to let it stand over until the agreement arrived."

#### Alcester Chronicle 27/4/1907

"An adjourned meeting of the Worcestershire County Licensing Committee was held on Monday.....

Mr. Graham Milward applied on behalf of the Atkinson Brewery Company, owners of the SPADEMAKERS ARMS, Hunt Street, Oldbury, for approval of an order to divide the compensation of £1,250, as to £10 to the licensee, *Thomas Evitts*, and the balance to themselves, as owners. It appeared that the Inland Revenue Commissioners fixed the amount at £425, and *Evitts* signed an agreement to accept £10 as his proportion of the compensation moneys, although he was told that there would be an appeal to the High Court, and an increased amount awarded. The High Court awarded £1,250, and *Evitts* renewed his agreement to accept £10, but the committee at their last sitting were not satisfied that *Evitts* had been fairly treated. Mr. Milward said *Evitts* was merely the manager, who had occupied that position only eight months.

The Chairman suggested that *Evitts* was in such a position that he knew, unless he accepted the amount offered, there might be consequences. It was really taking away the discretionary power given to the committee by the Act of Parliament.

Mr. R. H. Amphlett admitted that there might be a difficulty if the licensee declined to take more than the agreed £10, whatever the order of the committee.

The Chairman announced that the committee awarded the licensee £20, and the balance, with the exception of £1 3s 6d costs, to the owners.

Mr. Milward expressed a desire to appeal if there were power, and the Chairman promised that the committee would afford every facility, but ultimately Mr. Milward accepted the order."

The license was extinguished on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1907.

#### Smethwick Telephone 22/6/1907 - Advert

"Tuesday Next, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1907.

Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Properties, situate in Oldbury.....

Lot 5. All that Well-built Property formerly known as the SPADEMAKERS ARMS, with the Three Cottages adjoining Hunt Street and Union Street, off Halesowen Street, Oldbury.

No.3, Hunt Street (formerly SPADEMAKERS ARMS) is a well-built, double-fronted House, forming the corner of Hunt Street and Union Street aforesaid, and containing through Hall, Bar, with Bay Window, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Scullery, large Club Room, Two Bedrooms, Two Cellars (with rolling way), Coal

House, &c.

The Dwelling Houses, Nos.2, Hunt Street, and 1, at the rear, and No.1, Union Street, each contain one room on the ground floor and one bedroom. The whole of the Property is walled in, and in the paved yard, which has cartway entrance, are three W.C.s and usual Outbuildings. This corner block of Property occupies a central position, and should attract speculators.

Leasehold for a term of 99 years, less three days from June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1861, at a ground rent of £5 3s 0d.”

## **SPOTTED COW**

West Bromwich Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

Andrew Cartwright [1845]

## **SPREAD EAGLE**

55, (42), Brades Road, Rounds Green, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Nathaniel Hadley

Joseph Foster, Moseley, Birmingham

James Probert [1891]

John Jordan and Co. Ltd. [1900], [1909]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [c.1920]

### LICENSEES

Charles Vaughan [1839] – [1845]

Thomas Nash [1845]

Thomas Aston [1850]

Benjamin Nicholas Horton [1851] – [1856]

Benjamin Thomas Sadler [1861]

Henry Jones [1862] – **1865**);

William Hyliston (**1865** – [ ]

Joseph Drury [1866] – **1869**);

Thomas Vaughan (**1869** – [1871]

Robert Chance [1873] – [1878]

Mrs. Maria Chance [1880] – [1881]

Nathaniel Hadley [1884] – **1890**);

Eliza Hadley (**1890** – **1891**);

James Probert (**1891** – **1892**);

George Henry Holden (1892 – 1895);  
J. Jordan and Co (1895 – 1896);  
James Nicholas [1896] manager?  
Charles Clark (1896 – 1898);  
George Joyce (1898);  
Mrs. Harriet (Joyce) Hartland (1898 – [1901]  
John Jordan and Co [1900] – 1914);  
John Connard [1911] – [1912] (1914 – 1915);  
Arthur Richard Green (1915);  
Walter Penn (1915 – 1921):

## NOTES

42, Brades Road [1871], [1873], [1881]  
55, Brades Road [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921]

### Aris's Birmingham Chronicle 16/9/1839

“At the Petty Sessions held at Hales Owen on Monday last, Victuallers' Licenses were granted to the following parties residing in the township of Oldbury.....

*Charles Vaughn*, Rounds Green.”

### Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 24/12/1842

“Mr. George White attended at Oldbury, on Monday evening, at the request of a number of Chartists of that place. A meeting was held at the large room of the SPREAD EAGLE, Round Green, Mr. John Jefferies, New Connection preacher, in the chair; Mr. White addressed them on the necessity of assisting in the present glorious struggle, and joining the National Charter Association. It was unanimously agreed to act on his advice, and Mr. Wm. Ball, and Mr. *Charles Vaughan*, landlord of the SPREAD EAGLE, were elected as delegates to the Conference, due notice having been previously given.”

### Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/7/1845 - Advert

“Desirable Old Licensed Freehold Public House, Rounds Green, near Oldbury, and the Brades Works. To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Walker and Page, on Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1845, at the OLD SPREAD EAGLE, at Rounds Green, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to such conditions as will be then read.

All that very desirable and well accustomed Old Licensed Public House, known as the OLD SPREAD EAGLE INN, in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Nash*, very eligibly situate in a densely populated district at Rounds Green, near to the Brades, and surrounded by many important ironworks and collieries.

The house, which is well designed and has been newly erected in a substantial manner, contains excellent tap room and parlour, bar, large kitchen and brewhouse, excellent club room, thirty-two feet long, three large private chambers, two good cellars, stable, enclosed yard, pump of water, and every convenience for carrying on an extensive business.

To view the premises apply to the tenant; and further particulars may be known upon application at the offices of Messrs. Carter and Sons, solicitors, Oldbury, and the Auctioneers, Cleveland Street, Wolverhampton.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/11/1854

“Mr. Hanbury of Oldbury has agreed with Mr. Hawkins of Tipton to shoot a match, for £10 a side, at 7 birds each, 1½oz of shot, 21 yards rise, 80 boundary, on Monday, the 20<sup>th</sup> inst, at Mr. *Horton's*, the SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green, Oldbury.”

### Worcester Journal 9/8/1856

“*Benjamin Horton*, of Rounds Green, innkeeper, was fined 10s and costs, for keeping his house open for the sale of exciseable liquors after the hours allowed by law, on Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup> ult.”

Birmingham Journal 16/6/1860 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1860.

Whereas a Petition of *Benjamin Nicholas Horton*, otherwise Benjamin Horton, at present and for six days last past residing at Providence Street, Rounds Green, in the parish of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, out of business, and for two years and upwards previous thereto residing at Rounds Green, in the parish of Oldbury aforesaid, during a portion of the said time carrying on the trades or businesses of a Dealer in Coal and Cokes, Gleede Burner. and Wharfinger, at High Bridge, Little Fields, in the parish of Oldbury aforesaid, and also during a portion of the period carrying on the trade or business of a Brick Maker, at Rounds Green aforesaid, in partnership with Henry Beddow, and also during a short period on my own account, and previously thereto residing at the SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green aforesaid, carrying on the trades or businesses of a Licensed Victualler, Brewer, and Dealer in Spirits, Ale, Porter, Cider, and Tobacco, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Oldbury, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said *Benjamin Nicholas Horton* under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Benjamin Nicholas Horton* is hereby required to appear in the said Court, to be holden at Oldbury aforesaid, before the Judge of the said Court, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1860, 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 *Benjamin Nicholas Horton*, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, the Registrars of the said Court, who are the Official Assignees of the Estate and Effects of the said Insolvent, at their Office at the Court House, in Oldbury aforesaid. W. Barnes, Attorney, Dudley.”.

*Benjamin Sadler* issued tokens from here.

1861 Census

Brades Road

- [1] *Benjamin T. Sadler* (30), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Sadler* (28), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Harriet Sadler* (8), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Thomas Sadler* (6), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Nathaniel Sadler* (4), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Benjamin Sadler* (2), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] *William Sadler* (3 months), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Roshannah Coundley* (17), servant, housework, born Oldbury:

*Benjamin Thomas Sadler* – see also WINDSOR CASTLE and WHITE SWAN.

Birmingham Journal 21/2/1863 - Advert

“Rounds Green, near Oldbury.

The SPREAD EAGLE, Old-Licensed Road-Side Inn, fronting the Turnpike Road leading from Rowley Regis, and part way to the Brades Works and the Oldbury and Dudley Turnpike Road, and near the most important Brades Works, Collieries, Boiler Yards, and Brickstacks, and doing a genuine and good business. By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the above genuine and good Business House and Premises.

The House consists of three Bed Rooms, large Club Room, front Tap and Smoke Room, Bar, Cooking and Servants' Kitchen, two excellent Cellars, good Brewery, Malt Room, Stabling, Piggeries, with a never failing supply of hard and soft Water.

The Proprietor is leaving in sole consequence of other engagements.

Rent £20 per annum. Coming-in about £100. Immediate possession may be had.

For further particulars and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”



*Henry Jones* issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Daily Post 3/6/1865 - Advert

“SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that old-established, Old-licensed Inn, now doing a good Trade, surrounded by Brickworks and Collieries, near to the Brades Steel Works.

For particulars, apply to E. Cox, High Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1865 - Advert

“To be Let, the SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green, Oldbury. A capital Old-licensed House, now doing a fair trade, surrounded by Ironworks, Collieries, and Brickworks. Satisfactory reasons given for leaving. £50 may remain with security.

Apply to E. Cox, High Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/8/1865 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Rounds Green. Now doing a good trade, being surrounded with ironworks and collieries. Satisfactory reasons given for leaving.

For particulars, to treat, apply to E. Cox, Auctioneer, High Street, West Bromwich.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 24/11/1866

“Fights for Next Week.....

Ben Coley of Oldbury and Sam Conley of Rounds Green contend at catch weight for £5 a side on Monday.

The final deposit is to be made this (Saturday) evening at *Drury's*, SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green, where all particulars of whereabouts can be known; and at Welsh's THREE HORSE SHOES, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/12/1866

“The Ring.....

Young Coundley of Oldbury takes a benefit on Dec 26 at *Drury's*, the SPREAD EAGLE, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 6/4/1867

“Canine Fancy.....

A rattling sweepstakes, for a store pig and a silver collar will take place at *J. Drury's*, the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, for dogs from 9lb to 15lb, to weigh in the night before rattling. Entrance 5s each, which will remain open till April 21, and the first dog to be pitted at seven o'clock on Monday, April 22.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/2/1868 - Advert

“SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

Old-licensed Public House. Populous neighbourhood. Within two minutes' walk of the Brades Works; surrounded by other large concerns. Excellent Premises. Rent and payments low. In-coming £80.

A. Aintree, Church Square, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/2/1868

“Britannia Grounds Tipton.....

T. Thomey of Rounds Green and F. Downing of Oldbury. These men run their 100 yards match, for £5 a side, on Monday. To be on the ground between two and three o'clock. The final deposit for the same to be made this evening at *Drury's*, the SPREAD, Rounds Green, who is final stakeholder and referee.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/9/1869 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury.

*Joseph Drury*, now and for the last ten months living in lodgings at Brades Row, Rounds Green, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Labourer, and previously thereto living in furnished lodgings at Dingle

Street, Rounds Green aforesaid, Labourer, and previously thereto living in furnished lodgings opposite the BIRD IN HAND INN, Rounds Green aforesaid, and previously thereto of the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Winson Street, Rounds Green aforesaid, and then carrying on the business of a Licensed Victualler and Labourer, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1869, a Public Sitting for the said Bankrupt to pass his Last Examination, and make application for his Discharge, will be held at the said Court, at Oldbury, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1869, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said Bankrupt to surrender. The Registrar of the Court is the Official Assignee, and William Shakespeare, of Oldbury, is the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy.  
Walter H. Steward, High Bailiff.”

#### 1871 Census

42, Brades Road – SPREAD EAGLE

[1] *Thomas Vaughan* (49), publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Bridgett Vaughan* (40), wife, born Leicester;

[3] *Alice Knott* (22), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### London Gazette 28/6/1872

“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 *Thomas Vaughan*, late of the SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, but now out of business and in lodgings at the house of Richard Dutton, at Rounds Green aforesaid.

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. Arthur Wright, in Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 9th day of July, 1872, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 1872.

Arthur Wright, Attorney for the said *Thomas Vaughan*.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/5/1873 - Advert

“Found. Followed the Advertiser from Dudley, on 15<sup>th</sup> inst, a small brown-and-white Spaniel Dog. If not owned in three days will be sold.

Apply to Mr. John *Chance*, SPREAD EAGLE INN, Rounds Green, near Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1877 - Advert

“To be Sold by private treaty, most eligible piece Freehold Building Land, with good frontage, comprising 1,056 square yards, or thereabouts, situated at Ridge Hill, Woolaston, near Stourbridge.

Apply, *Robert Chance*, SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green, Oldbury.”

#### County Express 5/1/1878

“At Dudley Police Court on Monday.....

*Robert Chance*, beerhouse keeper, Rounds Green, Oldbury, was charged with being drunk whilst in charge of a horse and cart. Defendant drove down Castle Street on the previous day at a reckless pace. He was so drunk that he rolled about, and was with difficulty prevented from falling out of the vehicle. He was fined 10s and costs.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1878

“The annual licensing sessions for the Oldbury division were held yesterday.....

Since the last meeting two licensed victuallers – *Robert Chance*, SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green, and William Baker, NEW INN, Langley – had been summoned and convicted for offences against their licenses.....

The applications for renewals were then granted, with the exception of the two persons included in the ‘black list’ – *Robert Chance*, SPREAD EAGLE, and William Baker, NEW INN, Langley. These cases were, however, afterwards considered separately, and, after being reprimanded by the Bench, and promising not to offend again, their licenses were also renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1878 - Advert

“Bagatelle-Board (mahogany superior); nearly new; everything complete. Cost £30; lowest price £13. Apply to Mr. *R. Chance*, the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury.”

*Robert Chance* died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1879, aged 52.

1881 Census

42, Brades Road

- [1] *Maria Chance* (53), widow, licensed victualler, born Round Oak;
- [2] Joseph Chance (22), son, iron pig weigher, born Oldbury;
- [3] Mary Chance (19), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Alice Chance (17), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Annie Chance (14), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] James Chance (6), visitor, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Arthur Chance (2), visitor, born Oldbury;
- [8] George Foster (21), lodger, coal miner, born Oldbury:

London Gazette 9/12/1881 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Staffordshire, Holden at Wolverhampton.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by *Maria Chance*, late of the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Widow and Licensed Victualler, but now in lodgings at No.73, Dudley-street, Bilston, in the county of Stafford, Widow, and out of business.

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 GLOBE HOTEL, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, on the 22nd day of December, 1881, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 5th day of December, 1881.

William, Bowen, Mount Pleasant, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 11/6/1887

“A melancholy accident occurred to a Rounds Green man, named William Bannister (24), of Summer Row, on Tuesday morning.

It appears deceased, who was a miner, went to work for the first time at the Station Colliery, Rowley. He commenced to remove some trees which supported the earth, and removing the first one, a lad, who was near, noticed the light go out and heard a noise and a groan. He ran for assistance, but deceased was quite dead before he was uncovered, not having been in the pit more than 10 minutes.

An inquest was held on the body, on Thursday morning, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Rounds Green, before Mr. E. Docker (deputy coroner).

Mary Ann Bannister, wife of deceased, stated that her husband left home at six o'clock on the Tuesday morning to go to work, and was brought home dead about nine o'clock. Her husband had worked for many years previously for Mr. Withers at a colliery at Langley.

Dr. Lyddon gave evidence to the effect that he examined the body of deceased, and found injuries about the forehead and back. No bones were broken, and his opinion was that death was caused by suffocation.

The Coroner remarked that he had communicated with the Government Inspector of Mines, who would inquire into the matter, but he was unable to be present that day, and he recommended an adjournment. This was agreed to, and the inquest adjourned sine die.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 18/6/1887

“On Monday afternoon, Mr. E. Docker (deputy coroner) resumed the inquest on the body of William Bannister (24), miner, of Summer Row, Rounds Green, who was killed at the Rowley Station Colliery on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Rounds Green.

Mr. W. E. Clarke represented the Colliery Company, and Mr. W. H. Pickering, assistant inspector of mines,

was also present.

William Lewis, of Old Hill, under-deputy, stated that deceased was engaged to do odd work on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. Whilst employed in an old road drawing timber a quantity of coal and earth fell upon him, and before he could be got out he was suffocated.

Edwin Simpson, underground overman, gave evidence to the effect that he employed deceased because he knew him to be an experienced miner.

Mr. Pickering said Mr. Scott, who had examined the pit, considered it was a pure accident, and there had been no breach of the Act.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/3/1889

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest, at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Rounds Green, respecting the death of David Reed (24), formerly of Summer Row, Rounds Green, who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near to Mr. Sheldon’s brickworks, Whimsey Bridge, on the night of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst.

Some men passing along the canal found deceased in the water, and having rescued him they sought to restore animation, but without effect.

Dr. Lyddon said there was a large wound on the side of the head, and the skull was fractured. He was of opinion that deceased in falling into the water caught his head against the side of a boat, which caused concussion of the brain.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/10/1889

“Last night Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Rounds Green, relative to the death of William Smith (26), of Chapel Street, who died on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst from the effects of injuries received whilst employed at Messrs. Round Brothers’ Hainge Colliery, Tividale, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. Mr. Dainty represented the colliery proprietors.

Selefeanea Reeves said that on the afternoon of the 2nd inst deceased returned home from work, when he told witness that whilst in the workings of the mine he slipped down and caught his head against a tub.

The inquest was then adjourned until Monday next, in order that the Government inspector might be present.”

[At the adjourned inquest the jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased died from the effects of injuries sustained whilst employed at the colliery, but how the injuries were caused there was no evidence to show.]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1890

“Last evening Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Rounds Green, respecting the death of Alfred Hinton, aged four months, whose parents reside in Summer Row, who was found dead in bed on Monday morning. Dr. Lyddon was of opinion that the child was suffocated by being overlain. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated.”

*Nathaniel Hadley* – see also NEW INN, Summer Row.

#### 1891 Census

55, Brades Road

[1] *Eliza Hadley* (39), widow, licensed victualler, born Rounds Green;

[2] *Rebecca Hadley* (17), daughter, dressmaker, born Rounds Green;

[3] *Nathaniel Hadley* (15), son, fitter, born Rounds Green;

[4] *Alice Hadley* (13), daughter, born Rounds Green;

[5] *Florrie Hadley* (10), daughter, born Rounds Green;

[6] *Louisa Hadley* (5), daughter, born Rounds Green;

[7] *Annie Sheldon* (9), sister, single, domestic servant, born Rounds Green:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/12/1891 - Advert

“For Sale, by private treaty, a valuable Freehold Full-licensed House, known as SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *James Probert*, Landlord.”

*Harriet Hartland* was fined £2 and £2 15s 6d, on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1900, for selling ale to a drunken person.

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1900

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

The annual report stated that the number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness was 277 males and 30 females, 258 males and 25 females being convicted.

The Superintendent had given notices to oppose the licenses of the BRIDGE INN and the SPREAD EAGLE INN on the grounds that there was no necessity for them.....

The Bench retired to consider their decision ..... The licenses of the BRIDGE INN and SPREAD EAGLE INN would be renewed, providing that the license of the latter was taken out in the name of Messrs. J. Jordan and Company, the owners of the house.”

AND

West Bromwich Weekly News 25/8/1900

“Superintendent Chare also objected to the license being renewed, but said since the conviction there had been no cause of complaint. The owners of the house were J. Jordan and Co.

Mr. C. H. Darby represented *Harriet Hartland*, the licensee, and explained that her matrimonial experience had been unfortunate. She was living separate from her husband, who contributed nothing to her support, and she was endeavouring to bring up her children in a respectable manner.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 19/1/1901

“The folly of people leaving large sums of money in drawers and other insecure places in the house was strikingly illustrated at Rounds Green on Sunday morning last. Mrs. *Hartland*, who keeps the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Brades Road, retired with her family to rest about 11.30 on Saturday night. She had £164 in gold and silver in a drawer, but at 8.15 the next morning when the family arose, they found that all the money had been taken from the drawer. A back window was found slightly open, and it was supposed that an entrance was affected by this means. The inmates of the house were not disturbed in any way, and the thief or thieves got clear away with the money without leaving the slightest clue. While sympathising with the family in their loss, we cannot but think it a very foolish thing to keep so much money in the house without a safe to put it into. When Superintendent Sherriff made an examination of the premises he found that neither the curtain nor blind of the window had been interfered with, and there were no marks of any chisel being used to force open the drawer. The affair, therefore, remains a complete mystery.”

Smethwick Weekly News 9/3/1901

“John Jordan and Co, licensees of the SPREAD EAGLE INN, Brades Road, Rounds Green, were summoned for permitting drunkenness, and serving drink to a drunken person on the 13<sup>th</sup> February. Mr. J. S. Sharpe, who appeared to prosecute on behalf of the police, said PC Haden visited the house at 10.15 at night, and found Benjamin Horton drunk, with a glass of whisky before him. Mrs. *Hartland* was present, and she was asked by the constable how she accounted for it. She said she did not think he was so bad, and told him to go.

Mr. E. T. Hopkins, who represented the Brewery Company, elicited the fact that the man Horton was suffering from sciatica, and that the whisky was served openly, when they knew Mr. Haden’s brother was present. Addressing the Bench, Mr. Hopkins said the tenant in this case was a bona-fide one, and not a manager, so that the Brewery Company were summoned for an offence for which they were not legally or morally responsible, directly or indirectly.

Mr. Wilson said Mr. Hopkins’ remarks had influenced the Bench with regard to their decision, and the question of the ownership of the license would have to be considered at their next meeting. There had been some misunderstanding on the point. If costs were paid they would dismiss it.

The costs were £2 18s 6d.

Benjamin Horton was then charged with being drunk on the licensed premises, but he denied being drunk, and called witnesses named Baker and Rudford, but a fine of 2s 6d and costs was imposed.”

#### 1901 Census

55, Brades Road

[1] William J. Hartland (51), ironworker, born Oldbury;

[2] *Harriet Hartland* (50), wife, licensed victualler, born Leicestershire;

[3] Ada Joyce (21), step-daughter, born Glascote, Tamworth;

[4] George Joyce (16), step-son, chemical works clerk, born Willenhall:

#### Smethwick Telephone 24/8/1901 - Advert

“SPREAD EAGLE INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury.

To Licensed Victuallers, Beer-house Keepers, and others.

Messrs. Slim and Ridding are favoured with instructions from Mr. Green to Sell by Auction on the premises as above, on Tuesday, September 3, 1901, the valuable Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the business of this old-established and well-known fully-licensed House. Possession can be given to suit purchaser any time up to 29<sup>th</sup> September next.

Sale at 11am.

For further particulars apply at the auctioneers, 262, Corporation Street, Birmingham, and 21, Henry Street, Langley Green. Telephone, 985 Birmingham, 45 Oldbury.”

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

#### Birmingham Mail 16/8/1906 - Advert

‘Pony, 15 hands, Trap and Harness; sound in every way; cheap.

SPREAD EAGLE, Rounds Green, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

SPREAD EAGLE.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation.....

SPREAD EAGLE, beerhouse, Rounds Green Road, owner Messrs. Jordan and Co.....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee’s investigations.....”

#### 1911 Census

55, Brades Road

[1] *John Connard* (39), publican, born Bromsgrove;

[2] Catherine Connard (43), wife, married 19 years, assisting in the business, born Dudley;

[3] Kate Connard (16), daughter, assisting in the business, born Birmingham;

[4] Gertrude Smith (20), visitor, niece, shopkeeper, general dealer, born Walsall:

An application was granted for an Ordinary Removal of the license to premises known as the BRADES ROW TAVERN, Brades Road, on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1921.

The premises closed on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1921.

### **SPRING COTTAGE**

26, (45), West Bromwich Street, OLDBURY

### **OWNERS**

Elijah Hunt, West Bromwich

Hunt Bros., Griffin Foundry, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury

### **LICENSEES**

Andrew Cartwright [1845]

Thomas Hinton [1850] – [1854]

Abraham Mallin [1859] – **1862**)

William Sheppard (**1862** – [1863])

Richard Davis [ ]

Noah Parkes [1865] – [1878]

Mrs. Jane Spittle [1880]

Henry Worrall [1884] – **1885**);

Thomas Leech (**1885** – **1889**);

Robert Burrell (**1889** – **1890**);

Samuel Baker (**1890** – **1891**);

David Baker (**1891** – **1894**);

Richard Bates (**1894** – **1897**);

Felix Parkes (**1897** – **1900**);

Sarah Beasley (**1900** – **1904**);

J. A. and A. Thompson (**1904** – **1906**);

James Arthur Burton (**1906** – **1908**):

### **NOTES**

45, West Bromwich Street [1891]

26, West Bromwich Street

COTTAGE SPRING [1850], [1851]

Birmingham Journal 4/7/1846

“The anniversary of the Friendly Britons Lodge, MU, was celebrated on Monday week by a sumptuous dinner at Mrs. Pendlebury’s, CART AND HORSES.....

We are informed that on the above day there was also a feast at the house of Hostess *Cartwright*, SPRING COTTAGE; also a Friendly Club Meeting celebrated their anniversary at Host Fowler’s, of the WHITE HORSE INN; and at Host Hadley’s, of the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green. We have not received particulars of these celebrations, which passed off to the satisfaction of all who took part in them.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 30/11/1846 - Advert

“Excellent Free Road-Side Public House, called the SPRING COTTAGE, leading from Oldbury to West Bromwich.

To be Disposed Of by private Contract, the Goodwill, Ale, Spirit, and Wine Licences of the above House, which is replete with every convenience, and well adapted for carrying on a good trade.

There are several Clubs held, and excellent Gardens, with Alcoves and Play-grounds, which are much resorted to in summer, and Stabling.

The present Proprietor is leaving in consequence of the whole of his time being occupied in the Brass Trade, at a distance from home.

For particulars apply on the premises, or to Septimus Davis, Auctioneer, Protector Cottage, West Bromwich.”

*Thomas Hinton* was also a tailor. [1850]

1851 Census

West Bromwich Street

[1] *Thomas Hinton* (45), widower, tailor and victualler, born Sambourne, Warwickshire;

[2] *William Hinton* (17), son, tailor, born West Bromwich;

[3] *George Hinton* (16), son, tailor, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Mary Gill* (50), housekeeper, born Aston:

*Thomas Hinton* issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Journal 27/11/1858 - Advert

“The SPRING COTTAGE INN, Oldbury.

To be Disposed Of, that excellent and well-accustomed Road-side Inn, the SPRING COTTAGE, near Collins Bridge, Oldbury, with the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession, consisting of excellent Cellaring, four Bed Rooms, large Club Room, Brewhouse, Stabling, large Tap Room, front Parlour, Bar, large Garden, good Yard, with Marble and Skittle Alley, in consequence of the present Proprietor having made further arrangements.

For particulars, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Appraiser, and Land Surveyor, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 1/1/1859 - Advert

“A First-Rate Opportunity.

That Well-Accustomed and Old-Established Road-Side Old-Licensed Inn, the SPRING COTTAGE, near the Griffin Brass and Iron Foundry, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, there being several new Coal Mines opened in the neighbourhood, and in the midst of a good population.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of, that excellent and well-accustomed old-established Road-side Inn, the SPRING COTTAGE, near the Griffin Brass and Iron Foundry, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, with the Licenses and Possession, consisting of excellent Cellaring, four Bed Rooms, large Club Room, Tap Room, front Parlour, Bar, excellent Brewhouse, good Stabling, Marble and Skittle Alley, large and productive Garden, and Yard, in consequence of the present Proprietor having made other arrangements.

For further particulars, and to treat apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Appraiser, and Land Surveyor, Oldbury.”

*Abraham Mallin* = Abraham Maldin



Wolverhampton Chronicle 4/5/1859 - Advert

“Oldbury. Eligible Freehold Foundry and Machinery, Public House, Dwelling Houses and Building Land, situate at Oldbury, in the parish of Halesowen.

By Messrs. Aston and Sollom. To be Sold by Auction (by order of the Mortgagee), on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1859, at six o'clock in the evening, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, subject to conditions to be read at the time of sale, and in the following or such other lots as shall be then named, the undermentioned valuable Properties.

Lot 1. All that Piece or Parcel of Land fronting the road leading from Oldbury to Dudley, containing 1,944 square yards, or thereabouts, with the Works erected thereon, and known as the Griffin Works, comprising an Iron and Brass Foundry, Engine House, with pattern room over; Casting Shops, Blacksmiths' Shops, large Fitting Shop, with pattern room over; Store Room, Office, sheds, stables, and other erections.

The Machinery in this lot comprises a 10-horse high-pressure Steam Engine, with boiler complete, and driving a fan to blow the cupolas; a 3-horse high-pressure Steam Engine and boiler; a self-acting Screw-cutting Lathe, 18 inch centre, and 16 feet iron bed; a turning Lathe with a 20 feet wood bed, on iron stand; the head gearing for working the above, with shafts, pulleys, and bands complete.

Also, the Public House, with brewhouse and appurtenances, known as the SPRING COTTAGE, in the occupation of *Abraham Maldin*, and three Messuages or Tenements, in the several occupations of Bate, Aveley, and Goddard, the same adjoining the above Works.....”

[This advert is repeated, for sale by auction on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1862.]

1861 Census

West Bromwich Street – Public House – SPRING COTTAGE

[1] *Abraham Mallin* (40), victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Martha Mallin* (38), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Mary Ann Mallin* (9), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Alfred Mallin* (5), son, scholar, born West Bromwich;

[5] *Ann Mallin* (4), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[6] *Martha Mallin* (1), daughter, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Journal 4/1/1862 - Advert

“To be Let, the Old-licensed Public House, called the SPRING COTTAGE, near the Griffin Foundry, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury. Coming in low.

Apply for particulars as above.”

Birmingham Journal 18/1/1862 - Advert

“Oldbury. Clear Out Sale.

The SPRING COTTAGE INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, adjoining the Griffin Iron Foundry.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Wednesday Next, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at Elven o'clock.

The capital Furniture, Public House Effects, Brewing Plant, &c, belonging to Mr. *Abraham Mallin*, who is leaving the house, comprising capital Club, Smoke, and Tap Room, mahogany Seatings, with backs, elbows and covered seating Forms; Oak and other Drinking Tables; Windsor and other Chairs; Chimney Glasses in Rosewood; capital 4-pull Ale Machine; pewter Ale and Spirit Measures; Decorated Spirit Bottles; Earthen and Glass Ware; coloured Prints in Frames; excellent Hogshead, Half-hogshead, and other Ale Casks; Coolers and Working Tubs, Wort Vats and Frames; 16-bushel Mash Tub; 100, 80, and 16-gallon Cast Iron Boilers and Settings; stock of Ale, Cider, and numerous other Effects.

Catalogues of which may be had on the premises; or the Auctioneer, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1863

“At Oldbury Petty Sessions, yesterday.....

An application for the transfer of SPRING COTTAGE, from *William Sheppard* to James Colley, was refused.”

*Richard Davis* issued tokens from here.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 14/1/1865

“At Mr. *Noah Parkes*’s, SPRING COTTAGE INN, Westbromwich Street, Oldbury, the list for the two fat pigs not filling, three sweepstakes were shot off on Monday, January 9, in the presence of a large assemblage. The first sweepstakes was by 9 members, at 10s each, 3 pigeons each, on the usual shooting conditions, when, after some good shooting, it was won by Mr. Barnsley, killing 6 in succession. A second sweepstake by same numbers and conditions was won by Mr. Adams, killing his 3 birds in succession. A third sweepstake by the same number, like conditions, was won by Mr. Astins, killing all his birds.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/6/1868

“An inquest was held on Tuesday evening last, at SPRING COTTAGE, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, before Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, respecting the death of a man named James Tilley. On Friday night last the deceased was out with his cart when he accidentally got crushed between one of the wheels and some railings, and received such internal injuries as resulted in his death on the following Saturday. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

*Noah Parkes*, beer retailer, West Bromwich Street. [1870]

Bucks Herald 18/2/1871

“On Tuesday a fatal accident occurred at Mr. *Noah Parkes*’s colliery, which is situated at a place known as the ‘Old Field,’ Oldbury. About a dozen men were at work down a pit, when shortly before one o’clock a tremendous fall of slack and coal took place completely burying one of the men. The unfortunate man was not got out until nearly five o’clock, and then, of course, he was dead.”

1871 Census

West Bromwich Street – SPRING COTTAGE

- [1] *Noah Parkes* (47), coalmaster, born Oldbury;
- [2] Matilda Parkes (45), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Joseph Parkes (18), son, iron moulder, born Oldbury;
- [4] Rachel Parkes (15), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Emma Jones (18), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

*Noah Parkes* was also a coalmaster of Grange New Colliery, West Bromwich Street. [1873]

Dudley Guardian 27/3/1875

“James Betts and David Masters, boatmen, were charged with stealing a shawl, value 30s, from the house of *Noah Parkes*, publican, Oldbury. Mr. Shakespeare defended Betts.

A few days ago the prisoners called at the prosecutor’s house and remained a short time drinking. After they had gone the shawl was missed. The police were apprised of the robbery, and the prisoners arrested. Masters was found dealing with the missing property.

There was no evidence against Betts, and he was discharged. The other prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to one month’s imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/1/1876

“Arbitration Between Colliery Owners at Oldbury.

For some time past an arbitration has been proceeding at the TALBOT HOTEL, in the case of Smith v Parkes, and the decision of the arbitrator was made known at the close of last week.

An action had been brought by Ferdinando Dudley Lea Smith, a magistrate for Worcestershire and a local colliery proprietor, against Noah and Job Parkes, of the New Grange Colliery, to recover £3,000, damage for alleged encroachments upon the thick coal and other minerals upon the estate of the former. The action stood for trial at the last Worcestershire Assizes, and was referred to the arbitration of Mr. John Field, mining engineer, of Hill Top, West Bromwich, with the consent of Baron Amphlett. The Court of Exchequer of

Pleas made the decision of the arbitrator binding upon both parties.

The evidence on behalf of the plaintiff was supported by Messrs. Elihu Smallman, Thomas Latham, Silas Bowkley, A. Bowkley, and John Hill, all mining engineers; and the defendants called, on their behalf, Messrs. Henry Johnson, David Peacock, Richard Mason, and Thomas Cooksey, mining engineers.

The arbitrator decided in favour of the plaintiff on all the points in the dispute, and awarded him £719, and ordered the defendants to pay the costs of the case.

In the case of *Hunt v Parkes*, arising out of the same action, Mr. Field ordered both sides to pay their own costs.”

#### London Gazette 26/6/1877

“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 *Noah Parkes* the younger, formerly of the SPRING COTTAGE INN, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, but now residing in furnished lodgings in Church-street, Oldbury aforesaid, out of business. 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, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 9th day of July, 1877, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 1877.

Wm. Shakespeare, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 25/5/1878 - Advert

“Lost, on Sunday, at Dudley, black Retriever Dog; white on breast; name Charlie. Finder will be rewarded. *Noah Parkes*, SPRING COTTAGE INN, Oldbury. Anyone detaining him after this notice will be prosecuted.”

#### Bromsgrove Messenger 20/7/1878

“Suspicious Death at Oldbury.

On Sunday night the body of a young woman named Hannah Southall, aged 17, domestic servant, was discovered in an unused arm of the Birmingham Canal, near the Railway Station, under circumstances which seem to point to the conclusion that a foul murder has been perpetrated. The deceased, whose parents reside at Dudley Park, lived in service with Mr. *Noah Parkes*, of SPRING COTTAGE, West Bromwich Street. About half-past ten o’clock information reached the Oldbury Police Station that screams had been heard proceeding from the canal side, and that two young men had seen something like a human being struggling in the water, but before it could be got out it had disappeared. Sergeant Simmons procured drags, and commenced dragging the canal, which resulted in the recovery of the body.

The deceased, who is said to have been of a merry disposition, went out on Sunday afternoon for her usual holiday, and returned home in the evening, where she remained until after ten o’clock. She then left the house, as was thought, for the purpose of having a short walk, but as she did not return her master became alarmed and went in search of her, and subsequently found that her lifeless body had been dragged from the canal a short distance from the house. The deceased was not missed beyond about half an hour.

A man named Richard Stanley, a moulder, residing in West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, was arrested late on Sunday night on suspicion. A man answering to the description of the prisoner was seen hurrying away from the spot where the body was afterwards found by two men who were approaching from the opposite direction. The prisoner had been courting the deceased for some time, and when charged with the murder of the girl on Sunday night by Sergeant Simmonds he made no reply.

On Monday afternoon the prisoner Stanley was charged, before Mr. Bassano, at Rowley, with murdering Hannah Southall, by drowning. Prisoner pleaded not guilty, but admitted that he saw the deceased about ten minutes past ten o’clock at night, when he was talking to another girl, close to the house where she (deceased) lived. No words passed between them. Prisoner was remanded for eight days.

The adjourned enquiry touching the death of the young woman, Hannah Southall, at Oldbury, resulted on Wednesday night in a verdict of Suicide whilst in a State of Temporary Insanity, and the girl’s sweetheart, Stanley, who had been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in her death, was released from custody, there being no evidence to implicate him. It was shown that the girl herself had been heard to express her

intention to commit suicide.”

*Noah Parkes* – see also OLD HOUSE AT HOME.

Evening Express 11/11/1881

“A gipsy fortune teller, named Sarah Ann Lee, was brought up at Oldbury Police Court, on Wednesday, on a charge of pretending to tell fortunes on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst.

Defendant had been in the SPRING COTTAGE INN on the day in question offering to tell people their fortunes, and had obtained 1s by this means.

A fine of £1 and costs was imposed, which was paid by some members of the gipsy gang defendant belonged to.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1882

“Oldbury Local Board.....

The Highway Committee reported that, their attention having been called to the sinking of the road at Park Street, it was resolved, subject to the advice of the clerk, to give notice to Mr. *Noah Parkes* to cease working thereunder.”

1891 Census

45, West Bromwich Street – SPRING COTTAGE INN

- [1] *David Baker* (45), engine fitter, born Old Hill;
- [2] *Sophia Baker* (46), wife, born Netherton;
- [3] *Samuel Baker* (20), son, blacksmith’s forge, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Mary Jane Baker* (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Louisa Baker* (14), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Sophia Baker* (12), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Thomas Baker* (9), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Juliana Baker* (6), daughter, born Tividale;
- [9] *William Herbert Baker* (4), son, born Tividale;
- [10] *Walter Baker* (2), son, born Tividale:

Birmingham Daily Post 29/11/1893

“Yesterday afternoon, at the Police Court – before Messrs. S Bennett and J. W. Wilson – *Isaiah Baker*, miner, of Brades Village, was charged with committing perjury in the course of evidence given by him at the court on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. Mr. J. Clark appeared to prosecute, and Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended.

Mr. Clark explained on the date named the defendant was charged by the prosecutor, Mr. *David Baker*, landlord of the SPRING COTTAGE INN, West Bromwich Street, with being drunk upon his licensed premises, and refusing to quit the same. In his evidence on that day, the defendant swore that when he entered prosecutor’s house he was sober, and also denied that he was requested to leave by the prosecutor’s wife.

*David Baker* stated that on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October defendant visited his house and called for a quart of ale, but his (prosecutor’s) wife refused to serve him and requested him to leave the premises. As he refused to do so, his wife pushed defendant out through a side door. Shortly afterwards defendant re-entered the house through the front door.

*Sophia Baker*, wife of prosecutor, corroborated this statement, and six other witnesses were called for the prosecution.

The Bench, without hearing the defence, considered the evidence was not sufficient to warrant them in sending the defendant for trial, and accordingly dismissed the case.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/4/1894

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.

Re *David Baker*, Oldbury.

The first meeting of the creditors of this debtor, of the COTTAGE SPRING INN, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, licensed victualler, and carrying on business as a coalmaster at the Clifton Colliery, Titford Road,

Oldbury, and lately trading in co-partnership with John Baker and Thomas Whitehouse, under the style of Baker and Whitehouse, at the Grange Colliery, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, as coalmasters, was held yesterday afternoon at West Bromwich County Court, before Mr. C. Woollett, assistant official receiver. The statement of affairs showed liabilities of £437 16s 7d, the deficiency being £323 5s 10d. The insolvency was attributed to the losses at the colliery and bad trade.

Subsequently the debtor came up for his public examination before Mr. Registrar Watson, at the same court. Mr. W. Podbury (from Mr. Shakespeare's office) appeared for the bankrupt, and Mr. R. A Tench (from Mr. Clark's office) represented the holder of a bill of sale (Mr. Horton).

The examination was adjourned until May 9."

*Richard Bates*, beer retailer, 45, West Bromwich Street. [1896]

Bromsgrove Messenger 8/2/1896

"Joseph Hanson and Maria Hanson, both of Hurst Green, were charged with selling ale without a license. Mr. J. S. Sharpe prosecuted on behalf of the police, Mr. W. Waldron defended, and Mr. J. W. Clulow watched the proceedings on behalf of Messrs. H. Mitchell and Co., the lessees of the house.

Mr. Sharpe explained that the real occupier of the premises was Mrs. Rebecca Walton, who was the mother of the defendant, Maria Hanson. Rebecca Walton resided with her son at the COTTAGE SPRING INN, Oldbury, where she had been conducting his business. He urged that it was necessary for the license of a beerhouse to be the real resident occupier, and, therefore the person who undertook that responsibility was not justified in remaining away from the business and allowing someone else to conduct it. The case was made more serious by the fact that the defendant, Joseph Hanson, was formerly the landlord of the FRENCH HORN INN, Rounds Green, where he was convicted for offences under the Licensing Act, and finally compelled to give up the house. He had since applied for a license at Dudley, but had been refused, and they now found him shielding himself under the license of his mother-in-law and carrying on her business.

Mr. Clulow produced an agreement showing that Rebecca Walton was the occupier of the beerhouse in question. Mr. Waldron admitted that Mrs. Walton was the proper tenant of the house, but said she had been compelled to conduct the business of her son at Oldbury, who had recently been in ill-health.

Mr. Sharpe said the police did not wish to press the case, but they desired to put the occupation of the house upon a proper footing. His friend, Mr. Waldron, had promised to pay the costs, and had also agreed that the business in future should be conducted by the proper person.

Ultimately the Bench allowed the case to be withdrawn on defendants paying the costs – 10s 9d each – and two guineas, the solicitor's fee."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1900

"The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

The Superintendent had received notices from the following persons of their intentions to apply for new licenses.....

Elijah Hunt, of West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, for an order sanctioning the removal of the victualler's license now held by *Sarah Beasley*, at the SPRING COTTAGE INN, West Bromwich Street (of which premises

Messrs. Hunt Bros. are the owners) to premises about to be constructed in West Bromwich Street.....

With regard to the applications for new licenses, Mr. J. E. Wilson announced that the Bench had decided to refuse those made by ..... Mr. Hunt."

AND

West Bromwich Weekly News 25/8/1900

"Mr. C. H. Darby applied on behalf of Hunt Brothers, of the Griffin Foundry, for permission to transfer the license of the COTTAGE SPRING, West Bromwich Street, to premises proposed to be constructed in the same street. He explained that at present the house was surrounded by the works of which Hunt Bros. were the owners, an arrangement which was most inconvenient, for despite the most careful supervision, the men were continually slipping out of the works into the public house the moment the foreman's or master's backs are turned. Hunt Bros. desired to remove the house 230 yards away from their works and the absence of any opposition should be weighed in the merits of the application. Mr. Elijah Hunt and Mr. Wood (Wood and

Kendrick) gave evidence, it being stated that £1,200 would be spent on the new premises.”

#### 1901 Census

West Bromwich Street

[1] *Sarah Beasley* (32), married, licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] *William Beasley* (12), son, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Benjamin Beasley* (11), son, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Clare Beasley* (10), daughter, born West Bromwich:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 31/8/1901

“On behalf of Mr. Thomas Hunt, the owner of this house, Mr. J. S. Sharpe applied for sanction to transfer the license to a more convenient place in West Bromwich Street. The application was opposed by Mr. Jeffries (instructed by Rev. J. Tollady and Mr. G. E. Simonds).

Mr. Jeffries pointed out that the law required that notice of an application of that kind should be posted on the land on which it was proposed to erect the building, which had not been done in this case.

Mr. Sharpe said the objection was a very frivolous one, but he urged that notice had been posted on the site for the new premises.

Mr. A. A. Millichip, solicitor’s clerk, swore to having posted a copy of the notice of the application on a board on the land, and which he had pulled down that morning. He saw the notice there on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> insts.

The Bench were satisfied that the requirements had been carried out and allowed Mr. Sharpe to proceed with the application.

Mr. Sharpe went on to say that the SPRING COTTAGE was situated in close proximity to Hunts Foundry. The premises were old and dilapidated and most inconvenient, both to the public and the police. The occupier only had one room for domestic use, and the premises were undoubtedly insanitary. It was now proposed to build a new house on a site higher up the street to which they desired the license of the SPRING COTTAGE transferred, and the old house would be pulled down. The proposed new buildings would have a quiet and substantial look about them. They did not wish to make the buildings much larger than the present house.

Thomas Hunt, the applicant, gave evidence confirming Mr. Sharpe’s statements.

In reply to Mr. Jeffries, he said some one in addition to himself was interested in the scheme, but he could not say who it was. He had signed an agreement, but he could not then say what the terms contained in it were.

Mr. Jeffries asked if the applicant knew the difference between an agreement and a notice, whereupon Mr. Hunt sharply retorted, ‘Don’t you think I am such a fool?’ (Laughter.)

Replying to Mr. Sharpe, the applicant said he had sold the land on which it was proposed to erect the new buildings to the Oldbury Railway Wagon and Carriage Co, but he had entered into a contract with them for the repurchase of the site for the proposed new house.

Mr. Enoch Wood, architect, of West Bromwich, produced plans of the new house, which he indicated would cost about £2,000. The place where it was proposed to build the house was in a growing neighbourhood.

The rental would be about £50 a year.

Mr. Jeffries said a similar application had been made and refused on a former occasion. The only fresh argument for the applicant was that five new houses had been built since he made the last application.”

*James Arthur Burton* – see also SAVING HAND, and JUNCTION, Queens Cross, Dudley.

The license was surrendered on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1908.

#### Dudley Chronicle 31/10/1914

“As was briefly reported in our last issue, Friday was Licensing Day in Dudley.....

There were nineteen temporary licenses brought for confirmation, and only in one did the police make any objection. This was the case of *J. A. Burton*, formerly of Oldbury, to whom a temporary license of the JUNCTION INN, has been granted.

Mr. J. T. Higgs appeared for the applicant, who, in reply to his solicitor, said he had had 20 years' experience in the trade, as his mother had held a license for that period without any complaint. From 1904 till 1908 he was the licensee of the SPRING COTTAGE, Oldbury, without conviction or complaint. After that he kept the SAVING HAND, at Oldbury without any conviction, although there was a complaint that he was drunken, which was not true, as he was suffering from sciatica at the time. The license of the JUNCTION was granted to him on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, and there had been no complaints. He left the SAVING HAND owing to it being closed through redundancy. He received compensation, and had invested the money in acquiring the tenancy of the JUNCTION which was a tenants license and not an application from the brewers, and if he lost that money he would be ruined.

In reply to the Bench, the Chief Superintendent said applicant had conducted the JUNCTION properly, but the police at Oldbury alleged that applicant suffered from delirium tremens, and that his wife was addicted to drink.

Applicant: It was no use me saying I was not on the drink, I was; but it was because I was put about owing to the house being closed. Sometimes my wife is very funny in the head, but it is not a matter of drink, she suffers from illness.

The Chief Superintendent: It is only fair to say that this man kept a house from 1908 to 1914 without any complaints, and that the police officer who alleges the drunkenness is now away at the front.

The Magistrates' Clerk: There was no complaint about this man as a license holder? – No, sir.

The Clerk: The complaint is that after the house was closed he drank? – Yes, sir.

Mr. Edward Smith: How has he gone on since he has had this temporary license? – The Chief Superintendent: There have been no complaints. It is a quiet house as rule.

After consultation with his colleagues (one of whom strongly objected to the granting of the license) Alderman Hughes said to the applicant, 'If you will promise us that there shall be no complaint and that you will not touch the drink, we will grant the license. If you suffer from delirium tremens you may injure yourself and others, and would be unfit to have a license.'

The Applicant: I don't think there is any need to be afraid of that no. I only took the drink because of the trouble.

The application was granted."

## STORES

9+11, (67), Birmingham Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. [1881], [1908]

## LICENSEES

Charles Roberts [1880] – 1885);

George Yeates (1885);

Tom Stephens (1885 – 1886);

Henry Thomas Moore (1886 – 1887);

John George Dexter (1887);

John Ames (1887 – 1889);

George York (1889 – 1890);

John Hunt (1890);

William George Wincott (1890 – 1891);

Ellen Taylor (1891 – 1892);

Thomas Robert Roodhouse (1892 – [1896])  
W. Showell and Sons Ltd. (1893 – 1906);  
William Brooks [1901] manager?  
William Henry James (1906 – 1907);  
Peter Churchley (1907 – 1908):

## NOTES

It was situated next door to Hadley's, the clothiers.

It was known locally as "Showell's Top Shop."  
It was also known as MANCHESTER STORES.

It had a large room at the rear which housed the Gaiety Music Hall [1888], [1897]

### Dudley and District News 28/8/1880

"On Monday, the Annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury division was held.....

The Bench would deal with the several application for new licenses.....

George Bonser and *Charles Roberts* applied for six days' licenses to be altered to seven days', for houses situate in Oldbury ..... Adjourned."

### Dudley and District News 2/10/1880

"The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Oldbury and district were held on Monday.....

George Bonser and *Charles Roberts* each applied for six days' licenses to be altered to seven days' licenses.

Both applications were refused, the old licenses in each case being granted."

### 1881 Census

67, Birmingham Street – SHOWELL'S \_\_\_ SHOP

[1] Elizabeth Roberts (46), licensed victualler's wife, born Walsall;

[2] Annie Roberts (18), daughter, born Wolverhampton;

[3] Harry Roberts (10), son, scholar, born Wolverhampton;

[4] Laura Roberts (8), daughter, scholar, born Bilston;

[5] Frank Roberts (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] Edith Roberts (2), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] Eliza Boden (23), barmaid, born Wordsley;

[8] Martha Pearson (20), domestic servant, born Brierley Hill:

### West Bromwich Weekly News 3/9/1881

"Joseph Foby, carpenter, Old Hill, was charged with attempting to pass a bad florin at Oldbury, on the previous day.

Defendant went to the STORES, Birmingham Street, kept by *Charles Roberts*, and offered the coin in payment for some liquor. It turned out, however, that defendant had been down to the BROWN LION INN, and changed half a sovereign, and received the bad coin amongst his change.

As it was thus shown that the defendant was not aware the florin was a counterfeit one, the case was dismissed."

### Smethwick Telephone 31/7/1886

"William Podman, aged 50, of Rounds Green, was brought up charged with having committed an indecent assault upon three girls, named Mary Rogers (11), Mary Jane Judge (10), and Phoebe Hodgkiss (10), all of Oldbury, on Saturday afternoon, the 24<sup>th</sup> instant.

Mary Rogers stated that she was selling matches on the day in question in a public house, known as Showell's Top Shop, with the other girls, when the prisoner followed them out of the house into the yard, where



he committed the offence. He gave her and another girl a half-penny each, and promised them two shillings. Ephraim Cartright stated that he was present in the public house at the time, on Saturday afternoon, when the barman called his attention to prisoner's behaviour towards the little girls. Witness was sitting against the table, and heard prisoner say something about meeting the girls again at 8 o'clock.

Henry Felton, barman at the Top Shop, said he served the prisoner on Saturday afternoon, with two pints of fourpenny, and afterwards saw him offer the little girls to drink. They asked him to buy some matches and he replied that he would not then, but if they would meet him again at 8 o'clock he would buy some and give them some coppers besides. He called Cartright's attention to the matter. Some one came to him later on in the afternoon and informed him that prisoner had the girls at the bottom of the yard at the back of the premises. He went out and found the eldest girl standing outside one of the outbuildings, the door of which was partly open. He saw the other girls and prisoner inside, and believed Podman had his left arm round the girl Rogers. On hearing him approach, the door was opened and the girls ran out. Going up the yard he met Sergeant Stanton, and informed him of what had occurred.

PS Stanton stated that from the information he received from the last witness he at once proceeded to where the prisoner was. He asked him what he had been doing to the girls. He appeared confused, but denied any knowledge of them. He took him to the police station and charged him with the offence.

Mary Jane Judge stated that she was in the public house in company with the other girls. She was selling fish and asked prisoner if he would buy. He ordered a half-penny worth, and she placed it upon a plate on the table. He requested her to bring the plate round the table and to come closer, but she refused to do this, and he then said he would not have the fish but eventually took the same. The other two girls went out into the yard, and prisoner followed them. She also followed him, and asked for the half-penny for the fish. She saw him follow the other girls into the closet. Seeing the barman coming down she cried out, 'Here's the waiter coming,' and the girls ran out. Prisoner promised her two shillings.

The evidence in the third charge was not taken.

Prisoner pleaded 'Not guilty,' and was committed to the next Worcester Quarter Sessions to take his trial."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 23/10/1886

"William Bodman (50), labourer, was indicted for unlawfully assaulting Mary Rogers, 11 years of age, at Oldbury, on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. R. H. Amphlett was for the prosecution. Another charge of a similar character was not proceeded with. Prisoner, who had been in prison for three months, was sentenced to six months' hard labour."

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 24/9/1887

"Oldbury Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers' Association. The annual meeting of the above society was held on Wednesday, at the STORES, the president, Mr. W. Smith, occupying the chair. ...."

*John George Dexter* – see also CRYSTAL PALACE, WHITE LION and BLACK BOY, all Birmingham Street.

*John Ames*, dealer in wines and spirits, ales and stouts, and proprietor of the Gaiety Music Hall; entertainments every evening, free: the STORES, Birmingham Street. [1888]

#### The Era 21/1/1888 - Advert

"Wanted, Known, Professor Harcourt, the World's Greatest Wizard, Character Actor, and Bone Soloist, at Liberty Monday next. Wire, Gaiety, Oldbury."

#### The Era 30/6/1888 - Advert

"Wanted, Known, Alex Fox, Ventriloquist (Twelve Figures, Animals, &c), big success, Surrey, Barnsley. Monday, Gaiety, Oldbury. Liberty for Galas, &c."

#### The Era 11/8/1888 - Advert

"Ben Taylor, 'A Piece of a Man and a Piece of a Tree,' the Funniest Song ever written by Tom Brown. Concludes, New Gaiety Variety Palace, Oldbury.

Also Lizzie Sharman, the Sprightly Serio-Comic.  
At Liberty Monday next. Wire, 10, A. B. row, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/9/1888

“The adjourned annual licensing session for the Oldbury Division took place yesterday.....  
Mr. Sharpe made an application on behalf of *John Ames*, the STORES, Birmingham Street, for a full license, but the Bench declined to grant it.”

The Era 17/11/1888 - Advert

“To those it may concern most. The Celebrated ‘Horseshoe Two.’  
Jockey Watson and Billy M‘Que, Greatest Comedians, Vocalists, and the only Champion Jockey Dancers of the World, bar none.  
Read This. Birmingham. Watson and M‘Que commenced a starring contract of one week with me Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. I must say they are two of the best performers on the road. I have re-engaged them at a big increase of salary, and giving them a benefit. This should be recommendation enough for any first-class proprietor in this country. (Signed) E. Martin, Boss of the Sherbourne.  
Mr. *Ames* says: Never laughed so much in all my life as Friday. The Head-waiter – well, he’s laughing yet; and it is a comfortable shop is the Gaiety, Oldbury.  
Monday next we return to the People’s, Oldham.  
Following on to Wolverhampton, Grimsby, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, Bath, Southampton, and then London.  
Starters and Judges for the Jockeys of the World, Messrs. Geo. Sinclair and Co., 7, York Road.”

The Era 23/3/1889 - Advert

“Carles, King and Queen of the Feathered Tribe, Champion Pigeon Charmers of the World. Carles’ Pigeons are the greatest Novelty before the Public. Managers should see this great Act. The Feats Carles’ Pigeons perform are marvellous. Must be seen to be believed; cannot be described. Monday, Gaiety, Oldbury, Staffordshire.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/8/1890

“The licensing session for Oldbury division was held yesterday.....  
The application of *William George Wincott*, of the STORES, Birmingham Street, for alteration of license from a six days to seven days, was supported by Mr. J. S. Sharpe ..... Refused, Mr. Wilson (the chairman) remarking that the bench were unable to see that the public interests demanded that they should be granted.”

1891 Census

Birmingham Street

- [1] *William G. Wincott* (24), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Smethwick;
- [2] *Harriet Aldridge* (30), boarder, manageress, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Lydia Wincott* (26), sister, barmaid, born Smethwick;
- [4] *Elizabeth Owen* (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Ethel M. Aldridge* (3 months), born Oldbury:

*Ellen Taylor* – check also WAGGON AND HORSES.

The Era 28/1/1893 - Advert

“Wanted, Known, the Diamonds, Knife Throwers; also Sylvester, Negro Comedian. Two Distinct Turns. Liberty Monday next, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Best offers. Gaiety, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 11/2/1893

“At the Police Court, on Tuesday, before Messrs. H. Heaton and G. S. Allbright, Silas Field made an application for the transfer of the license of the STORES, in Birmingham Street, Oldbury, from *Thomas Roodhouse*, to himself. In reply to the Bench, the applicant stated that he was going into the house as a manager

for a firm of brewers. Mr. Heaton said the justices had passed a resolution deciding not to grant licenses to managers, but only to persons who were bona-fide tenants or owners of the public houses. The application was refused.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 31/8/1895

“The annual Licensing Session for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held on Tuesday. Superintendent Chare in his report said there were 147 persons licensed for the sale of intoxicants. One house had been closed since the last annual licensing meeting. During the year three license-holders had been proceeded against for offences under the Licensing Acts. The number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness was 210, a decrease of 38 males and 10 females compared with 1894. He had received notices of three new applications.....

Mr. Waldron applied for the conversion of a six days’ license attached to the STORES INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, into a seven days’ license. Mr. J. S. Sharpe opposed. Mr. J. Clark made a similar application on behalf of Samuel Hadley, of the BEEHIVE INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury. These applications were refused.”

#### The Era 15/5/1897 - Adverts

“Notice. All Artists Holding Contracts with Harry Bowerman, Museum, Oldbury, are cancelled on behalf of himself. Going to Gaiety in same Town. Churchill, Dunn, Ames write in. Now we can’t go wrong.”

#### The Era 4/9/1897 - Advert

“Music Hall Cards.....

Bowerman, Harry, Proprietor, Gaiety Music Hall, Oldbury (late Museum).”

The Gaiety closed for rebuilding in 1897, but never reopened.

The pub was rebuilt further back from the road.  
It reopened in 1900.

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 20/10/1900

“On Tuesday evening the annual dinner in connection with the Oldbury Permanent Money Society took place at the STORES, Birmingham Street, and was a very successful function.....”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 5/1/1901

“In our Christmas Show number we omitted to mention Messrs. Showell and Co.’s STORES, Birmingham Street, the decorations of which were (and are at the present time) unsurpassed in the town, the bar being one mass of festoons, garlands etc, whilst Chinese lanterns are hung about everywhere and lend a charming appearance to the place. Mr. *Brookes* has taken prizes for five years for the same work whilst he was in Birmingham, and the firm were very proud of his efforts. On the shelves are to be seen numerable mechanical toys, all in working order. It is a sight well worth visiting.”

#### 1901 Census

9, Birmingham Street

- [1] *William Brooks* (47), licensed victualler, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] *Elizabeth Brooks* (31), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Albert Brooks* (11), son, born Reading, Berkshire;
- [4] *Georgina Brooks* (3), daughter, born Tipton;
- [5] *Harriet Bradley* (19), domestic servant, born Yorkshire;
- [6] *Lucy Hockhole* (16), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

#### The Era 16/12/1905 - Advert

“Wanted, to Sell, Ladies’ Handsome Crocodile Dressing-case, solid silver Cherub fittings, cost 65 guin-

was nine months ago, Finnigan's Deansgate, Manchester, in perfect condition, will take half. Can be seen, Showell's Wine STORES, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, near Birmingham."

*Peter Churchley* – see also FIVE WAYS, Smethwick.

#### Smethwick Telephone 2/5/1908

"There were some important comments made in reference to the granting of three off licenses for the Lightwoods district by the Oldbury justices, at a meeting of the County Licensing Committee, at which application was made for the confirmation of the concessions. At the outset, Mr. Willis Bund (the chairman) said that in reference to these three applications he understood there was some agreement or understanding between the Oldbury justices and the applicants. They had no particulars of that understanding. The brewers were willing, if the licenses were granted, to surrender certain licenses in Oldbury. The question was whether the committee ought not to have before them very full information concerning those houses which were going to be surrendered.....

The Hon. R. Coventry applied, on behalf of Joseph Barnsley, 62, Abbey Road, Warley, for a beer off license. Mr. Graham Milward opposed on behalf of Mr. Haywood, the holder of another license in the neighbourhood.

The Hon. R. Coventry said that the house was in the centre of a new district which had sprung up since 1903. They were prepared to surrender, if the grant of the license was confirmed, Showell's 'Top Shop,' at Langley, for which they paid £3,009, and upon which they had spent £4,000; an off beer license at the corner of Whiley Street and Spring Street, valued at £600; and off beerhouses in Perrot Street and Fastnet Street, valued at £300 each, making a total surrender value, according to the books of the company, of £8,209. Applicant said that 380 residents petitioned in favour of the license.

Mr. Graham Milward, examining the petition, said some of the signatories lived nearer to another licensed house than to the one for which the applicant asked a license.

The Chairman: A change of tap, Mr. Milward. (Laughter.) I don't think you need trouble about the petition; we don't pay much attention to those things.....

The Chairman said an attempt had been made – rightly or wrongly he would not say – to cover the district with off licenses, which would pay no monopoly value and contribute nothing to the compensation fund, and for which certain licenses were offered in order to get over any objections. The licenses it was proposed to surrender were not those it was most desired to take away, because they were not included in the twenty reported by the Oldbury justices. In the discharge of their duty to the ratepayers were the committee justified in covering the district with off licenses? Another point was whether the committee ought to grant the licenses applied for. They were offered valuable terms, but he was loth to tie the hands of the committee by asking them to accept them in view of the pending legislation. The applications would be granted, but it must be distinctly understood that the terms agreed upon between the justices of Oldbury and the applicants did not fetter the committee in any way if they were called upon to deal with the licenses in the near future."

The license was surrendered on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1908.

#### **STORES**

65, Simpson Street, OLDBURY

#### **OWNERS**

#### **LICENSEES**

Walter Showell [1872] – [1873]

## NOTES

*Walter Showell*, brewer, Birmingham Street. [1870]

*Walter Showell*, brewer, Simpson Street. [1872]

*Walter Showell* was also a baker and flour dealer of 26½, Birmingham Street, and brewer of the Victoria Brewery, Simpson Street. [1873]

## SWAN

Tat Bank, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

Clark [1868]

Deborah Clarke [ ]

## NOTES

### Birmingham Journal 20/6/1868 - Advert

“Tat Bank, Oldbury. Freehold Public House and Dwelling Houses.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday Next, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, at the house of Mr. John Green, the JUNCTION INN, Oldbury, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read, in the following or other lots, as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale.

Lot 1. All that newly-erected and substantially-built Public House and Premises, known as the SWAN INN, situate near the Canal Bridge, Tat Bank; comprising Tap Room, Parlour, Kitchen, Grocer's Shop, four Bed Rooms, Club Room, Cooking Kitchen, two Cellars, Brewhouse, Stabling, and Out-buildings, with large Entrance Gates, in the occupation of Mr. *Clark*. Also, all those Two comfortably arranged Dwelling Houses and Premises adjoining, each having front Parlour, Kitchen, two Bed Rooms, Cellar, and Out-buildings, in the respective occupations of John Cutler and William Horton.

The above Property will produce an estimated rental of £50 per annum.....”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/7/1869

“Local Bankrupts.

The Registrar of the Worcester County Court (Mr. Crisp) made his usual monthly visitation to the county prison on Monday last....

*Deborah Clarke*, of Parsonage Lane, Tat Bank, Oldbury, huckster, shopkeeper, late publican, was adjudicated a bankrupt and discharged from custody, proceedings transferred to the Birmingham Court of Bankruptcy. Prisoner was detained at the suit of Mr. James Couse, of West Bromwich, for a debt of £33 2s 1d for bread. Total liabilities £330.”

### Worcestershire Chronicle 21/7/1869 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District.

*Deborah Clarke*, formerly of the SWAN INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Beerhouse Keeper and Huckster Shopkeeper, and late of Parsonage Lane, Tat Bank, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Huckster Shopkeeper,

late a prisoner for debt in the Worcester Prison, in the County of Worcester, having been adjudged Bankrupt by a Registrar of the Court of Bankruptcy attending at the Worcester Prison, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1869, and the adjudication being directed to be prosecuted at the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, at Birmingham, is hereby required to surrender herself to Alfred Hill, Esquire, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of Creditors, to be held before him on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1869, at 12 o'clock at noon precisely, at the said Court in Birmingham. Mr. George Kinnear, of Waterloo Rooms, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee, and Jas. Tree, 14, Broad Street, Worcester, the Solicitor acting in the Bankruptcy."

Worcestershire Chronicle 29/9/1869

"Birmingham Bankruptcy Court, Friday....

In re *Deborah Clarke*, Oldbury, beerhouse keeper. Last examination and discharge. Mr. Griffin for the official assignee; Mr. Tree, of Worcester, for bankrupt, who received her order of discharge conditionally upon her making out certain accounts."

SWAN

Titford, OLDBURY

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Henry George Moreton (1850 – [ ]  
Zephaniah Knowles [ ]

NOTES

*Henry George Moreton* = Henry George Morton

Birmingham Journal 17/8/1850 - Advert

"Pointer Dog. For Sale, at the SWAN INN, Titford Pool, near Oldbury, a handsome well-bred Liver-coloured Pointer Dog, well trained, and shot over last season.

Several references can be given as to his being a good one, and well-bred.

Apply on the Premises.

NB. Shooting to Let, over Three Hundred Acres of Land near Lichfield."

Birmingham Journal 8/3/1851 - Advert

"Unreserved Sale, at the SWAN INN, Titford Bridge, near to Oldbury, close to the Collieries of Captain Bennitt and Messrs. Hartland and Co. By Richard Clarke, on Monday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above House, situate in a very populous district, near to many extensive Collieries, Brick Works, &c. Also the genteel and modern Household Furniture and Effects; comprising mahogany Bedsteads, Chests of Drawers, Sofas, Tables, excellent feather Beds, Tap Room, Parlour, and Kitchen Requisites, sweet and sound Brewing Utensils, part of the Stock-In-Trade, Two well-bred and useful Hackney Horses, well-built Spring Trap, nearly new, excellent set of Trap Harness, Saddles, and Bridles, about 120 Gallons of fine Ale, Porter, &c, 80lbs of prime Hops, Stock of Poultry, and other useful Effects.

Sale to commence at half-past Ten o'clock in the morning, under the usual conditions.

Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale, and from the Auctioneer, 48, Paradise Street, and Victoria Cottage, Smethwick.”

Sun (London) 13/12/1860

“Assize Intelligence. Oxford Circuit. Worcester, December 12. (Before Mr. Baron Wilde.)

William Slim, a dealer in old iron, was indicted for wounding Enoch Cooper, with intent to murder him. The circumstances of the case were most brutal and revolting. It appeared that the prisoner entered the SWAN public house at Titford, in the parish of Oldbury, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July last, and called for liquor, saying he had no money, whereupon prosecutor Cooper offered to give him a shilling. In return for this kindness he challenged the prosecutor to fight, and on his refusing to fight prisoner said he would make him do so; and as the prosecutor sat peaceably in his chair, he seized hold of a leathern apron which prosecutor wore, and attempted to strangle him with it. He then struck him a violent blow on the temple, knocking him down senseless. He then seized him by the hair of the head (prosecutor being all the time quite unconscious), and struck him two violent blows on the jaw, causing a compound fracture, part of the jaw and several of the teeth being forced under the tongue. Not satisfied with this, he proceeded to further violence. The landlady attempted to interfere, whereupon he seized her by the neck, half-strangled her, and forced her out of the room.

The surgeon’s evidence showed the wounds to be of a most dangerous description, and was despaired of for some time. The prisoner was the terror of the neighbourhood in which he lived, and had been previously convicted of violent assaults.

The learned Judge characterised the case as one of the most savage, brutal, and unmanly that ever came before him.

Sentence of death was recorded against the prisoner.”

AND

London Evening Standard 14/12/1860

“.....The Jury, without hesitation, found the prisoner Guilty of wounding with intent to murder.

Mr. Baron Wilde said the prisoner had been convicted of the most ferocious and unmanly assault he had ever heard of in his life, and it was his duty to direct that sentence of death should be recorded against him. It would be for her Majesty, in the exercise of her prerogative, to commute the prisoner’s sentence, but he (Mr. Baron Wilde) should recommend that the sentence should only be commuted to penal servitude for life or for 20 years.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 30/1/1861

“On Friday morning the following convicts were removed from our county gaol to the county gaol at Leicester.....

William Slimm, for wounding with intent to murder Enoch Cooper, at Oldbury, transportation for life.”

London Gazette 6/8/1861

“Before the Judge of the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Worcester, on Wednesday the 28th day of August, 1861, at Ten o’Clock in the Forenoon precisely.

Zepheuiah Knowles (sued and detained as *Zephaniah Knowles*), of Church-bridge, in the parish of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Miner, previously of Causey-green, in the parish of Oldbury aforesaid, Miner, formerly of the SWAN INN, Titford, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, also working as a Miner.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1861

“Worcester Insolvency Court.

On Wednesday, before Rupert Kettle, Esq, the following cases were disposed of.....

Re *Zephaniah Knowles*, of Church Bridge, Oldbury, miner, and formerly of Hales Owen, publican. The insolvent applied for his discharge, supported by Mr. Barnes, of Horsley Heath. He was discharged.”

AND

Worcester Journal 31/8/1861

“Worcester Insolvency Court. Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Before R. Kettle, Esq, Judge.....

Re *Knowles*. This was a prison case, and the insolvent, *Zephaniah Knowles*, a miner, of Church Bridge, Oldbury, previously of Causey Green and other places, came up for his final examination. The debts amounted to £324 13s 11d, and the credits to £37 5s 4d. The insolvency was said to have been caused by badness of trade and expenses of maintaining a family. Mr. Barns, of Horseley Heath, Tipton, supported, and there being no opposition, the insolvent was discharged.”

Check SWAN, Birchfield Lane, Whiteheath, Rowley Regis.

## SWAN

14, Dudley Road, TIVIDALE

## OWNERS

Holdings Brewery Company

## LICENSEES

William Barratt [1871]

John Hodgkiss [ ] – **1876**);

Richard Price (**1876** – [ ]

Benjamin Rowley [1883] – **1892**)

Thomas Jones [1896]

John Aston (**1898** – **1904**);

Frederick Markham (**1904** – **1907**):

## NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

### Stourbridge Observer 11/3/1871

“Benjamin Tranter was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the SWAN beerhouse, at Tividale, when requested by the landlord, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November last.

*William Barratt*, the landlord, said defendant went into his house on the above date, drunk. He made a great noise, and he ordered him to go out, when he refused to go. Witness tried to put him out.

Defendant was further charged with willfully damaging a window and a pair of black trousers, at the same time. Complainant said after he got defendant out he returned, and broke two panes of glass.

Defendant pleaded guilty. Fined 1s and costs for refusing to leave, the damage, 6d, and 1s 2d damage and costs for breaking the window.”

### 1871 Census

Tividale – SWAN INN

[1] *William Barratt* (53), beerhouse keeper, born Dudley;

[2] Prudence Barratt (30), wife, born Tipton;

[3] Martha Powell (14), domestic servant, born Brierley Hill:

### Birmingham Post 13/1/1875 - Advert

“Lost, on Friday last, from the SWAN INN, Tividale, a small white French Dog, with black spot on side of



nose. Answers to the name of 'Sam.'  
Anyone returning the same to the above will be rewarded."

#### County Advertiser 3/3/1877

"Thomas Murray was charged with assaulting Phoebe Hodgkiss, on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1876, and also with being disorderly, at the SWAN INN, Tividale, which he refused to leave when ordered to do so. The first case was not pressed, and in the latter defendant paid costs."

#### County Express 15/12/1883

"*Benjamin Rowley*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Tividale, was charged with feloniously assaulting Alice Humphreys (13), on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Complainant said on the above date, about half-past seven in the morning, she went to defendant's house for a bucket of water. She met defendant in the passage, and he asked her to go into the bar, adding that he would give her sixpence. He caught hold of her hand and forced her to go. Witness shouted for Mrs. *Rowley*, and struggled to get away from him, but he prevented her, and committed the assault with which he was charged. In about five minutes her mother came after her, and he let her go on hearing her coming.

By Mr. Shakespeare: Her mother told her to say she was thirteen, saying that it would be more serious for the defendant.

For the defence Mr. Shakespeare contended that the prosecutrix was a consenting party, and eventually the Bench decided to dismiss the charge."

#### County Express 5/1/1884

"*Benjamin Rowley*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Oldbury Road, Tividale, was summoned for permitting gaming. Mr. Waldron appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Authorities. Mr. T. Wright applied for an adjournment on behalf of Mr. Shakespeare. The Bench decided to adjourn the case for fourteen days. A charge of indecent assault against Rowley was adjourned for a like period."

#### Dudley and District News 19/1/1884

"*Benjamin Rowley*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Tividale, was summoned for permitting gaming. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Hooper (Stokes and Hooper) defended.

Mr. Waldron said he appeared, instructed by the chief of police, to prefer this charge of permitting gaming against the defendant. Some proceedings occurred in that court and during the progress certain conversation and certain hints were thrown out, and the result was that Superintendent Woollaston caused two police-constables, in plain clothes, to visit the defendant's house on the same evening. They were there from 6.30 until 10.15. During that time, filthy language – and that language was most abominable – was indulged in. No gambling, however, commenced until 8.45, when one of the men, who was in one of the rooms, whispered something to the landlady. The man and the landlady left the room, and they shortly returned with a pack of cards. Gambling then took place. The landlord's son was there, and the man said to him, 'What are we going to play for?' The defendant's son, replied, 'Half-a-pint, the same as usual. It will bring a drop of drink in.' The men commenced playing at cards at 'All fours, seven up,' and a man named Dennis won the first game, and ale was brought into the room. At nine o'clock, whilst these men were still playing at cards, the landlady came in and said, 'Mind what you are doing; there are two bobbies outside.' The men continued to play until 9.30, when another pint of ale was brought in. The men went on playing until 10.15 when PS Hand came in, and then there was a scuffle to hide the cards, but PC Whiston, who had been sitting in the place the whole of the time, caught hold of the cards and said to the landlord, 'You cannot say there has been no card playing.' Defendant replied, 'But not for drink.' He (Mr. Waldron) asked for such a penalty to be inflicted as would deter gambling of that description in public houses.

PC Whiston gave evidence in support of Mr. Waldron's opening statement.

Mr. Hooper said he was afraid, after the evidence that had been given by PC Whiston, and which was going to be corroborated by three other police-constables, that it would be folly on his part to attempt to shake the minds of the court on the facts, but he contended that there were two or three facts which would detract from the seriousness of the offence as pointed out by Mr. Waldron.

The Bench inflicted a fine of £5 and costs, and endorsed defendant's license."

AND

“*Benjamin Rowley* (55), landlord of the SWAN INN, Tividale, was charged with indecently assaulting Mary Ann Humphries, an old woman, on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Hooper defended. Prosecutrix alleged that at the request of the defendant she went to his house to fetch a jug of beer, and while there he indecently assaulted her. There was no corroborative evidence, and the case was dismissed.”

County Advertiser 30/8/1884

“The annual brewster sessions for the Parish of Rowley Regis were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

*Benjamin Rowley*, SWAN INN, Tividale, applied for the renewal of his license. Inspector Walters objected to the renewal of the license on the ground that in addition to a conviction for permitting gaming against *Rowley*, it was shown in evidence in a case against him of assaulting a female that he conducted the house in a disgraceful manner. The Bench refused to renew the license.”

County Advertiser 27/9/1884

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division was held at Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday.....

Mr. Shakespeare made an application for the renewal of a license on behalf of *Benjamin Rowley*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Tividale, whose name appeared on the black list. After deliberating for some time, the Bench determined to give the applicant another chance, and granted the renewal of the license.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 18/3/1885

“At the Oldbury Police Court, today (Wednesday), before Mr. B. T. Sadler, *Benjamin Rowley*, a beerhouse keeper, of the SWAN, Tividale, was fined 5s and costs, with the alternative of 14 days’ imprisonment, for being drunk in Freeth Street on the 17<sup>th</sup>.”

1891 Census

14, Dudley Road

[1] *Benjamin Rowley* (64), publican (beer seller), born Dudley;

[2] Ann Maria Rowley (64), born Rowley Regis;

[3] Benjamin Rowley (33), son, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 5/9/1891

“*Benjamin Rowley*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 15<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Waldron appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Shakespeare defended.

On the night in question, shortly after ten o’clock, Police-constables Winfield and McDermott visited the defendant’s house, and found a man named Higgins drunk in the passage, and upon going into the taproom they found fifteen or sixteen men, two of whom, Richard Amos and Emanuel Stevens, were drunk, and had drink before them. Winfield called the attention of the defendant to the condition of the three men, and defendant replied, ‘I can’t help him drinking other people’s drink. He has not been supplied with any here.’ Upon Winfield saying that he should report the matter, defendant said, ‘I hope not; it shall not occur again.’ In reply to Mr. Shakespeare, Winfield said the defendant’s house was situated in a rough neighbourhood, and the defendant managed it fairly well.

Police-constable McDermott said two hours before visiting the defendant’s house he saw Amos and Stevens in a drunken state on Tipton Road.

Mr. Shakespeare, for the defendant, urged that although the house was in a very rough neighbourhood, it had for seven years been well managed. There was no doubt two of the men were drunk, but they were not supplied with drink by the defendant or his servants. The defendant had not wilfully permitted drunkenness, and under the circumstances he trusted the magistrates would give him the benefit of the doubt.

Mr. Bassano said the magistrates sitting at that Court had no desire to deal harshly with the publicans, knowing full well that it was a difficult trade to manage. In the present case the magistrates thought there

had been an infraction of the law by permitting three drunken men to remain on his licensed premises. They deemed it to be their duty to inflict a fine of £5, and £2 11s 6d costs.”

AND

“Harry Higgins and Emanuel Stevens, both of Tividale, were charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of the SWAN INN, Tividale, on the 15<sup>th</sup> ult, and on the evidence of Police-constables Winfield and McDermott were fined 2s 6d and costs.”

#### County Express 12/9/1891

“Richard Amos, Tividale, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Benjamin Rowley*, the SWAN INN, Tividale, and was fined 2s and costs.”

#### County Advertiser 27/8/1892

“The annual Brewster Sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division, were held at Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday.....

Inspector Bishop presented his report ..... Appended is a list of publicans who had been convicted during the year....

*Benjamin Rowley*, the SWAN, Tividale, permitting drunkenness on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1891, fined £5 and costs.....

Mr. W. Shakespeare now appeared for *Benjamin Rowley*. Inspector Bishop said there was also a conviction against *Rowley* in 1884 for permitting gaming and he was fined £5 and costs. Police-sergeant Salt said there was a public house next door to *Rowley*'s, and another 50 yards distant. The Bench refused the license. Mr. Shakespeare asked the Bench to give *Rowley* another chance. Applicant had paid £130 goodwill to go into the house. The Bench said they could not grant the renewal of the license.”

*Thomas Jones*, beer retailer, 14, Dudley Road. [1896]

*John Aston*, beer retailer, 14, Dudley Road. [1900]

#### 1901 Census

14, Dudley Road – SWAN INN

- [1] *John Aston* (50), publican, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Elizabeth Aston (48), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Ann E. Aston (25), daughter, dressmaker, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Betsy M. Aston (21), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Amy J. Aston (19), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] John Aston (17), son, caster (general), born Tipton;
- [7] George R. Aston (15), son, groom (not domestic), born West Bromwich;
- [8] Jane Aston (13), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [9] William Aston (11), son, born West Bromwich;
- [10] Bertie Aston (8), son, born West Bromwich;
- [11] Ann Hayward (75), mother-in-law, born West Bromwich:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/12/1903

“Yesterday, at Rowley Regis, *John Aston*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst.

On the day in question Police-constables Heatherley and Edwards saw two men named James Humphries and John Careless leave the defendant's house staggering from the effects of drink. They asked the defendant if there were any more drunken men on the premises, and defendant replied, ‘I have for an hour and a half been begging of Humphries and Careless to leave, but they would not.’

Mr. Clulow, who represented the Chief-Constable, said under the new Licensing Act it devolved upon the defendant to convince the magistrates that he had taken reasonable steps to comply with the law.

The defence was that in consequence of Humphries and Careless having been dismissed from their situations they resorted to high words, and defendant, in consequence, requested them to leave. There was no indica-

tion that they had had too much to drink.

The Bench held that the defendant had not taken reasonable steps to prevent drunken persons remaining on his premises, and inflicted a fine of £5 and £2 15s 6d costs.”

*John Aston*, beer retailer and shopkeeper, 14, Dudley Road. [1904]

#### County Advertiser 13/2/1904

“The annual licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday, at the Police Court.....

The Black List. Superintendent Johnson stated that he had given notice to oppose the renewal of the following licenses, on the ground of conviction against the house.....

WHITE SWAN, Dudley Road, Tividale, kept by *Frederick Markham*.....

Mr. H. Jefferies applied for the renewal of the WHITE STAR [sic] INN, Tividale, to *Frederick Markham*.

The Bench decided to adjourn the consideration of this matter until the 11<sup>th</sup> of March in order to make an inspection of the premises, and it was intimated that structural alterations would be required.”

#### County Advertiser 12/3/1904

“On Wednesday, the adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held at the Police Court.....

The license of the SWAN INN, Tividale, was next considered, Superintendent Johnson explained that the house since the annual general licensing sessions had been renovated. His only objection to renewal was on the ground of the disorderly character of the house, owing to previous convictions against it. The present tenant *Frederick Markham* was son-in-law of the late licensee *John Aston*, who was fined £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness in December last. Mr. H. Jeffries addressed the Bench on behalf of the landlord, and the renewal of the license was granted.”

#### County Advertiser 6/10/1906

“*Frederick Markman* [sic], of the SWAN INN, Tividale, applied for a certificate from the magistrates as they had lost the original licenses. Granted.”

#### County Advertiser 9/2/1907

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday at the Police Court.....

Three license holders ..... *Frederick Markham*, of the SWAN INN, Tividale ..... had been warned to apply personally for the renewal of their licenses, attended before the magistrates, and Mr. Bassano informed them that they had decided to consider these licenses upon the ground of redundancy.”

#### County Advertiser 9/3/1907

“The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday at the Police Court.....

Mr. H. Jefferies appeared for *Frederick Markham*, the licensee of the SWAN INN, Tividale, and also the owners, Messrs. Holders Brewery Co.

Police-constable Heatherly stated that the house was in very bad repair and was not required. A full licensed house was next door, which had every convenience. During the last six years there had been two blast furnaces, three ironworks, and two brickyards shut down in Tividale district, and as a result the population had greatly decreased. He estimated that there were 1,000 fewer in Tividale than there were five years ago.

Mr. Jefferies pointed out that it was the oldest licensed in Tividale. There was a steady trade at the house, and the takings were about £10 to £15 per week. He contended the houses less profitable should be sent to the authorities for compensation.

The Bench decided to refer this license for compensation.”

#### Staffordshire Advertiser 15/5/1907

“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 Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1907.

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.....

SWAN, Dudley Road, Tividale. Beerhouse 'on'. Licensee, *Frederick Markham*."

#### Staffordshire Advertiser 22/6/1907

"The principal meeting of the County Compensation Authority under the Licensing Act, 1904, was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford on Tuesday.....

In the Rowley Regis division ..... the SWAN beerhouse on, Dudley Road, Tividale (*Frederick Markham*) were referred. Mr. Lawrence appeared for the justices, and, there being no opposition, the committee upheld the refusal to renew the licence in each instance."

#### 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.....

SWAN, Dudley Road, Tividale, beerhouse 'on' (owner, the Trustees of the late Henry Oliver Smout), £1,050."

## SYCAMORE

Sycamore Lane, Langley Green, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

### LICENSEES

Edward Jackson [1851] – **1858**);

Abraham Parks (**1858** – [ ]

John Moore [1861] – [1862]

Richard Underhill [ ] – **1866**);

Thomas Jackson (**1866** – [ ]

Thomas Bayley (**1867** – **1868**);

Edward Jackson (**1868** – [1873]

### NOTES

#### Birmingham Journal 28/4/1860 - Notice

"In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury. 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1860.

Whereas a Petition of *Edward Jackson*, formerly of Langley Green, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Manager for a Timber Merchant, Licensed Victualler, Beer Seller, and Dealer in Tobacco, and also carrying on business at Riders Green, in the parish of West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, as a Timber Merchant, then of Riders Green aforesaid, Timber Merchant, Beer Seller and Dealer in Tobacco, afterwards and now of Riders Green, West Bromwich aforesaid, Beer Seller, Dealer in Tobacco, and Manager for a Timber Merchant, an Insolvent Debtor, having been filed in the County Court of Staffordshire at Oldbury, and an Interim Order of Protection from Process having been given to the said *Edward Jackson*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Edward Jackson* is hereby required to

appear in the said Court, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1860, 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 *Edward Jackson*, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, the Registrars of the said Court, who are the Official Assignees of the Estate and Effects of the said Insolvent, at their Office at the Court House, in Oldbury aforesaid.

Jackson and Travis, Attorneys, West Bromwich.”

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/5/1860

“Insolvents. In Oldbury County Court, on Thursday.....

*Edward Jackson*, manager for a timber merchant, at Langley, came up for his first examination, supported by Mr. H. Jackson, and opposed by Mr. E. Jackson and Mr. Trainton, of Gloucester, for creditors. The examination was adjourned sine die without protection.”

#### 1861 Census

Sycamore Lane – SYCAMORE TREE INN

- [1] *John Moore* (38), coal miner and victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Phebe Moore* (39), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Joseph Moore* (18), son, coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Thomas Moore* (16), son, coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Richard Moore* (15), son, coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Ann Maria Moore* (12), daughter, housemaid, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Henry Moore* (11), son, coal miner, born Oldbury;
- [8] *John Moore* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [9] *Phebe Moore* (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [10] *Sarah Jane Moore* (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [11] *Samuel Moore* (11 months), son, born Langley:

#### Birmingham Journal 8/3/1862 - Advert

“Freehold Property, situate in Water Clay Lane, Langley Green, near and in the parish of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester; and Tividale, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. S. Parkes ..... on Tuesday Next, March 11<sup>th</sup>.....

Lot 1. All that Freehold House, Stable, Nail Shops, large Garden, and Premises, in the occupation of Mary Slim, and near Mr. *John Moore*'s, the SYCAMORE INN, Langley Green.....”

#### London Gazette 17/11/1863

“*John Moore*, now and for ten months last past residing in furnished lodgings at Green-street, Oldbury, in the parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, Miner, formerly of the OLD CROWN INN, Green-street, Oldbury, in the said parish of Halesowen, in the said county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Miner, and previously thereto of the SYCAMORE INN, Langley-green, near Oldbury, in the said parish of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, and carrying on the business of a Charter Master, in co-partnership with Thomas Moore, under the style or firm of Thomas Moore and John Moore, at the Park Hall Colliery, near Oldbury, in the said parish of Halesowen, in the said county of Worcester, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, on the 12th day of November, 1863, is hereby required to surrender himself to George Steward Watson, Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 30th day of November instant, at ten of the clock in the forenoon precisely, at his Chambers, High-street, Westbromwich. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, Gentlemen, of Oldbury, are the Official Assignees, and William Shakespeare, of Oldbury, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

*Thomas Bayley* = Thomas Bailey

Birmingham Journal 4/7/1868 - Advert

“Re *Thomas Bailey*, SYCAMORE INN, Langley Green. A Bankrupt.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. C. Wootton, on Monday Next, as above, at Eleven o'clock – all the Effects. Auctioneer's Office, Paradise Street, West Bromwich.”

Birmingham Journal 8/8/1868

“County Court Bankrupts. At this Court, on Thursday, before Mr. A. M. Skinner, Judge, the following bankrupts came up for their last examination and order of discharge.....

*Thomas Bayley*, SYCAMORE INN, Langley Green. Mr. Bailey opposed on behalf of Mr. Price, licensed victualler, West Bromwich, and Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the bankrupt, whose order of discharge was granted.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/8/1868 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury.

In the matter of *Thomas Bailey*, now and for twelve months last past residing at the SYCAMORE TREE INN, Langley Green, Langley, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Publican, and previously thereto of the ANCHOR INN, Spon Lane, West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, and then carrying on the business of a Retail Brewer, adjudged Bankrupt on the 1st day of July, 1868.

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 6th day of August, 1868.

Walter H. Steward, High Bailiff.”

Birmingham Journal 9/1/1869 - Died

“On the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, after a long affliction, in her 60th year, Margaret, the beloved wife of *Edward Jackson*, of the SYCAMORE TREE INN, Langley Green, near Oldbury; deeply lamented.”

1871 Census

Sycamore Lane

[1] *Edward Jackson* (58), widower, innkeeper, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Ann Jackson* (22), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Elizabeth Jackson* (19), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Thomas Jackson* (4), grand-son, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1879 - Died

“On the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, aged 66 years, *Edward Jackson*, of the SYCAMORE TREE INN, Langley Green, late of 112, Market Hall; deeply regretted.”

**SYCAMORE**

5, Clay Lane, (5, West Bromwich Street), (Roway), Langley, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Edward Jackson, West Bromwich

Catherine Lewis, Langley, Oldbury

George Jerrams, Tat Bank, Oldbury

City Brewery Co. Ltd., Birmingham

Holder's Brewery Co. Ltd., Birmingham [1909]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1919]

## LICENSEES

Mrs. Elizabeth Kimberley [1845]  
Samuel Kimberley [1850] – [1851]  
Thomas Kimberley [1854] – [1860]  
Samuel Kimberley [1861] – [1862]  
Jacob Lewis [1884] – **1887**);  
Edwin Jackson (**1887**);  
Frederick Mann (**1887 – 1893**);  
Ambrose Smith (**1893 – 1898**);  
Elizabeth Smith (**1898 – 1902**);  
William Grosvenor (**1902 – 1904**);  
Samuel Bridge (**1904 – 1906**);  
Helen Wise (**1906 – 1911**);  
Frank Levick (**1911 – 1928**);  
William Charles Wood (**1928 – 1932**);  
William Bates (**1932 – 1938**):

## NOTES

5, Clay Lane [1891], [1901], [1912]

[1839]

*Samuel Kimberley* was also a soda water manufacturer, West Bromwich. [1850]

### Worcestershire Chronicle 18/11/1857

“An inquest was held at the SYCAMORE INN, near Oldbury, on Saturday last, by R. Docker, Esq, coroner, on the body of Samuel Dunn, wheelwright. The deceased left home, at Oldbury, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, in the afternoon, to go to Wolverhampton on business, and remained at that place with his relatives till Sunday afternoon, when he took the train for Oldbury at half past three o’clock, parting with his brother-in-law in the station yard. He was not seen again or heard of till Saturday morning last, when his body was seen by two men in a bason by the side of the canal, about a quarter of a mile from the Oldbury station of the Stour Valley Railway. His head was at the top of the water, and his body stood in a perpendicular position though the water was about twelve inches deeper than he was tall. Where he was from the time he got off the train till he got into the water remains a mystery, and what brought him near the canal, as it lay in a contrary direction to his way home from the station.

The jury returned an open verdict that he was Found Dead in the canal.

The deceased was about 38 years of age, and was apprenticed to Mr. Joseph Cund, wheelwright, of Tutnal and Copley, near Bromsgrove. After concluding his apprenticeship he worked at several railway carriage works in this country and in France. Of late he worked at Messrs. Johnson and Co.’s carriage works, Oldbury. He has left a widow and one child about six years old. The deceased was generally respected by his employers and his fellow workmen.”

### Birmingham Journal 27/3/1858 - Advert

“Sale in Grange Colliery, near the Bromford Station, on the Stour Valley Railway, and the SYCAMORE INN, Oldbury.

To Coal Masters, Charter Masters and Others.

Mr. S. Powell will Sell by Auction, on the Premises, on Tuesday Next, the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March.



All the valuable Colliery Stock, Winding Engines, Railroads, Horses, and other effects, belonging to the Proprietors, who have finished their Mining Operations, and have no further use for them; comprising Wharf Planks, Land Ties, Plates, and Dash Boards; 1,000 yards of Tram Railroads; upwards of Fifty Tons of wrought and cast iron Rails, Sleepers, Plates, and Turnouts; five Flat Chains; five Pit Frames, Runners and Frames, Rollers, and Posts; Materials in the erection of Hovels, Smiths' Shops, Store Room, Office, and Stables; sixty Skips and Tram Waggon; one hundred and fifty Rings, Chain Tacklers, Rakes, Baskets, Pipes, Drink Bottles, Pike and Dresser Helves, Force and Sump Pumps, 12-inch Water Pump, and Apparatus; Smiths' Tools and wrought Ironwork; patent Weighing Machine, to weigh half a ton; Four useful Horses, 3-inch Wheel Cart and Thripples, Horse and Pony Gears; Pit Timber, Trees, and Bars; Machine House and Weighing Machine; 6-foot Drum, with iron nut Wheel, Rims, and Arms; old Engine Beam, Sphere Rod, Cranks, and Plates; round oblong Steam Boiler, 22½ feet long and 4½ feet diameter; 16-horse Atmospheric Steam Winding Engine, with Boiler, Winding Apparatus, Iron and Brick Work; 25-horse High-pressure Steam Engine, with Boiler, Winding Apparatus, Jack Pump, Iron and Brick Work, and numerous other Effects.

Catalogues may be had at the SYCAMORE INN; or the Auctioneer, Tipton.

In consequence of the number of lots, the Sale will commence punctually at Ten o'clock in the morning."

### 1861 Census

West Bromwich Street – SYCAMORE TREE INN

[1] *Samuel Kimberley* (55), publican and soda water manufacturer, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary Kimberley* (42), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *William Kimberley* (19), son, assistant in house and manufactory, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Sarah Kimberley* (15), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Mary J. Kimberley* (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *Hannah Kimberley* (7), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] *Louisa Kimberley* (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[8] *Sarah Griffiths* (81), boarder, widow, born Smethwick:

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/6/1862 - Advert

"Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy.

Notice is hereby given that an Order of Discharge was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 1862, duly granted by this Court, to *Samuel Kimberley*, of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, and of West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, Soda Water Manufacturer, dealer and chapman, a Bankrupt; and that the same will be delivered to him at the expiration of thirty days from the day last named, unless in the meantime an appeal be duly entered, and notice thereof given to the above-named Court.

Geo. S. Watson, Solicitor, West Bromwich."

### Birmingham Journal 7/6/1862 - Advert

"Oldbury and West Bromwich. Valuable Freehold Buildings and Land.

To be Sold by Auction, by J. S. Parkes (by direction of the Assignees of *Samuel Kimberley*, a bankrupt), on Monday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, at the house of Mr. J. Green, the JUNCTION HOTEL, Oldbury, at Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.

Lot 1. All those Freehold Buildings, having a frontage to Church Street, in Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, erected upon a piece of valuable Land of the above-named *S. Kimberley*, most eligibly situated, and let to respectable tenants, and containing 265 square yards.

Lot 2. All that Piece of Freehold Building Land, situate in and having a frontage of 14 yards to Victoria Street, West Bromwich; together with the substantially-built Stabling and Brick Sheds thereon, now occupied by Mr. *Kimberley*, and containing 900 square yards.

Both the above Properties are situated in the best part of the towns of Oldbury and West Bromwich.

For further particulars, apply to Charles Stringer and George S. Watson, Esqrs, both of West Bromwich; or the Auctioneer, Wesley Street, Oldbury."

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/4/1864 - Advert

“For Sale, a bargain, all Materials belonging to the SYCAMORE INN, Out-houses, &c, near Railway Station, Oldbury.

Apply to E. Williams, New Street, Hill Top, West Bromwich.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/5/1865 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Building Land, at Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Wooldridge, at the House of Mr. Green, JUNCTION INN, Oldbury, on Monday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May inst, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read.

63 Lots of valuable Freehold Building Land, including the Site of the OLD SYCAMORE INN, fronting to the old Turnpike Road from Dudley to Oldbury, and to the Road from Oldbury to West Bromwich, varying in quantity from 185 to 1,028 Square Yards in each Lot; together with the ungoten Mines and Minerals lying thereunder.

The Lots are set forth in particulars, which may be had, and in Plans which may be inspected at the place of Sale; at the Offices of Mr. G. Grazebrook, Solicitor; and of Mr. Wooldridge, Land Agent, of Stourbridge; or of Messrs. Hayes and Wright, Solicitors, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 25/7/1885

“Hubert Insley, Clay Lane, Langley, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Langley, on Sunday night the 12<sup>th</sup> inst, and also with having assaulted PC Bayliss on the same date.

The officer stated that in consequence of having heard some talking at the SYCAMORE INN on the night in question, he went and found the defendant at the door. As it was after 10 o'clock he asked for an explanation as to why he was there. The defendant replied that he had come for half a gallon of ale. On being informed that it was after hours he said, ‘Then fetch the other people out.’ Witness told defendant to leave the premises, and on going into the house he found a person named Smith and his wife. Mrs. Smith, however, it appeared, assisted the landlady and her husband was waiting to take her home. On witness coming out of the house the defendant became very disorderly, and committed the assault.

*Jacob Lewis*, the landlord of the house, stated that the defendant came for ale after the time for closing, and he was refused a supply. He was not drunk.

The defendant also denied being drunk or having committed the assault, and alleged that the officer had ill-used him.

The charge of drunkenness was dismissed, and a fine of 5s and costs was inflicted for the assault.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/12/1886 - Died

“On the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, at SYCAMORE TREE INN, Langley Green, aged 72 years, Caroline, wife of *Jacob Lewis*, Oldbury; lamented.”

London Gazette 1/7/1892

“Catharine *Lewis*, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given, that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands against the estate of Catharine *Lewis* (wife of *Jacob Lewis*), late of the SYCAMORE INN, Langley Green, in the parish of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, deceased (who died on the 18th day of December, 1886, and whose will was, on the 2nd day of April, 1887, proved in the District Registry at Worcester of the Probate Division of the High Court of Justice, by George Mander, the executor therein named), are hereby required to send particulars, in writing, of their claims to the undersigned, Solicitors for the said executor, on or before the 18th day of July next; after which date the said executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased amongst the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims or demands of which he shall then have had notice.

Dated this 28th day of June, 1892.

Robinson and Son, 50, Cherry-street, Birmingham, Solicitors for the Executor.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 12/2/1887

“Mr. W. H. Pass is instructed to arrange for Sale by Auction, at an early date, at the OLD CROSS INN, Langley Green, the whole of the Freehold Estate of the late Edward Jackson, deceased, Comprising Four

Cottages, and the Valuable Old Licensed Public House and Premises, known as the SYCAMORE INN, Clay Lane, Two Freehold Houses and Gardens, in Langley Green Road, Three Cottages in Mill Lane, and Three Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses in Trinity Street, Langley.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 23/4/1887

“Mr. W. H. Pass will Sell by Auction on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 1887.....

Lot 4. All that Old-Licensed Freehold Public House and Premises, situate in Clay Lane, and known by the sign of the SYCAMORE INN, with a frontage to Clay Lane of 39 yards, and containing in the whole 854 square yards or thereabouts. The house contains Tap-room, Bar, Parlour, Sitting-room, Kitchen, three Bed-rooms, together with Brewhouse, Stables, convenient yard, and the usual outbuildings.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/10/1889

“Yesterday an inquest was held at the SYCAMORE INN, Langley, by Mr. E. Docker (coroner), touching the death of Charles Insacker (10), whose parents reside in Clay Lane, Langley, who was drowned on Saturday. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared on behalf of Mr. William Comley, the owner of the boat.

Ralph Insacker, father of deceased, stated that he heard his son had got into the canal on Saturday, and as he was going after him he met a man named Hackwood bearing his dead body.

Samuel Insacker, brother of deceased, deposed that on Saturday he was playing with a number of lads on the arm of the canal, near Titford. They saw a boat belonging to Mr. Comley tied up, and a lad named Brinton untied it for the purpose of fetching some bats to make a bonfire. They had fetched one load and gone off for another, the bats being placed all in one end of the boat. In the boat were William White, Samuel Field, Joseph Brinton, deceased, and witness, and after the lad Hackwood had pushed off the boat, he jumped on to the bats, and it began to sink, all of them being thrown into the water. A man named Johnson pulled him out, but he remembered nothing after catching hold of the boat shaft. No one authorised them to use the boat, and they were doing wrong by fetching the bats.

Police-sergeant Stanton deposed to visiting the place, and finding the boat with one end standing out of the water, and the other at the bottom of the canal. It was got out of the water and found to contain about 2cwt of bats. The boat was perfectly safe, but it had been overloaded.

William Hackwood stated that his lad went home on Saturday evening and told him of the accident. He asked him to go to the canal, as there was another boy still in the water. He saw two hats floating in the canal, and commenced to drag, when he pulled the body of deceased out. He afterwards sent for Dr. Sharpe and the police as several of the lads were in an unconscious condition.

The Coroner remarked that the lads were evidently trespassing, and had no authority to use the boat. There was no blame whatever attached to Mr. Comley, the owner.

Mr. Sharpe said he was glad to hear the Coroner say that, as a report had been circulated that the boys had hired the boat, which was totally untrue.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Worcester Herald 24/5/1890

“Police-superintendent Speke has received information of a further outbreak of swine fever on the premises of *Frederick Mann*, of the SYCAMORE INN, Claypit Lane, Langley. Two pigs died from the disease, and two others were affected. There have been nine outbreaks reported to the police since the 26<sup>th</sup> ult in various parts of the township.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/2/1891 - Advert

“SYCAMORE INN, Langley Green, Oldbury.

This valuable Freehold well-known old-licensed House to be Sold; no lease. Two-thirds of purchase money can remain.

For price and particulars, apply to W. H. Pass, Auctioneer, Church Street, Oldbury.”

Lichfield Mercury 6/2/1891

“At the Oldbury Police Court, George Gould (40), of Titford, and William Hadley (36), of Causeway Green, were convicted of refusing to quit the licensed premises of the SYCAMORE INN, Langley, on the 24<sup>th</sup> ult,

and were ordered to pay 13s each, or go to gaol for 14 days.”

#### 1891 Census

5, Clay Lane

[1] *Frederick Mann* (28), publican, born Chaddesley, Worcestershire;

[2] *Annie Mann* (30), wife, born Langley;

[3] *Ann E. Mann* (3), daughter, born Langley;

[4] *Clara Mann* (1), daughter, born Langley;

[5] *Phoebe Jukes* (19), domestic servant, born Dudley;

[6] *Mary Mann* (40), sister, married, born Hambury, Worcestershire;

[7] *Mary E. Mann* (10 months), niece, born Belbroughton:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/9/1891

“Oldbury Local Board.....

It was reported that Mr. J. S. Sharpe, solicitor to Mr. *Frederick Mann*, of the SYCAMORE INN, Clay Lane, Langley, had given notice of his intention to commence an action against the Board, claiming £50, damages sustained in consequence of the servants of the Board covering over a ditch in Clay Lane, which caused Mr. *Mann*'s cellar to be flooded.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1891

“Yesterday, at the West Bromwich County Court – before Mr. Amphlett (deputy judge) and a jury – an action was brought by *Frederick Manus* [sic], landlord of the SYCAMORE INN, Clay Lane, Langley, against the Oldbury Local Board of Health, to recover £24 15s damages, alleged to have been sustained in consequence of the negligence of the servants of the Board in filling up a watercourse in front of plaintiff's house, the result being that his house and premises were flooded with surface water. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

The case for the plaintiff was that in April last the servants of the Local Board, whilst doing certain work in the locality of his house, filled up a watercourse, and thus turned the surface water into his cellar, and his house was flooded to such an extent that the business was stopped for some days. It was stated that twelve barrels of beer which were in the cellar were knocked about so badly that the beer was not fit to drink and was rendered useless.

The defence was that the damage was the result of a severe storm, and that the defendants were therefore not responsible for it.

The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £20, and costs upon the higher scale.”

#### Dudley Herald 20/8/1898

“On Thursday afternoon, at the NEWMARKET HOTEL, Wolverhampton, Mr. W. H. Phillips (coroner) held an inquest relative to the death of *Ambrose Smith*, 58, late of the SYCAMORE INN, Clay Lane, Langley Green, who died in the Wolverhampton General Hospital on Tuesday, from injuries received the same day. *Elizabeth Smith*, widow of deceased, said she and her husband went to Wolverhampton on Tuesday with the intention of going to Dunstall Park races. After leaving the train they got into a wagonette, but before arriving at Dunstall Park her husband left it to get a glass of ale. Subsequently she heard a shout, and next saw her husband insensible.

Joseph Lissiman, Mitre Fold, said he was walking down the Stafford road when he heard a shout, and on going up he saw deceased under a horse's feet. The cab was then quite still, but it had passed him at a steady pace 50 yards away. He helped to get the man to the hospital. In his opinion there was no one to blame. PC Smith said he saw Smith knocked down by what he thought was one of the shafts of the cab. The driver was going steadily and there was a wagonette in front of him. He had seen the same driver going to and fro, and had not occasion to speak to him for reckless driving. When deceased was shouted at he appeared to take no notice; but the driver pulled up at once.

PC Clews said that the cab was pulled up sufficiently soon to prevent the wheels going over the deceased.

Richard Armitage, house surgeon, said deceased died from a fracture of the base of the skull.

Charles Etheridge, of Titford Road, Langley, spoke to seeing the shaft of the cab strike deceased on the head.

Deceased and a friend had previously had two pints of ale in the BRIDGE INN.  
The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### 1901 Census

5, Clay Lane

[1] *Elizabeth Smith* (62), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Birmingham;

[2] Mary A. Hadley (18), daughter, married, born Langley;

[3] Henry Hadley (22), son-in-law, wood sawyer, born Langley:

#### Birmingham Mail 30/7/1901

“Today, at Oldbury Police Court, before Messrs. T. Lavender and E. Danks, *Elizabeth Smith*, licensee of the SYCAMORE INN, Clay Lane, Langley, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises on Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, also for selling intoxicants to a drunken person on the same date.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe, who appeared to prosecute, explained that the prosecution was a sequel to a drinking bout, a death, and an inquest. On Sunday night, the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, a man named Joseph Sheldon – who, unfortunately, was drowned that night – went to the SYCAMORE INN about nine o’clock in company with another man named Lewis. Sheldon had had drink before he went there, and he remained at the SYCAMORE INN until closing time. Evidence would be given to show that Sheldon was not sober when he entered defendant’s house, and exhibited signs of being drunk during the time he remained there. At ten o’clock deceased left the SYCAMORE INN with several other men, and there was no doubt he was then very much the worse for drink. As they passed the Birmingham Canal at Titford two or three of the deceased man’s companions suggested a bathe, and one or two of them got into the water. As soon as Sheldon got into the water he was observed struggling, and a man named Bastable got him out. The poor fellow was, however, so much the worse for drink that he did not understand the danger he was incurring, and persisted in getting in the water again. Twice he was rescued, but the third time was too much for him, and he sank under the water, and the next time he was fished out he was dead.

For the defence it was contended that defendant was not aware that the man Sheldon was drunk when he was in her house.

Mr. Lavender said the Bench considered there was a good deal of suspicion about the case, but the evidence was not sufficient to warrant a conviction. The case was then dismissed.”

*Elizabeth Smith* was fined 20s and 54s 6d costs, on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1901, for permitting drunkenness.

#### Smethwick Weekly News 31/5/1902

“James Williams (28), High Street, Langley, was fined 10s and costs, 15s 6d in all, for being drunk on the licensed premises of the SYCAMORE INN, Clay Lane, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst.

PC Gould proved the case.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/2/1903

“The adjourned licensing sessions were held at Oldbury yesterday. The Chairman (Mr. G. Heaton) announced that the magistrates had passed a resolution requiring all license holders to give six months’ notice, and deposit with the clerk to the justices plans of their licensed premises.

It was decided to grant the whole of the music licenses applied for, but the three licenses for dancing were granted on the understanding that no intoxicants were supplied in the rooms where it took place.

Mr. Heaton announced that the magistrates had decided to discontinue granting occasional licenses for football matches, as they were of opinion that there was sufficient provision for obtaining drink. They had also passed a resolution viewing with disfavour the establishment of air-gun clubs at public houses.....

They renewed the license of the SYCAMORE INN, but would not sanction the suggested alterations.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licenses in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population,

gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

The police objected to the renewal of the following twelve licences which will be considered at the adjourned sessions, to be held on March 2.....

SYCAMORE INN.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1909

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday, Mr. G. S. Albright presiding in the absence, through illness, of Mr. A. M. Chance. The magistrates were sitting for several hours, chiefly in hearing evidence regarding the following licensed houses, to the renewal of which the police objected on the grounds of redundancy, the magistrates proposing to refer them for compensation.....

Evidence was given in each case by Superintendent Hill and Mr. F. H. Jones, auctioneer and valuer, as to the nature of the houses, and the proximity of other licensed premises. The magistrates afterwards retired to consider the cases, and upon resuming Mr. Albright said they had decided to refer the following six houses to Worcester to be dealt with under compensation: CRYSTAL PALACE, NAVIGATION INN, HOPE AND ANCHOR, FOUNTAIN, CROSS KEYS, and BIRD IN HAND. All the other licences would be renewed, and the licences of these six would be provisionally renewed pending the county committee’s investigations.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/4/1909

“Mr. A. M. Chance presided at the special Licensing Sessions at Oldbury yesterday, when Mr. J. S. Sharpe, on behalf of Holders Brewery Ltd, applied for permission to rebuild the following houses: SYCAMORE INN (L. V.), Clay Lane; SPREAD EAGLE (full licence), Park Lane; and the ROYAL OAK (beerhouse), corner of Langley Green Road and Causeway Green Road.

Mr. Sharpe said the police had objected to the renewal of the licence of the SYCAMORE, because the premises were structurally unsuitable. The plans provided for the rebuilding of the premises, which were old-fashioned and dilapidated. The domestic accommodation would be greatly improved, and in consideration of a slight increase in the drinking area they would surrender the licence of the RAILWAY INN, Langley Green Road, an ante-69 beerhouse. With regard to the other two applications there would be no increase in the drinking area, but the domestic quarters would be much improved in each case. The ROYAL OAK would be set back some distance, and 150 square yards of land would be given up for improving the corner. Mr. A. Edwards, architect, of Birmingham, submitted plans, and said the cost would be about £1,000 in each case. The alterations would be completed in the licensing year.

Mr. Chance asked that the RAILWAY INN should be closed at Midsummer, and the applications were then granted, subject to the surrender being satisfactory.”

#### 1911 Census

Clay Lane – SYCAMORE INN

[1] *Frank Levick* (34), beer and spirit retailer, born Smethwick;

[2] *Catherine Levick* (36), wife, married 10 years, born Handsworth;

[3] *Frank Levick* (7), son, born Smethwick;

[4] *Ivy Levick* (9), daughter, born Smethwick:

#### Dudley Chronicle 15/6/1912

“Bowling.

STAG AND THREE HORSES SHOES played SYCAMORE INN, Langley, on the STAG green, and won by 48. The SYCAMORE played a good game, as the STAG beat them on their green by 98. But most of the first team were resting, as they had had a good run this last month.”

#### Midland Counties Tribune 13/4/1934 - Advert

“Bar-General, or one willing to learn; aged 20-25; smart appearance; references.

SYCAMORE INN, Clay Lane, Langley

Sheffield Independent 19/2/1935 - Advert

“Girl, 18-25, to learn Bar-General; live in; references; wages £1 1s per week.  
SYCAMORE INN, Clay Lane, Langley, near Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1936

“Oldbury justices yesterday refused application for.....

A provisional order for the removal of the licence of the SYCAMORE, Clay Lane, Oldbury, to premises to be erected at the corner of Vicarage Road and Dog Kennel Road [MERRIVALE].”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/4/1937

“Worcester County Licensing Committee heard several applications at the annual meeting, at Worcester yesterday.....

Other removal applications confirmed included ..... SYCAMORES, Clay Lane, Langley, Oldbury, to premises to be erected at the corner of Vicarage Road and Dog Kennel Lane, Langley Green.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/6/1937

“George Drew, aged 35, stamper, and Hugh Starrs, aged 29, labourer, committed from Oldbury, were indicted at Worcester Assizes yesterday for breaking into the house of Arthur Fellows, 146, Titford Road, Langley, and stealing a wireless set and other articles on the night of 2 April. Starrs pleaded guilty and Drew not guilty.

Mr. J. F. Bourke, prosecuting, said that on the date named the two men were drinking in the SYCAMORE INN, Langley. They left at 10pm, having had quite enough, and took with them seven bottles of beer and stout. They then went to a ‘sing-song’ at a friend’s house and did justice to the bottles they had purchased. About 11.15 Drew and Stars left the party, the latter’s behaviour having become peculiar. He had taken off both his shoes and insisted on leaving the house in the rain without them. About 20 minutes later Mr. and Mrs. Fellows, who were asleep, were awakened by noises in the house. They were just in time to see the front door closing. The living room had been ransacked, and the wireless set and other articles were missing.

The police said that the house had been entered by raising the latch of the front door through a hole smashed in the glass. There was some blood about inside the house, and one of Starr’s shoes was found there.

When Drew was arrested it was seen he had two cuts on his wrist. He said, ‘I have not seen any wireless set, I had been drinking.’

Inspector Birch, fingerprint department, Scotland Yard, said the only fingerprint found in the house was Starr’s.

Drew, in the box, said that once the front door of Drury’s was shut witness handed Starrs his shoes, parted from him, and went home in the opposite direction from Fellows’ house. He knew nothing of the burglary. Drew was sentenced to 12 months’ hard labour and Starrs to eight months’ hard labour.”

It closed at 10pm on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1938.

Smethwick Telephone 17/12/1938

“Another architectural feature has been added to the district by Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers. It is the hostelry at the corner of Vicarage Road and Dog Kennel Lane, Langley, to be known as the MERRIVALE which opened yesterday ..... The license of the SYCAMORE INN, Langley, was transferred to the new premises, and three beer ‘off’ licenses will be surrendered.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/3/1939

“Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon conducted a sale at Oldbury on Monday.....

A dislicensed property, formerly the SYCAMORE INN, Clay Lane, Langley, was withdrawn.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/5/1952 - Advert

“Caravans For Sale.

Playtime Cestrian, 16ft, 4-berth, end kitchen; new, never used; reason for selling change of plans, must get smaller van; list price £360, sacrifice for quick sale £300 cash.

Davies, SYCAMORE INN, Clay Lane, Langley, B'ham, or phone Bro 2108."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/1/1954

"Unless an Oldbury woman was granted permission to build a piggery her business would suffer to such an extent that she might not be able to continue business at all. This was stated at an Oldbury enquiry yesterday into an appeal by Mrs. S. G. Davies, of the SYCAMORE INN, Langley, against refusal by Oldbury Borough Council to allow her to build a piggery in Clay Lane, Oldbury.

Mr. Parker, for Mrs. Davies, said the piggery would be completely enclosed, and there would be nothing to see, smell, or hear. Mrs. Davies, who kept the SYCAMORE INN as a transport café, was in danger of losing a lot of business as a nearby transport depot was likely to close down in the near future. 'It might well be impossible for Mrs. Davies to conduct her business in the way in which it was intended,' Mr. Parker added, 'and she has thought out some means by which she may live there and make her living.'

For the Council, Mr. W. Wilkes (Deputy Town Clerk) claimed that the piggery should not be set up in Clay Lane because it was partly a residential area.

After the hearing Mr. J. R. Sailer, Inspector for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, visited the Clay Lane site. His decision will be made known later."

It became a hostel. [1956]

#### Tipton Herald 19/6/1965

"The old SYCAMORE INN on the banks of the Titford Canal in Clay Lane, Langley, is about to change owners and use for the third time in ten years.

Until 1955 it was a public house. But Allbright and Wilson, who imported 100 Italian labourers at about that time, bought it and used it as an hostel. Over the years, the Italians have married into the community and eventually bought their own houses. Now there is no longer any use for the 33-bedroomed residential hostel.

A London firm of industrial caterers continues to run the hostel for the company and other Oldbury firms, but the demand has dwindled and Allbright and Wilson have decided to sell."

## **TALBOT**

1, Talbot Street / 1, Halesowen Street, (Market Place), OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Walter Showell, Langley Oldbury

Showell and Sons, Langley, Oldbury

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.

Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired c.1936)

## **LICENSEES**

Samuel Parish [1825] – **1826)**

Sarah Parish [1829]

Samuel Parish [1831] – **1849)**

Mrs. Mary Ann Parish [1850] – [1865]

Joseph Reade [1868] – **1871);**



John Allsopp (1871 – [1874]  
William Fisher [1875] – [1878]  
John William Keene [1880] – 1881)  
Thomas Hyde [1881] – 1889);  
George York (1889 – 1890);  
William Herbert Perrett (1890 – 1895);  
Frederick Richards (1895 – 1904);  
Sara Bradley [1901] – [1907] manager  
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (1904 – 1910);  
Henry Frederick James ‘Fred’ Machin (1910 – 1920); manager  
Harry Stevenson Wood (1920 – 1921); manager  
Thomas McDowall (1921 – 1922);  
Ernest Smith (1922 – 1927);  
Henry Leo Jacock (1927 – 1929);  
Frederick Ernest Mealing (1929 – 1932);  
John William Townsend (1932 – 1938);  
Horace Victor Caldwell (1938 – 1939);  
Herbert James King (1939 – 1948);  
Lionel Preston Hewitt (1948 – 1952);  
Leo McHale (1952 – 1954);  
Geoffrey Frank Crosbee (1954);  
Douglas George Hawthorne (1954 – 1957);  
Samuel Hand (1957 – 1959);  
Bernard Sydney Hyde (1959 – [1962]

## NOTES

Market Place [1854], [1860], [1864], [1912]  
1, Talbot Street [1871], [1881]  
1, Halesowen Street [1901], [1939]

Inland Revenue Office [1850], [1851], [1862]  
Commercial and Posting House (‘Earl Grey’ coach) [1854], [1860], [1881], [1896]  
Commercial Hotel [1884]  
Commercial and Family Hotel [1912], [1921]

‘Oldbury, Langley and Warley’ by Terry Daniels

“As the Conservative headquarters its windows were broken during one Victorian election campaign.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 31/10/1825

“Notice to the Creditors of J. N. Parish.

The Creditors of Josiah Nixon Parish, late of Whittall Street, Birmingham, Victualler, are hereby informed that a meeting will be held on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November next, at twelve o’clock at noon, at the house of Mr. Chatwin, the sign of the Kings Arms, in Barford Street, in Birmingham aforesaid, when and where they may receive a dividend of six shillings in the pound on the amount of their respective debts. All persons who are indebted to the said Josiah Nixon Parish are requested to pay the amount of their respective debts to *Samuel Parish*, of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, Victualler, who is alone authorised to receive and give discharges for the same.

Hayes and Hinchliffe. Hales Owen, October 26, 1825.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 11/9/1826 - Died

“On the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, Mr. *Samuel Parish*, of the TALBOT INN, Oldbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/3/1840 - Died

"On the 19<sup>th</sup> ult, in her 74<sup>th</sup> year, after a lingering illness, Mrs. *Sarah Parish*, relict of the late Mr. *Samuel Parish*, of Oldbury."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 17/2/1828

"A shooting match will take place on Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> inst, at three o'clock, at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, near Birmingham, between James Chambers, of Oldbury, and Charles Chambers, of West Bromwich, at three pigeons each, for ten sovereigns."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/5/1831 - Advert

"Freehold Premises, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, at the house of *Samuel Parish*, the TALBOT INN, at Oldbury, in the county of Salop, on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 1831, at five o'clock in the afternoon, in the lots which will be particularised in printed handbills, and subject to the usual conditions.

A substantial well-built Malthouse, situate near Rood End, within a short distance of the town of Oldbury, in the occupation of Samuel Thompson the younger, with such portion of Land as will be staked out.

This capital Malthouse, which is finished with the very best materials, and possesses great local and other advantages, is capable of wetting twelve quarters of barley, and is one of the best Malthouses in the county....."

Auctions were frequently held here for many years.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/2/1834 - Advert

"Cricket Ball.

The Second Anniversary of the Oldbury Friendly Union Cricket Ball will be held on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March next, at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury.

Mr. W. Timmins, Treasurer.

Stewards. Jesse Smart, Esq. Mr. D. F. Davis. Mr. T. R. Cooper. Mr. G. Purser.

For Tickets apply to the Treasurer or the Stewards.

NB. No person can be admitted except with the consent of at least three of the Stewards.

Dancing to commence at eight.

Oldbury, Feb. 20, 1834."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/5/1836 - Advert

"Dudley, Wolverhampton, and Birmingham Turnpike Road.

Notice is hereby given, that a Special Meeting of the Trustees for the care of the said Road will be holden, by adjournment, at the TALBOT INN, in Oldbury, on Tuesday the tenth day of May, 1836, at twelve o'clock at noon, for the purpose of further taking into consideration the propriety of increasing the Tolls (and particularly upon one-horse Carts) arising at the several Toll Gates and Toll Bars between the town of Wolverhampton and the town of Dudley, and between Burnt Tree, near Dudley, and Birmingham; and at this Meeting the Trustees will also take into consideration and, if expedient, make an order for taking down and removing the Side Toll Bars at Oldbury and the Roway Lane Toll Bars; and will also take into consideration and, if expedient, make an order for taking down and removing the Toll House and Toll Gates in Oldbury to some more convenient situation.

J. G. Bourne, Clerk to the Trustees. Dudley, April 23, 1836."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/6/1836 - Advert

"To Road-Makers.

Wanted a stout active Workman as Assistant Surveyor of the Highways for the Township of Oldbury. Wages one Guinea per week.

Apply personally at Mr. *Parish's*, TALBOT INN, Oldbury, on Friday, June 24, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/10/1838 - Advert

"We, the undersigned Landowners, or duly authorised Agents of Landowners within the township of Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, whose interests are not less than one-fourth part of the whole value of the lands subject to tithe in the said township, do by this Notice in writing under our hands, call a Meeting of the Landowners and Titheowners within the limits of the said township, for the purpose of making an Agreement for the general Commutation of Tithes . . . . And we hereby also give Notice, that such Meeting will be held at the house of Mr. *Samuel Parish*, known by the name of the TALBOT INN, in the said township, on Wednesday the seventh day of November next, at the hour of eleven in the forenoon. . . ."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/2/1839 - Advert

"At a Meeting of Coalmasters held at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, on Monday, February 4, 1839, Mr. M. Houghton in the Chair, it was unanimously resolved, That the advanced price of Coals agreed upon at the last meeting be further confirmed.  
Matthew Houghton, Chairman."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 26/8/1839 - Advert

"New Church, Oldbury, by Order of Her Majesty's Commissioners. To Builders and Others.  
Persons desirous of contracting for the several Artificers' Works in the erection of a New Church at Oldbury, to contain fifteen hundred persons, may see the Plans and Specifications at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, from Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September.  
Any information may be had (if by letter, post paid) from Mr. Johnson, the Architect, Lichfield.  
Her Majesty's Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest tender.  
The Tenders to be sent to the Architect, sealed and indorsed conformably with the instructions given in the conditions annexed to the specification."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/11/1839 - Advert

"Most Desirable Properties in Oldbury.  
To be Sold by Auction, by Thomas Pitt Stokes, at the TALBOT INN, in the town of Oldbury, this present Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, at five o'clock in the afternoon, in such lots as will be specified in printed particulars as may be then determined – the following important and valuable Properties, in the centre of the flourishing and increasing town of Oldbury, commanding obvious advantages, and occupying a range of frontages in the best situation, thus rendering them admirably well calculated for the various branches of business which are now so extensively and lucratively pursued in that thriving place.  
The Butcher's Shop and Premises in the occupation of Benjamin Elwell.  
The Saddler's Shop lately occupied by Thomas Lancaster.  
That well-known, long-established, and first-rate Inn, called the TALBOT, in the occupation of Mr. *Samuel Parish*, with its Brewery, Stabling, Coach-house, large Yard, Garden, and other suitable conveniences for carrying on the business of an Innkeeper to a large and profitable extent.  
The Draper's Shop and Premises in the occupation of Mr. George Purser.  
The Dwelling House and Premises in the occupation of John Green, Fruiterer.  
The Dwelling House, Outbuildings, and Premises in the occupation of Thomas Nock.  
The Dwelling House, Shop, Stabling, and other Premises in the occupation of William Hinds, Baker.  
A capital old licensed Public House, called the RED COW, with a large Club-room, &c and Stabling, Slaughter-house, and other Premises in the occupation of Joseph Bate.  
A Dwelling House and Premises in the occupation of Sarah Jewkes.  
A Butcher's Shop and Premises in the occupation of Henry Bate.  
All the above properties adjoin together and are Freehold.  
An excellent Dwelling House, Stable, Piggery, Garden, Land, and Premises, in the centre of the town of Oldbury, in the occupation of Benjamin Elwell.  
Three Dwelling Houses, Gardens and Premises at the back, in the occupation Joseph Booton, Thomas Gibbs, and William Hall.

The last-described Properties are Copyhold.

A well-accustomed Freehold Public House, called the BIRD IN HAND, at Rounds Green, within a short distance of the town of Oldbury, and surrounded by Collieries and Ironworks, with the new Club-room, Stabling, Garden, and Premises in the occupation of Thomas Hadley.

Another Freehold Dwelling House and Premises, at Rounds Green, in the occupation of Joseph Drewry.

An adjoining Dwelling House, Stable, and Premises in the occupation of Samuel Turvey.

Printed particulars and all further information may be obtained from Mr. W. Fellowes, Solicitor, Dudley.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/4/1840 - Advert

“Very Valuable Freehold Property. To be Sold by private Contract, in the town of Oldbury.

Lot I. That well-known, long-established, and first-rate Inn called the TALBOT, in the occupation of Mr. *Samuel Parish*, to which are attached Brewhouse, Stabling, Coach-house, large Yard, Garden, Piggeries, &c, with a Butcher's Shop and Sadler's Shop.

Lot II. A Dwelling House, with a well-accustomed Draper's Shop and Premises, with large Bakehouse at the back, in the occupation of Mr. George Purser.

Lot III. A capital old-licensed and well-accustomed Public House, called the RED COW, with a Dwelling House, a Butcher's Shop, and a considerable Plot of Land at the back, large Club-room, Slaughter-house, Piggeries, an excellent Pump of water, &c, in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Bate.

The above property fronts the principal street in the centre of Oldbury.

Lot IV. A long-established and well-accustomed Public House, called the BIRD IN HAND, at Rounds Green, within a short distance of the town of Oldbury, and surrounded by Collieries and Iron Works, with large Garden fronting the road, new Club-room, Stabling, and other Premises, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Hadley.

Lot V. Two Dwelling Houses adjoining the last lot, with new Stable, fit to be converted into a Dwelling House, in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Druary and Mr. William Turvey.

For further particulars and to treat for the same apply to Mr. J. P. Smart Oldbury.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 18/11/1840 - Advert

“To Families, Innkeepers, Wine Merchants, and Others.

Extensive and unreserved sale of 3,580 bottles of choice old Wines, at Oldbury.

Mr. Newbold respectfully informs the public that he has received instructions from the executors of a gentleman deceased, to Sell by Public Auction, without the slightest reserve, on Tuesday next, the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November instant, at the house of Mr. *Samuel Parish*, the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.

A well-selected stock of Wines, comprising pale, gold and superior Old Brown Sherry, fine old Port, Bucellas, Claret, and fine sparkling Champagne.

The sale will commence precisely at five o'clock in the evening, when the wines may be tasted, and purchasers are requested to take samples with them, and if the wines are not found to be of the same quality, they may be returned.

Catalogues may be had at the offices of the Auctioneer, at Dudley and Stourbridge, also at the bar of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/3/1841 - Advert

“TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. House-Warming.

*Samuel Parish* begs to inform his Friends, that his House-Warming Dinner will take place on Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> inst.

Tickets One Guinea each, for which an early application is respectfully solicited.

Chairman, Captain Bennett, Dudley. Vice-Chairman, John Williams, Esq, Portway.

PS. Dinner on the table at four o'clock.”

1841 Census

Halesowen Street

[1] *Samuel Parish* (35), publican;

[2] *Mary Parish* (30);

- [3] Elizabeth Parish (20);
- [4] Mary Jones (23), f.s.;
- [5] Henry Hurlstein (25), m.s.;
- [6] George Green (17), brickmaker:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/1/1842 - Advert

“Notice is hereby given, that unless the Horse-Break and other Articles left in the care of Mr. *Parish*, of the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, by James Ryan and Edward Parry, are removed within fourteen days from this date, they will be sold to defray expenses.  
Oldbury, January 24, 1842.”

Rebuilt in 1845.

Worcestershire Chronicle 4/6/1845

“We stated in our last that a man named John Hadley, in the employment of Messrs. Dawes and Sons, Oldbury, had died on the preceding Tuesday morning of injuries he received in a quarrel with a young man named Waterhouse, who was apprehended, and awaited a coroner's inquest, which was held on the Friday following, and, by adjournment, on Tuesday, the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, and a most respectable jury.

The greatest interest was excited in the town and neighbourhood, and the large concert room of the TALBOT HOTEL, in which the inquest was held, was densely crowded by persons anxious to witness the proceedings.

The evidence went to prove that Waterhouse and deceased had been drinking till one o'clock on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> ult, at the FOUNTAIN INN, Oldbury, with several other persons. When the party left, Waterhouse was sober, but the deceased was very fresh, and insisted on following Waterhouse into the house of a man named Pigott, one of the party. Waterhouse, seeing him behind, turned round, and after some angry words had passed between the two, he struck the deceased three or four times. The deceased kept retreating backwards all the time, saying he would not fight, until he was knocked down. On witness going to assist him to rise up, he found him quite insensible. He died shortly afterwards.

The jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Waterhouse, who has been committed to take his trial for the offence.”

[At Worcestershire Summer Assizes a verdict of Not Guilty was returned – for full report see under FOUNTAIN.]

Worcester Journal 7/8/1845

“During the week two fatal accidents have occurred in pits in the neighbourhood of Oldbury, the cause of death being in both cases precisely similar. The sufferers were Richard Hall, forty-four, and George Baker, twenty-one years of age, the former being employed in the pits of Messrs. Houghton, and the latter in Messrs. Williams and Parker's. Both accidents occurred nearly at the same time. The men were engaged at their usual occupations, when, in the course of their excavations, a sudden fall of coal took place, burying both underneath, in the presence of their fellow-workmen, who were engaged in similar operations close by. At the inquests held at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, the Coroner was particular in his enquiries as to whether any blame rested with the managers, but such did not appear to have been the case. The mine was considered perfectly safe, and, under these circumstances, verdicts of Accidental Death were returned.”

Birmingham Journal 13/9/1845

“On Wednesday, a meeting was held at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, for the purpose of considering the propriety of supporting the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Stour Valley Railway.

Lucas Chance, Esq, having been called to the chair, observed that as yet the inhabitants of the districts in which they were assembled had not derived any advantage from the railway system, owing to the want of a direct line of communication with the main lines of the kingdom. At present nearly all the manufactured goods in that locality were conveyed by canals, and other slow means, so that it was almost impossible for

them to compete successfully with the mine owners and manufacturers of other parts of the kingdom. Philip Williams, Esq, then entered into an explanation of the nature of the undertaking, and was followed by Mr. Wainwright, who also pointed out the advantages to the district which would result from the construction of the Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and Stour Valley Line.

Mr. James Chance then moved the first resolution, and in doing so observed that unless they could obtain the benefit of a useful line of railway through that district, they would be much better without any line at all. At present they were placed in a disadvantageous position with regard to other manufacturers, and he thought they were fully entitled to a good connecting line.

The resolution approving of the line having been seconded, it was carried unanimously, after which Mr. Brahmah was called to the chair, and thanks having been given to Mr. Chance, the meeting separated.”

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 25/11/1846

“On Tuesday last an explosion took place at Mr. Parker’s Colliery, Oldbury, near Dudley. It appears that twenty-five men and boys went to work, as usual, and by some means the gas which had accumulated in the pit became ignited, and a terrible explosion ensued, killing twenty-one out of the twenty-five. There were also four horses burnt to death.

An inquest upon the bodies of four of the unfortunate men commenced on Wednesday, before Mr. George Hinchliffe, coroner, at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury.....”

[The inquest was adjourned.]

#### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 14/12/1846

“A public meeting was held at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, on Monday last, for the purpose of raising a subscription on behalf of the widows and orphans of the unfortunate men who were killed by the late mine explosion at Oldbury.....”

#### Birmingham Journal 16/1/1847

“The Late Dreadful Mine Explosion at Oldbury, near Birmingham.

Amount of Subscriptions already advertised, £1,076 12s 0¾d.....

Ancient Order of Foresters, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, £1 0s 0d.”

#### Birmingham Journal 15/1/1848 - Advert

“TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.

Mr. *Samuel Parish* begs respectfully to announce that his Annual Dancing Assembly will take place on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Stewards. Mr. Chas. F. Hewitt, Mr. John Chambers, Mr. T. R. Cooper, Mr. S. Willetts, Jun, Mr. W. Timmins, Mr. W. Parkes.

Dancing to commence at Eight o’clock.

Ladies’ Tickets, 5s; Gentlemen’s, 7s 6d; Refreshments included.”

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/4/1848

“On Tuesday an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Parrish*, the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, to inquire into the death of a male infant, whose body had been found the week previous, in a water closet attached to the house of Mr. Nock. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. Cooper, surgeon, that for several weeks past he had been attending a girl named Maria Jeffs, who was in the service of Mr. Nock’s mother, and, suspecting that she was pregnant, he had treated her accordingly. On the afternoon of the Friday week previous, the girl came into the house of Mrs. Nock, jun, and sat down. She appeared to be very unwell, and on Mrs. Nock making inquiry as to the cause, she said she had been poorly all night. Mrs. Nock advised her to go home and tell her mistress the state she was in, and she accordingly (as Mrs. Nock supposed) left the house. It appears, however, that before leaving she went into the water closet, and there gave birth to the infant, which was found the day following by Mary Morteboy, Mrs. Nock’s servant, while engaged cleaning out the place. Information of the circumstance having been given to the police, the body was taken to Mr. Cooper, by whom it was examined, and that gentleman ascertained from the state of the lungs that the child had breathed, that it was about seven months old; but he could not say that it had been perfectly born alive. Mr.

Cooper added that the mother might, under the circumstances, have given birth to the child without being aware of it. On Mr. Cooper charging her with giving birth to the child, she said, 'Not that I am aware of.' On a review of all the facts of the case, the Jury were of opinion that no criminal concealment of birth had been attempted, and a verdict in accordance with the evidence was therefore returned., thus freeing the unfortunate girl from all ulterior proceedings."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1848 - Advert

"Notice is hereby given, that if the Travelling Carriage and Bed belonging to Mr. Joseph Holloway, senior, Comedian, which were left at Mr. *Samuel Parish's*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, are not Fetched Away before Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September next, at noon, they will be sold to defray expenses. William Brookes. *Samuel Parish*. Oldbury, August 28, 1848."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 4/12/1848 - Advert

"The Annual Ball will take place at Mr. *Parish's*, the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of December inst."

*Samuel Parish* died on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1849.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/3/1849 - Died

"On Monday last, after a severe illness, in his 47<sup>th</sup> year, Mr. *Samuel Parish*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury."

1851 Census

Talbot Street – TALBOT HOTEL

- [1] *Mary Ann Parish* (38), widow, victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] Sarah A. Davies (20), niece, barmaid, born Oldbury;
- [3] Mary Preston (22), general servant, born Oldbury;
- [4] Eliza Burford (19), general servant, born Oldbury;
- [5] John Goldsby (20), ostler, born Kings Heath;
- [6] William Timmins (40), boots, born Oldbury;

Birmingham Journal 11/2/1854 - Advert

"Capital Hedgerow and Other Growing Timber, on the Tennall Hall Estate, near Harborne; consisting of Oak, Ash, Beech, Scotch, Larch, and Spruce Firs, and Other Trees. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, at the house of Mrs. *Parish*, the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Friday Next, the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, at Six o'clock in the evening....."

Worcester Journal 23/12/1854

"To celebrate the event of the opening on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October last, at Oldbury, of their new and extensive railway carriage manufactory, the Messrs. Johnson and Kinder entertained the workmen in their employ on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> inst, at a good and substantial dinner, which had been provided at the works. The dinner was prepared by Mr. [sic] *Parish*, of the TALBOT INN, and about 300 workmen partook of the repast. They were visited by their respected employer, Mr. Johnson, who suitably addressed them. The proceedings of the day were of the most convivial character. Several toasts, local and general, and including that of the employers (which was appropriately acknowledged), were cordially drunk, and the party separated in great good humour and delight at the proceedings of the day....."

Henry Parish, TALBOT family and commercial hotel, Halesowen Street. [1855]

Brierley Hill Advertiser 24/5/1856 - Advert

"Freehold and Copyhold Properties and Mines, Langley Green, near Oldbury, Worcestershire. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1856, at the House of Mrs. *Parrish*, the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at Five o'clock in the Afternoon, and subject to conditions....."

### 1861 Census

Talbot Street – TALBOT HOTEL

- [1] *Mary A. Parish* (52), widow, victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Mary Jane Chatwin* (15), niece, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Frances Taylor* (33), barmaid, born Penkridge, Staffordshire;
- [4] *Joseph Green* (64), hostler, born Yesstum, Worcestershire;
- [5] *Sarah A. Smith* (17), cook, born Branston, Leicestershire;
- [6] *Mary A. Jones* (17), housemaid, born Oldbury:

### Worcestershire Chronicle 24/9/1862 - Advert

“1862. Revision of the List of Voters for the Eastern Division of Worcestershire.

Pursuant to the Act of 6<sup>th</sup> Victoria, cap.18, sec.32, Notice is Hereby Given, that Robert Bruce Chichester, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, duly nominated and appointed to Revise the List of Voters in the Election of Members to serve in Parliament for the Eastern Division of the County of Worcester, will make a Circuit of the said Division, and hold Courts for the purpose of Revising the said Lists, at the Times and Places following.....

At Oldbury, at the TALBOT HOTEL, on Friday, the said 10<sup>th</sup> day of October next, at half-past one o'clock in the afternoon.....”

### Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/11/1862

“The inquest upon the body of *Sophia Ockold*, an old woman, who met her death at the hands of her husband, was opened yesterday, at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury.....”

[For full details see under GEORGE AND DRAGON.]

### Birmingham Daily Post 30/5/1864 - Advert

“Highly Important Leasehold Property, the TALBOT HOTEL, Market Place, Oldbury, Staffordshire; and Houses and Ground Rents Adjoining, by Roderick and Son.

To be Sold (by direction of Mrs. *Mary Ann Parish*, who is retiring).

The highly important and extensive Leasehold Property, known as the TALBOT HOTEL, situate in the Market Place, the most central and best business part of Oldbury; also, the commodious Dwelling House and Shop adjoining, and Four Cottages, fronting to Talbot Street, producing £45 16s, and Five Ground Rents, amounting to £46 12s 6d per annum.

The entire Property is leasehold for seventy-four years, at the very low annual ground rent of £40.

The TALBOT HOTEL is prominently situated in the best and most central part of Oldbury, and has been conducted for the last twenty-four years with great success by Mrs. *Parish*, who has accumulated an independency and is retiring. The large and paying business now being transacted might, in active energetic hands, be readily doubled, and there can be no doubt that the above presents an opportunity of establishing one of the best Wine and Spirit and Hotel Trades in Staffordshire.

The valuation of the Furniture, Effects, and Stock would be about £500.

A large portion of the purchase money may remain on mortgage, and immediate possession may be had. Apply to Roderick and Son, 35, Cherry Street, Birmingham.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/8/1864 - Marriages

“On the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, at the Parish Church, Oldbury, by the Rev. H. B. Bowlby, MA, Mr. Rowland Kensey, of Dudley, to Miss *Mary Jane Chatwin*, niece of Mrs. *Parish*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/3/1865

“A little more than a fortnight ago the bodies of two newly-born illegitimate male infants were discovered in the Old Cross Quarry, on the hills of Rowley. They were laid one on top of the other, and covered with stones and soil, the topmost child being found alive, although it expired in a few minutes after it was found. The evidence taken at the previous Coroner’s inquiries on the subject went to show that both children had been born alive, and both had died from syncope, brought on by congestion of the lungs, which was origi-



nated by the covering of the bodies with earth and exposure to cold. The mother of the deceased is a young unmarried female named Mary Smith, and the inquest was adjourned for the police to make further inquiry. Yesterday the inquest was resumed at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, before Mr. R. Docker, the District Coroner. Superintendent Overend of Hales Owen, and Superintendent Mills, of the Brierly Hill Police were present. Mr. H. Jackson attended on behalf of the mother of the deceased.

Several witnesses were examined, inclusive of a man named Vaughan, the reputed father of the children. He admitted having visited Mary Smith on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst at the BARLEY MOW INN, Rowley. She told him she had been confined on the Rowley Hills, but did not tell him more. He refused to relieve her, and left the house. He had given her money on several occasions. Did not know who was the father of the children. The inquest was adjourned till Monday week, for the police to make further inquiry into the matter, and to enable the mother of the deceased, who had not yet recovered from her confinement to be brought up in the Coroner's Court."

#### Stourbridge Observer 15/4/1865

"On Monday afternoon at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, the enquiry which had been adjourned from the 29<sup>th</sup> ult, touching the death of the twin male infants discovered in the margin of a quarry on the Rowley Hills, near Rounds Green, on Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, was resumed before R. Docker, Esq, Coroner. The particulars of the occurrence have already appeared in full in the *Observer*. Mr. Overend, Superintendent of Police, of Halesowen, and Mr. Mills, Superintendent of Police, of Brierley Hill, were present. Mr. Jackson, solicitor, West Bromwich, appeared on behalf of the woman Smith, to watch the case.

Having been duly cautioned by the learned Coroner, and the depositions having been fully read over to her, she made the following statement. 'On the day the children were born, I was coming from Dudley, and as I was coming across the hills I was suddenly taken by the pains of labour, near the place where the children were found. The children were born shortly after. As soon as I could I got to the first place I could find to get some one who might fetch the children away. I was quite alone at the time of their birth. After they were born I staid with them till I had almost endangered my own life. I was in that state that I did not know where I was or what I was doing. I made sure the two children were dead before I left them.'

The learned Coroner then summed up analysing the evidence carefully, and the Jury, after nearly two hours deliberation, returned the following special verdict, two gentlemen out of the fourteen dissenting. That Mary Smith is the mother of the children; that death was produced by suffocation; that suffocation was produced by the act of Mary Smith through labour coming on at a time and place when she did not expect it."

[At Worcestershire Summer Assizes Mary Smith was indicted for the murder of her two children. She was found not guilty and acquitted. Aaron Vaughan, the father of the children, was severely reprimanded for his inhuman conduct to her.

An account of the Assizes appears under the BARLEY MOW, Oakham, Rowley Regis.]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 30/10/1865 - Advert

"Wanted, for a Private House in the country, a respectable Woman (one from 25 to 30 years of age preferred) as General Servant. One who understands Cooking. Another Servant kept. Apply to Mrs. *Parish*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury."

#### London Weekly Dispatch 25/11/1866

"On Thursday, a fatal accident occurred in the Blue Fly Colliery, near Oldbury. When the men went down the pit in the morning, a piece of coal was seen to project over one of the 'settings,' and, it being considered dangerous, one of the men, named Shakspeare, was instructed to get it away. As he was giving what he considered the final blow with his pick, the settings gave way, and the immense quantity of coal and rock fell, burying Shakspeare and killing him on the spot. Another man named Franks was caught by the falling rock, and trapped, but he was got out without suffering seriously. It was some time before Shakspeare's body could be recovered."

#### Bromsgrove Messenger 8/12/1866

"Ralph Docker, Esq, coroner, held two inquests at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, on Saturday last. The first was on the body of John Shakespeare, miner, who was killed in the Blue Fly Pit by a fall of earth,

as already reported in this paper. The verdict was Accidental Death.

The second inquest was on the body of Hannah Humphreys, aged three years, daughter of a miner, whose death was caused by her brother, scarcely two years old, thrusting a stick in the fire, through the guard, and then holding it while burning against his sister's clothes, thus setting her dress on fire. She died from the effects of the burns. Verdict, Accidental Death."

Birmingham Journal 9/5/1868 - Advert

"£5 Reward. To Solicitors and Law Writers.

The above Reward will be paid for the Recovery of a Lease (Lost or mislaid) of Property in Tabernacle Street, Oldbury, granted about 1840, by the Trustees of the Unitarian Charity of Oldbury, to the late *Samuel Parish*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, and sub-leased about 1857, to Messrs. Round and Bagnall. Apply to W. I. R., Union Hotel, Birmingham; or to Mrs. *Parish*, 5, Portland Place, Moseley Road."

*Joseph Reade* = Joseph Read = Joseph Reed

He issued tokens from here.

Dudley Herald 22/2/1868

"[18/2] ..... Lt. James Hartill of the 16th Worcestershire Rifle Volunteers was initiated as an honorary member of the Ancient Order of Foresters at the Court England's Glory No.1644, held at Bro. *J. Read's* TALBOT HOTEL."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1868 - Advert

"Wanted, a respectable Young Person as Chambermaid and Waitress.

Apply at the TALBOT HOTEL Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/9/1868 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant, from 28 to 30 years of age.

Apply at the TALBOT HOTEL Oldbury."

Birmingham Journal 28/11/1868

"East Worcestershire Election.....

The polling at Oldbury commenced with great vigour punctually at eight o'clock. The booth, which was a double one, was erected upon some ground opposite to the church in Birmingham Street, and in front of the JUNCTION INN. Every exertion was used to bring the voters to the poll, and as the day advanced, persons interested in the election began to assemble till they numbered several thousands. In case of any disturbance – fears of which were for some days prior to yesterday entertained – a number of special constables were sworn in. In addition to Sergeant Simmonds and the regular police force belonging to the town, thirty constables, under the direction of Superintendent Wollaston, of West Bromwich, and twenty from Hanley, under Superintendent Baker, were also in attendance throughout the day. Beyond plenty of chaffing, nothing worthy of notice occurred until about half-past four o'clock in the afternoon, when a 'row' was commenced by some 'roughs' – whether they belonged to the town in uncertain, but rather doubtful – who started a song of 'The Tory House' meaning the TALBOT HOTEL (Mr. Amphlett's committee rooms), which was taken up by others, who at once made a rush to the top of Birmingham Street, when they halted in front of the TALBOT. Stones and brick-ends &c, were hurled by the roughs, and a large number of the panes of glass in the windows were broken. The lamp over the front was also smashed and rendered almost useless. For half an hour stones were hurled in all directions, and several persons are alleged to have sustained serious bodily injury. The windows in the OLD TALBOT, kept by a person named Duckhouse (which was also another 'Tory house'), were also smashed. As things were assuming rather a serious aspect the assistance of the police was procured, and they paraded some of the principal streets, headed by Mr. F. Adkins, JP. A charge was made upon the crowd by them, and during the skirmish a man named Gibbs is known to have received a violent blow upon the forehead. He was taken into Mr. Holland's surgery, and his wound dressed. Most of the shops during the day were closed.

The state of the poll at the close (five o'clock) was as follow: Lyttelton, 373; Martin, 347; Amphlett, 171."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 22/5/1869 - Advert

“Valuable and Important Freehold Property, situated in the Flash Road, Oldbury, Worcestershire.  
To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Parkes and Walker at Mr. *Joseph Read's*, the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury,  
on Monday, May 31, 1869, at Seven o'clock in the evening. ....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable Young Person, as Nurse to three Children; the youngest 3 years. One from the country preferred.  
Apply at the TALBOT HOTEL Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/3/1870 - Advert

“Wanted, Kitchen Girl; one who understands Cooking preferred.  
Apply, TALBOT HOTEL Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/3/1870 - Advert

“On Monday night a dinner took place at the TALBOT INN, Oldbury, of the members of the Conservative Association of that town, at which a presentation was made to Mr. S. A. Sadler, FCS, the indefatigable honorary secretary of that body, who has resigned his post as analytical chemist at Messrs. Chance's works, previous to his removal to Middlesbrough. ....”

County Express 14/5/1870

“Elizabeth Ann Edwards, aged 20, was charged with robbing her master, Mr. *J. Reed*, proprietor of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. The prisoner, who had only been in the service of prosecutor for twelve days, was, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, found to be wearing a petticoat, the property of prosecutor's daughter. She was ordered to take it off, and on her box being searched a number of other articles were found, all of which belonged to prosecutor. Prisoner was taken into the prosecutor's service with a good character. On inquiry being made by Police-constable Simmons, it was found that prisoner had been previously convicted for a similar offence. She was now committed to the house of correction for four months, with hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1871 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Business Premises, in Birmingham Street, Oldbury.  
By Mr. John Bent, This Day (Tuesday), February 7, at the House of Mr. *J. Read*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at Six o'clock in the evening, the above valuable Freehold Property.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/3/1871

“Yesterday afternoon, an inquest was held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, before Mr. R. Docker (District Coroner), touching the death of James Waterhouse, of Brades Village, one of the colliers who was injured at the fatal pit accident at Messrs. Howell and Mason's Buffery Colliery, Dudley, on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. Mr. Baker, the Government Inspector, was in attendance at the inquiry.

Peter Shaw, manager of the pit (No.3) in which the accident occurred, stated that on the morning in question, deceased was set by him to work in the 'waste cog,' which was not above 4 feet high, and was about 3 yards beyond the air. Witness instructed a man under him to try the air before the work commenced, when there appeared to be no danger. Was down the pit several times himself, but did not try the place where deceased was at work, nor did he see any sulphur. The explosion occurred at about twelve o'clock, and witness was there at the time it happened. He was showing deceased what to do. .... Could not say whether, if there had been a proper current of air, it would have driven out the noxious gas. ....

William Jones, Langley Green, deposed to the injuries received by deceased; and Dr. Pemberton testified to the serious nature of the burns and the shock to the system, which resulted in the death of the deceased. The Coroner, in summing up, after detailing the particulars of the accident, referred to that part of the evidence touching the ventilation of the pit, and said it might enter into their (the jury's) consideration how far the manager or other person, responsible for the air going into the particular working, was legally liable for the fatal consequences of that calamity. But such a consideration as that seemed to him (Mr. Docker)

rather remote, because even if there had been adequate ventilation he could not see how the rapid and constant generation of dangerous gases could be avoided. Although it was contrary to one of the special rules to have these 'blind sides,' still in that particular instance the proprietors thought it safe; there was no doubt about that. Whether the jury thought that the non-observance of one of the regulations led to the accident he would still remind them that such non-observance would not bring the offending party within the reach of the criminal law, although it would lay him open to a charge before the magistrates of a minor degree. The jury, having consulted for about half an hour, returned with the following verdict. We are of opinion that the deceased met with his death by accident, but that the proprietors are to blame in consequence of not having better ventilation in that part of the work where the accident occurred."

*John Allsop* = John Allsopp

#### 1871 Census

1, Talbot Street – TALBOT HOTEL

[1] *John Allsop* (39), hotel proprietor, born Bonsall, Derbyshire;

[2] Eliza Allsop (29), wife, born Brierley Hill;

[3] Frances E. Allsop (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] John Walter Allsop (10), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Clara Louisa Allsop (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] Frank Harry Allsop (7), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] Phebe Thompson (23), barmaid, born Brierley Hill;

[8] Mary Ann Howard (21), cook, born Toll End, Tipton;

[9] Caroline Parks (20), general servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/6/1871 - Advert

"Wanted, a good Plain Cook.

Apply, *Jno. Allsopp*, TALBOT HOTEL Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1871

"Mr. R. Harrington, the Revising Barrister for the Eastern Division of the county of Worcester, held a Court yesterday, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, to revise the lists of voters....."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/10/1871 - Advert

"At a large and influential Meeting of Brick Manufacturers, held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1871, it was unanimously resolved that, in consequence of the advance in the prices of Coal, Bricks be Advanced as under.

Common Red, Brown, and Blue Bricks, One Shilling per Thousand.

Best Red and Blue Goods (ie Odd Stuff), Two Shillings per Thousand.

B. W. Blades, Chairman. Mr. W. Aston, Secretary."

#### Dudley Herald 28/10/1871

"On Tuesday evening last a house warming dinner was held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, which has recently been taken by Mr. *John Allsop*."

*John Allsop* served on the Grand Jury at Worcestershire Epiphany Sessions in 1872.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/3/1872

"On Saturday evening a meeting of engine-tenders of East Worcestershire and South Staffordshire was held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, in furtherance of the agitation for a reduction of the hours of labour .....

The meeting was unanimous in its determination to continue the agitation until a reduction of the hours of labour to nine per day had been conceded; and with respect to the objections raised by the masters, it was stated that, providing they could not consent to the hours being reduced to nine, the men would be satisfied with an equivalent in the shape of an increase of wages, by which it was meant that for work done in excess

of nine hours per day overtime should be paid. A committee was appointed to draw up a communication to the masters embodying the wishes of the workmen.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1872

“Last evening, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, a meeting of butchers was held for the purpose of considering the present high prices of meat, and the proposal of the butchers to close their shops for a fortnight.....”

Worcester Journal 4/1/1873

“On Thursday a deputation of school teachers waited upon Mr. R. P. Amphlett and the Hon. C. G. Lyttelton (the members for East Worcestershire), at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, to represent to them the grievances under which by the Revised Code the teachers believe they are suffering.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/1/1873

“*John Allsopp*, landlord of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, was summoned for keeping his house open, at an illegal hour, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the defendant.

Police-constables George Firth and Joseph Parks stated that they went to the TALBOT HOTEL about twenty minutes past eleven o’clock on the night mentioned, and finding the front door open they went into the smoke room, where there were three gentlemen; two of them were drinking liquor, and the third ale. In the passage the policemen saw four other gentlemen and two ladies leaving the house. They spoke to the landlord, who admitted that it was after time, and immediately requested the customers to retire. The policemen then left the house. The landlord followed them to the door, and invited Firth to come back, for the landlady wished to speak to him. He returned, and Mrs. *Allsopp* asked him if he would have something ‘short’ or some ale to drink. He refused, and went away.

For the defence, Mr. Shakespeare stated that the TALBOT was the principal hotel in Oldbury, that it was the oldest-established licensed house in the town, and that there had been no complaints against it for fifty years. Police-constable Firth, however, contradicted the statement of the solicitor, and declared that there had recently been numerous complaints against the house, and that he had frequently seen bad characters congregated there. Mr. Shakespeare said that he was surprised at the announcement. He was unaware of any improprieties, and he warmly admonished the constable for not having mentioned the circumstance to the Magistrates.

Mr. Shakespeare denied that any offence had been committed. Mr. *Allsopp* usually kept his clock ten minutes in advance of the correct time, and the constables were thereby deceived. The gentlemen in the smoke room were three of the oldest inhabitants of Oldbury. They had previously left the house, five minutes before closing time, but had returned for a walking-stick that one of them had forgotten. While there they remained to drink the liquor and ale that they had left in their glasses. The ladies and gentlemen observed by the police in the passage had attended a dancing class at the TALBOT, and one of them was Ensign Kean, of the Oldbury Company of Rifle Volunteers. No refreshments had been supplied after the hour of closing.

Adverting to the law upon the question, Mr. Shakespeare quoted the case of *Coates v South*, published in the *Law Times* reports, wherein it was decided that the Justices were not warranted in convicting an innkeeper for opening his house for the sale of spirits merely because it was shown that the front door of the inn was open after twelve o’clock, although persons were there, and one glass contained spirits. Further, Chief Justice Cockburn ruled that a landlord was not bound to turn his customers out when the clock struck twelve, and the Court considered that the charge must be established by direct evidence of a sale after twelve o’clock at night – a distinct opening after that hour, or some act on the part of the landlord which would show that the house was wilfully kept open for the purpose of inviting customers in. Mr. Shakespeare held that the law was precisely the same under the new Act. The solicitor’s statements were supported by evidence.

The Magistrates’ Clerk pointed out that it did not necessarily follow that, although persons were found in the house, they had been drinking there.

Eventually the Justices dismissed the case, remarking that they gave the landlord the benefit of the doubt.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/2/1873

“At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, Mr. Shakespeare, solicitor, made an application on behalf of *John All-*

*sopp*, TALBOT HOTEL, for an extension of hours until 4am on the 14<sup>th</sup> March on the occasion of an annual ball, and also for a temporary license to sell refreshments in the People's Hall, opposite his house, where the ball would be held. In reply to the Bench, Mr. Shakespeare explained that the supper would be given in the applicant's house. The extension was granted until two o'clock. Mr. Avery cautioned the applicant that the supply of refreshments must be restricted to the visitors at the ball after closing hours."

Birmingham Daily Post 22/7/1873

"A fatal accident, resulting from a fall downstairs, occurred on Saturday morning, to a brewer and hostler, named Edward Simms, in the employ of Mr. *Allsopp*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. During the absence of Mr. *Allsopp* and family on a holiday tour, Simms remained at the hotel, and slept in the malt-room. About six o'clock on Saturday morning, Mr. Joseph Allsopp, brother of the landlord, found the deceased sitting in a chair in the kitchen, apparently in a stupor. Mr. Allsopp shook him, and endeavoured to arouse him, but was unsuccessful. He then sent for a surgeon, and Mr. Hayward attended, and, upon examination, stated that his skull was fractured. It appeared that the deceased had accidentally fallen down the stairs leading from the malt-room. He died three hours after he was discovered, and at a Coroner's enquiry, yesterday, the Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the above facts."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1873 - Advert

"To be Sold, a good dark-bay Pony, 12 hands high.  
Apply, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury."

Dudley Guardian 17/1/1874

"The annual dinner in connection with the Oldbury Licensed Victuallers' Association was held on Wednesday evening at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. About 50 persons sat down to an excellent dinner which was served in first-class style by the worthy host, Mr. *Allsopp*....."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/2/1874 - Advert

"Barmaid Wanted, to take charge of Liquor Vaults; also a Housemaid.  
Apply, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury."

County Express 20/2/1875 - Advert

"Thirty-five Freehold Dwelling Houses at Oldbury, 1½ Acres of Building Land, New England, Long Lane, and Four Dwelling Houses, Langley.  
Messrs. Hawking and Son will Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1875, at the house of Mr. *William Fisher*, the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at Six o'clock in the Evening....."

Bromsgrove Messenger 9/10/1875

"The Revision Courts....."

On Tuesday Mr. Browne held a court at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. Mr. Goldingham, of Worcester, appeared on behalf of the Conservatives, and Mr. John Collis, Stourbridge, represented the Liberals. Mr. E. Wright, assistant overseer, presented thirty new claims for the parish of Oldbury, all of which were allowed, no objection being raised against any of the claimants. Two new claims for Warley Salop, and one for Warley Wigorn were also allowed. The rest of the business consisted in the alteration of addresses and the erasing of the names of deceased voters."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/7/1876

"An inquest was held at the General Hospital, on the body of Lizzie Norton, of Handsworth. On Saturday afternoon the deceased was crossing the main road to Birmingham with a child in her arms, when she was knocked down by a cab belonging to Mr. *Fisher*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. The deceased was conveyed to the General Hospital, but died before she reached. The child she was carrying fortunately was unhurt. The verdict was Accidental Death."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/8/1877

“Oldbury Annual Licensing Session.....

Superintendent Kemp, inspector for the division, presented his report, from which it appeared there were held within the division 142 license of all descriptions. Since the licensing meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August last year, 8 licensed victuallers had been summoned for offences against the Licensing Acts. For permitting drunkenness 3 were fined, and 1 ordered to pay costs; for keeping open during prohibited hours 2 were fined, and 1 ordered to pay costs, and 1 was dismissed. One beerhouse keeper had been fined for selling during prohibited hours, and 3 had been summoned for permitting drunkenness – 1 was fined, 1 ordered to pay costs, and 1 was dismissed. During the same period there had been 133 males and 22 females brought before the justices for drunkenness, as against a total of 98 last year, showing an increase of 57. 153 persons were convicted and 2 discharged; 15 of the offenders were charged with drunkenness upon licensed premises, and the remainder upon the public highways.....

The whole of the applications for renewals were granted with the exception of the following, which were adjourned for further consideration to the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.....

*William Fisher, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.*”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/9/1877

“Oldbury Adjourned General Licensing Meeting.....

The applications for renewals of licenses which were held over for consideration for the general meeting, in consequence of convictions which had been recorded, were now granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1878 - Married

“Lyddon – *Fisher*. On the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, at the Methodist New Connexion (Tabernacle) Chapel, Oldbury (by the Rev. Thomas Turner Rushworth), Charles Lyddon, surgeon, of Oldbury, to Emma Turley, second daughter of *William Fisher, TALBOT HOTEL, of the same town.*”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/1/1878 - Advert

“Mare. Excellent cream-coloured Mare, in foal, by Goldfinder.  
Apply, TALBOT HOTEL Stables, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 20/7/1878

“On Tuesday night an extraordinary accident, attended with fatal results, occurred at the Blakeley Hall Colliery, near West Bromwich. It appears that two men – one named Francis John Woodward, and the other Debney, who were employed sinking – placed their tools in a bowk, which they hooked to a chain in order that it might be drawn up the pit shaft. When the bowk was about half-way up the chain broke, and the bowk fell to the bottom, cutting the top of Woodward’s head clean off, and crushing an arm and leg, death, of course, being instantaneous. Debney was seriously injured. An inquest was formally opened at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday night, and adjourned. The deceased, Woodward, who was married, was formerly a resident in Dudley Street, Brierley Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1878

“On Friday, Mr. R. Docker, district coroner, held an enquiry at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, touching the death of Francis John Woodward, sinker, who was killed by the fall of a bowk at the Blakeley Hall Colliery, on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst.

Jonah Debney, a man who was injured by the same accident, said that he, with the deceased, was working at the bottom of the shaft.....

Charles Sperrings, contractor, said he was upon the pit bank when the accident happened, and he shortly afterwards descended the workings and made an external examination of the bowk and chain. The only reason he could assign for the accident was that the bowk and hook at the end of the chain had not been properly connected before the signal was given to the engineman to wind up.

The jury at this point returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

*John William Keene = John William Keane = John William Keen*

*J. W. Keane* issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/1/1880 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted, immediately. Good character indispensable. Age 20. Apply, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, near Birmingham.”

Dudley Herald 15/5/1880

“Yesterday afternoon, the contractor of the sewerage works, Mr. John Jevons, sen, entertained the members of the Oldbury Local Board of Health to dinner, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury..... The menu was excellent, and comprised several courses, all of which were served in capital style by Mr. Keen, the proprietor of the TALBOT HOTEL.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 1/1/1881 - Advert

“TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. *John W. Keene*, Proprietor. Wines, Spirits, Ales &c of the Finest Quality, always on hand. Lock-up Stables and Coach House. An Ordinary Every Day at 1.15. Billiards.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1881

“A petition for liquidation has been filed in the Oldbury County Court by *John William Keene*, late of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, licensed victualler, but now residing at No.21, Langley Road, Langley, out of business. The liabilities are estimated at £400.”

Birmingham Mail 4/8/1881

“At the Oldbury County Court yesterday, before Mr. W. D. Griffiths, judge, an interpleader case was heard, the claimant being Mrs. Jane Keen, wife of Mr. *W. J. Keen*, formerly landlord of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. It appeared that the husband of the claimant owed Messrs. Hyam and Co. an account for goods supplied to the amount of something like £18. Not being able to obtain payment, they brought an action against him in the County Court, and obtained judgement for the amount claimed. Under that judgment they put an execution in the defendant’s house and seized his goods. Then the wife, the present claimant, by an interpleader summons, claimed these goods on the ground that they were bought with a gift of £100 presented to her by Mr. Walter Showell for her sole and separate use. The letter from Mr. Showell, in which he enclosed a cheque to Mrs. Keen for £100, was read. It appeared that Mr. Showell had sold the goods belonging to claimant’s husband under a bill of sale, but out of sympathy with Mrs. Keen made her a present of £100, specifying that it was to be devoted to her sole and separate use; that her husband was not to handle it, neither was it to be used in paying his debts.

Mr. Daly contended that such condition, made by a mere letter, could not be binding upon the husband. His Honour held that such a letter as that read to the Court, making a gift under such circumstances, was perfectly valid and conclusive. Mr. Daly pointed out that it was a novel point to raise, and might in the future lead to difficulty in these matters. He should like a case for a superior court. His Honour, in reply, said he was sorry to say he could not grant Mr. Daly a case, as he had not the power in an interpleader. He wished he had, because he felt that the point was a novel and important one, and he should like to have taken the opinion of the superior court upon it. He then gave judgement for the claimant, with costs against the execution creditor.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 13/8/1881

“A meeting of the creditors of *John William Keane*, late of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, licensed victualler, but now residing at No.21, Langley Road, Oldbury, out of business, was held on Tuesday, at the offices of Mr. James Hartill, solicitor. Mr. William Parsons presided. The statement of affairs showed the liabilities about £500, and the assets £30. It was resolved to accept a composition of 3s in the £, secured, and payable in two, four and six months from the confirmation of the resolution.”



### 1881 Census

1, Talbot Street – TALBOT HOTEL

- [1] *Thomas Hyde* (40), licensed victualler, born Hasbury;
- [2] *Mary D. Hyde* (47), wife, born Kidderminster;
- [3] *Frank H. Hyde* (15), son, billiard marker, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Ann Hyde* (65), mother, widow, laundress, born Bedford;
- [5] *Harriet Harris* (24), barmaid, born Pensnett;
- [6] *Fanny Owen* (19), general servant, born Oldbury:

### Birmingham Daily Post 3/9/1881 - Advert

“General Servant. Wanted, a sharp Girl, whose character will bear investigation.  
*Mrs. Hyde*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1881

“*Sir H. Croft*, revising barrister, attended yesterday afternoon at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, for the purpose of revising the voters’ lists for the parishes of Oldbury and the Warleys.....”

### Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1881 - Advert

“Lost, 22<sup>nd</sup> instant, an open-faced Gold Watch. ‘Presented to *R. Whitehead*’ &c on the inside case. £3 reward given on its return.  
Apply to the Landlord of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 17/12/1881

“On Tuesday, *Mr. R. Docker* held two inquests at the TALBOT HOTEL, respecting the deaths of *Thomas Harper* (20), labourer, formerly residing in Eel Street, and *Levi Moss* (11), of No.4, Stone Street. *Lucy Harper*, mother of deceased, said on Friday night her son left home about a quarter to five o’clock to go to the chemical works. She did not hear of him again until his body was found in the canal. *Josiah Fox*, of Portway Road, deposed to finding the body at the bottom of the Churchbridge Arm. In reply to the Coroner it was stated that along the canal side was the nearest way from deceased’s house to the chemical works. *Dr. Lyddon* was called to see the body, but death had taken place several hours previous. The appearance of the body was consistent with death from drowning. The Coroner said it appeared to be one of those unfortunate accidents due to the fog on Friday night, and it was nothing to be wondered at that people should walk into the canal looking at the night. The jury found a verdict of Accidental Death. In the case of *Levi Moss*, *Mrs. Moss* said she returned home from taking dinner to Spon Lane, about five minutes to two o’clock. Deceased then left home to go to school, but as he did not return in the evening a search was made. *Josiah Fox* found the body in the Churchbridge Arm, on Saturday. Verdict Accidental Death.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1882 - Advert

“Barmaids. Wanted, an experienced young Lady for Bar; also, one for Vaults. Must produce good references.  
Apply, *T. Hyde*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1882 - Advert

“Staffordshire Brickmasters’ Association.  
At a Large and Representative Meeting of Brickmasters, held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, it was unanimously Resolved ‘That the price of Red, Brown, and Blue Bricks be advanced 15 per cent from the above date.’  
*George Wood*, Chairman.”

*Thomas Hyde* served on the Grand Jury at Worcestershire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions in 1883.

Birmingham Daily Post 2/4/1884 - Advert

“Horse (good strong) for Sale, rising 5 years; 15 hands.  
Apply at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 12/4/1884

“Oldbury Police Court. Monday.....

*Thomas Hyde*, landlord of the TALBOT HOTEL, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst.

Police-constable Stanton stated that a few minutes before 12 o'clock on the night in question, he was standing near one of the windows of defendant's house, when he heard a noise as though glasses were being used, and shortly afterwards, upon going into a room, he found four persons sitting round a table, and one of them was in the act of drinking from a glass.

Mr. Shakespeare, who appeared for the defendant, urged that the ale was supplied before eleven o'clock, and the men only remained there to finish drinking what they had before closing.

Defendant was fined 40s and costs.

John Taylor, licensed victualler, William Turley, clerk, Robert Proudlock, draughtsman, and George Taylor, clerk, were each fined 5s and costs for being upon the above premises during prohibited hours.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1884

“Oldbury Police Court. Yesterday.....

*Thomas Hyde*, proprietor of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, appeared in answer to a summons charging him with assaulting his wife, *Mary Ann Hyde*, on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. W. Shakespeare represented the defendant. As complainant did not appear to prosecute, the case was struck out.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1884

“The annual licensing session for Oldbury Petty Sessional division was held yesterday.....

The whole of the licenses were renewed with the exception of those held by.....

*Thomas Hyde*, TALBOT HOTEL ..... all of which were deferred until the adjourned licensing day.”

Smethwick Telephone 27/9/1884

“The adjourned licensing session for the division of Oldbury was held at the Police Court on Tuesday.....

*Thomas Hyde* ..... whose licenses had been adjourned at the annual meeting, were called before the Bench, and after being cautioned as to their future conduct the applicants' licenses were all renewed.”

Worcester Journal 23/1/1886

“A complimentary dinner took place on Wednesday at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, under the auspices of the Oldbury Conservative Association, to Mr. Willis Bund, the Conservative candidate for the Northern Division of Worcestershire at the recent election. Mr. B. T. Sadler, JP, (president of the association) occupied the chair.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/8/1886 - Advert

“Barmaid Wanted, for Vaults, age about 30; exceptional references required.  
Apply, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1886 - Advert

“Barmaid Wanted, about 30, to Take Management of Vaults. Good reference.  
Apply, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Weekly News 8/1/1887

“Benevolent Lodge (MU) Oddfellows. The annual meeting of the above lodge was held on Monday night, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. Bro. D. Dexter NG in the chair, and Bro. S. H. Whitehouse in the vice-chair. The Secretary (Mr. J. Morgan) read the annual report, which stated that there were 182 members on

the books.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 30/4/1887

“It is with regret we record the sudden death of Mr. John Morgan, and old and respected townsman of Oldbury, which occurred early on Wednesday morning at his residence in Birmingham Street. It appears he went to bed as usual about 11.30 o’clock, nothing having occurred to give the slightest warning of the sad catastrophe that soon befell him. At 12 he was seized with a fit of coughing, which caused him to burst a blood vessel, and although everything was done for him that possibly could be, he died in about half an hour afterwards, Dr. Lester arriving a few minutes before he expired.

Deceased was for many years engaged at the Brades Steel Works, and about nine months ago took to a stationers shop in Birmingham Street. He was a Forrester, and was admitted an Oddfellow in 1847, and for 25 years secretary to the Loyal Benevolent Lodge of Oddfellows held at the TALBOT HOTEL. He was scrupulously strict and methodical in little things, and his books in connection with his lodge were always kept with great care, being models of society book keeping. He was a prominent member of the Unitarian Church, for 40 years being leader of the choir, and very seldom absent from morning or evening service. He was also for many years a teacher in the Sunday School, and to the time of his death the representative to the Midland Christian Union Sunday School Association.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 13/8/1887

“Oldbury Town Crosswells Football Club. The effort that has been made during the summer for the establishment of a football club for the town of Oldbury, has resulted in the formation of an excellent club, and one that augers well to be a success. The piece of land which was taken on the Birmingham Road, near to the Anchor Bridge, has been enclosed with a substantial wood fencing, 17 feet high in the front, and 10 feet round it. The ground has been well drained and levelled, some capital turf been secured from Dartmouth Park, where the new pool is being excavated. The ground is to be opened on Oldbury Wake Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, when the first eleven of West Bromwich Albion has consented to play them the first match. As this will be the commencement of the season for both teams, a tremendous gate is expected, for which due provision is being made.

A general committee meeting was held on Wednesday evening at the TALBOT HOTEL, Mr. Charles Showell presiding.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/10/1887

“Court Leet. The annual meeting was held on Tuesday, at the TALBOT HOTEL. There were in attendance E. Caddick, Esq, steward (representing the Lord of the Manor), F. Houghton, Esq, bencher, Mr. J. Nicklin, bailiff, and the following jurymen: Messrs. S. and D. Sadler, J. Matthews, P. Spencer, T. Jones, W. Turley, T. Holland, J. W. Keane, H. Seller, J. Chell. The following appointments were then made: Messrs. S. Sadler and Seller, head boroughs; J. Matthews and J. Chell, ale tasters; D. Sadler and T. Jones, flesh conners; W. Bridge, pinner; and Harry Howard, town crier.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/10/1888 - Advert

“Youth (sharp) Wanted, about 18, to make himself generally useful. Apply, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1889

“Mines Drainage Commission. Opposition to the Bondholders’ Bill.

A well-attended meeting of coal-owners in the Oldbury district was held yesterday at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. Mr. F. W. North presided; and it was unanimously agreed that a solicitor be instructed and other steps taken to vigorously oppose the bondholders’ bill now before Parliament.”

It was the headquarters of the Oldbury Cycling Club. [1889]

Worcestershire Chronicle 29/3/1890

“On Friday night Mr. C. Hardman, late superintendent of police in the Oldbury and Halesowen divisions,

was entertained to dinner at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. Mr. W. Showell presided, and on behalf of the subscribers presented Mr. Hardman with a purse containing £22; and Mr. Wright, magistrates' clerk, also presented him with a valuable marble timepiece. Mr. Hardman, who suitably acknowledged the gifts, has served 33 years in the police force."

*William Herbert Perrett* = William Herbert Perrott

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1890

"At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday, Thomas Keogh, landlord of the WHITE LION INN, Birmingham Street, was charged with stealing pork, of the value of 5s, the property of *William Herbert Perrott*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst.

When the case was called on, prosecutor intimated that he wished to withdraw the charge, as the affair turned out to be a practical joke. At the request of the Bench, prosecutor narrated the facts of the case, and explained that the leg of pork was hanging on a rod in his premises on the day in question, and during the evening it was taken away. Afterwards he visited the defendant's house, thinking perhaps it might be the result of practical joking, and that he should find it. When he saw the defendant he asked him to bring the pork back, and added, 'Is it a joke?' to which the defendant replied in the affirmative, and said he should have sent it back on the following morning. The next day defendant saw him concerning the matter, and apologised.

The Clerk: Is this the first thing defendant has taken? – Witness: Yes.

The Clerk: What about the hare? – Witness: He did not take it; it was between him and another gentleman.

Mr. Chance (magistrate): It seems, then, that you considered it a practical joke all through? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Chance: Then you were rather in a hurry to take out the summons.

The defendant was discharged."

*William Herbert Perrett* was part of a deputation, representing the Oldbury Licensed Victuallers' Association, to the Oldbury Local Board, in January 1891, concerning the proposed requirement to obtain a license for music and dancing.

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 17/1/1891

"On Monday evening the Annual Meeting of the Loyal Benevolent Lodge, IOOF, MU, was held at the TALBOT HOTEL, when a large number of the members were present....."

#### 1891 Census

Talbot Street – TALBOT HOTEL

[1] *William H. Perrett* (25), licensed victualler, born North Milbey, Gloucestershire;

[2] Annie Perrett (25), wife, born Holloway, Middlesex;

[3] Samuel Jones (21), servant, born West Bromwich;

[4] Frances J. Child (20), servant, born Birmingham;

[5] Margaret Wharton (31), servant, born Stourbridge;

[6] Amy Barnsley (21), servant, born Smethwick:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/5/1891 - Advert

"Youth, about 18 to 20, for Billiard Room and Stable.

Apply, *Perrett*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 10/6/1891 - Advert

"Barman Wanted, to make himself useful.

Apply, personally, *Perrett*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Mail 19/9/1891

"Last night Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, concerning the death of Elizabeth Darby, aged 77 years, formerly residing at Littlefields, who died on Thursday night from the

effects of injuries sustained through falling down whilst walking in Littlefields on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. After hearing the witnesses, and the medical evidence by Dr. MacMillan, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1892 - Advert

“Housemaid-Waitress; good character indispensable.  
Apply, personally, *Perrett*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Worcester Journal 7/5/1892

“Mr. E. Docker yesterday resumed an inquest at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, relative to the death of Alfred Frederick Steventon, aged six months. Deceased was alleged to have died from vaccination. Mr. Grant appeared for the mother, and Dr. Acland represented the Royal Commission on Vaccination. Witnesses stated that about a fortnight after vaccination the arm began to swell, and that the child never recovered from the effects of vaccination.

Dr. Cunningham deposed to making a post mortem examination of the body on the 19<sup>th</sup> ult. Death was in his opinion due to inflammation of the lungs, brought on by improper feeding and neglect. He did not think vaccination had anything to do with the cause of death.

Mr. Grant addressed the jury, and suggested that vaccination was the indirect cause of death. The child, being previously weakened by the effects of vaccination, was ultimately killed by inflammation of the lungs. The Coroner, having summed up at considerable length, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the child died from inflammation of the lungs. They did not think vaccination was the cause of death, but were of opinion that the vaccination had tended to weaken the system of the child, so that it could not battle with the inflammation.

The enquiry lasted seven hours.”

[The previous hearing appears under the APPLE TREE.]

Birmingham Post 16/11/1892

“Mr. *Perrott*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, applied for an occasional license for the Town Hall for a ball on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst. He asked to be allowed to sell between the hours of 8pm and 4am. Superintendent Speke pointed out that he had not received any notice of the application. Mr. Heaton said it was very desirable that proper notice of these applications should be given to the police. The license was granted from 8 until 1 o'clock.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/3/1893 - Advert

“Wanted, good plain Cook, immediately.  
Apply, *Perrett*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Midland Sun 13/5/1893

“On Wednesday evening a meeting of the Oldbury and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held at the TALBOT HOTEL. Mr. W. Smith presided.....”

Worcestershire Chronicle 31/8/1895 - Deaths

“August 26, at Brades Village, *William Herbert Perrett*, late of TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, aged 29 years.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1895

“The adjourned licensing session for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held at Oldbury yesterday.....

The license of the TALBOT HOTEL was transferred from the executrix of the late Mr. *W. H. Perrott* to Mr. *F. Richards*. Mr. E. Wood, architect, submitted plans for the enlargement of the TALBOT HOTEL, and it was explained that it was proposed to add new billiard, dining, and bed rooms, so as to make it a first-class hotel.”

Foresters Court England’s Glory (No.1644) was based here. [1896]

Freemasons (Godson Lodge No.2385) met here. [1896]

Worcestershire Chronicle 21/10/1899

“On Friday the Provincial Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Worcestershire met at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, under the banner of the Godson Chapter. Sir A. F. Godson, MP, the Provincial Grand Superintendent of the Province, was present, together with about 60 members of the craft.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 17/2/1900

“Oldbury Orchestral Union. A most successful smoking concert was held at the Masonic Room, TALBOT HOTEL, on Wednesday last. There was a fair attendance with Mr. J. Parish in the chair.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 24/3/1900

“The members of the West Bromwich, Oldbury and Smethwick Typographical Society assembled in strong force at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Saturday night, the occasion being their annual dinner.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 14/4/1900

“The fifth annual dinner given by Messrs. Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. to the men employed in the Goods Department of the Great Western, London and North Western, and Midland Railway Companies at their stations in the Oldbury district, took place on Saturday evening, at the TALBOT HOTEL. The proceedings were presided over by Councillor W. T. Davies.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 1/12/1900

“The first smoking concert of the present series was given by the Oldbury Orchestral Union on Monday evening, at the TALBOT HOTEL. The chair was occupied by Joseph Matthews Esq ..... The attendance was not so large as usual, and Mr. J. Forrest, in a few words of welcome to the chairman, attributed this to the confusing and conflicting notices which has appeared in the local press with regard to the date.....”

Birmingham Mail 22/1/1901

“Today, at Oldbury Police Court, Thomas Mead (64), musician, of no fixed abode, was charged with begging.

Police-constable Shelvock deposed to seeing defendant begging in Birmingham Street last night, and in consequence of his conduct he locked him up.

Prisoner emphatically denied that he was begging, and said he was playing a concertina and singing for his living. He further added that he was tried 16 years ago for singing in front of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, but the case was dismissed, and he entered an action against the superintendent of police for false imprisonment. (Laughter.)

Mr. A. M. Chance (presiding magistrate): What do you sing?

Prisoner: ‘Tom Bowling.’ (Renewed laughter.) I had barely sung two words when the officer caught hold of me.

Mr. Chance expressed a desire to hear prisoner sing, and the latter, amidst roars of laughter in Court, commenced to render ‘Tom Bowling’ in a loud tenor voice.

Prisoner had almost completed the first verse when Mr. Chance stopped him with the remark that he was satisfied that he had got a voice. Under the circumstances the case would be dismissed, but he advised Mead to make his singing a matter of business and not begging next time.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/2/1901

“Disappearance of a Relieving Officer. A sensation has been created in Oldbury by the sudden disappearance of Mr. J. H. Withers from his home at Langley. About seven o’clock on Friday night Mr. Withers was giving some information to our representative, and since nine o’clock the same night he has not been seen. There is not the slightest suggestion that there is anything wrong with his accounts. They were audited only a few days ago and found to be in perfect order. He left his keys at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Friday night, cashed a cheque for £2 and borrowed 5s from a local gentleman. He seems to have gone to Liverpool, as his wife, it is said, received a telegram handed in there which stated he should be back in a

few days. A letter was also received from him by one of the Union officials, and in consequence of this the Guardians in committee on Monday appointed Mr. D. Sykes, the West Bromwich relieving officer. Mrs. Withers has been to Liverpool with some friends to try to discover her husband, but without success.”

#### 1901 Census

1, Halesowen Street – TALBOT HOTEL

[1] *Sara Bradley* (36), single, hotel manageress, born Brownhills;

[2] Elizabeth Williams (32), widow, cook, born Oldbury;

[3] Clara Holloway (21), housemaid, born Oldbury;

[4] Annie Parry (24), waitress, born Manchester;

[5] Amelia Palmer (20), kitchen maid, born West Bromwich;

[6] Henry Beddow (20), boots, born Oldbury;

[7] William T. Butcher (24), barman, born Handsworth;

[8] Francis E. Bridgman (23), ostler, born Herefordshire;

[9] Charles O. Alexandra (19), billiard marker, born Birmingham:

#### Birmingham Mail 7/11/1901

“Last night there was a large gathering of the members of the Loyal Benevolent Lodge of the West Bromwich District of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, the occasion being the celebration of the diamond jubilee of the lodge. Mr. C. Showell presided, and he was supported by a number of leading local gentlemen and officials of the Order. Satisfactory reports were presented as to the position of the lodge financially and numerically.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/12/1901

“With a view of getting recruits for the Worcestershire Yeomanry a smoking concert was held last night at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. There was a large attendance.”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 1/2/1902

“The annual meeting in connection with the Loyal Benevolent Lodge, No.2697, IOOF, MG took place on Monday evening, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, Bro. E. Male, NG, presiding. At the time appointed for the meeting to commence the Lodge room was crowded, and a large number of members were unable to gain admittance.....”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 26/4/1902

“Last night the firms of Messrs. Parkinson and Cowan Ltd, and Fletcher, Russell and Co. Ltd, entertained the members of the Gas Committee and a few friends to dinner at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.....”

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 28/3/1903

“A meeting of the North Worcestershire Liberal Unionist Association was held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Thursday night, when a new committee of 17 was appointed, with the Rev. H. McKean as chairman.”

[This organisation regularly met here.]

#### Birmingham Mail 11/9/1905 - Advert

“Cook-General Wanted.

Apply, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/12/1906

“Thirty men in the employ of Danks and Company, Oldbury, started yesterday on a fifteen months’ trip to Mexico to fulfil an important contract which the firm have secured. They were entertained on Thursday night by the directors at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, and had a hearty send off. The men embarked on board the Lousiania, which will convey them, in the course of about three weeks, to Mexico. The boat will also carry the plates which have been already prepared ready for fixing, and also the necessary tools and

plant for the erection of tanks in which oil is to be stored.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 5/1/1907 - Advert

“Ancient Order of Foresters. Court England’s Glory.

A Grand Smoking Concert will be given at the TALBOT HOTEL, on Wednesday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1907.

All Friendly and other Kindred Society Members invited.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 28/12/1907

“The little patients who were in the Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital will long remember the Xmas of 1907. Miss Burtenshaw (matron) and her staff of nurses rendered the day a happy one for them. Early in the morning Nurse Cheer, in the guise of Santa Claus, accompanied by Nurse Cooper (charge nurse), visited each little patients’ bed with toys etc. The events of the day commenced with singing carols. After this, the little ones were quite ready for breakfast – which included new-laid eggs for those who were able to partake of them. The wards were tastefully decorated with festoons of evergreens, Chinese lanterns and fairy lamps.....

The Matron most sincerely thanks the following ladies and gentlemen, who so kindly responded to her appeal and through whose generosity she was able to provide so many good things for the children.....

Toys ..... Miss *Bradley* (TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury).”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/12/1908

“The first prize distribution in connection with the E Company (Oldbury) of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment Territorial Army was held last night at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/5/1909

“The series of billiard matches of 600 up between F. Lawrence and A. Cope (rec. 50) was resumed at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, last evening, Lawrence winning by 600 to 453.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/3/1911

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday.....

Mr. *Machin* (of the TALBOT HOTEL) made an application for a dancing licence, but this was refused.”

#### 1911 Census

##### TALBOT HOTEL

[1] *Henry Frederick Machin* (45), licensed victualler, manager, born Kings Heath, Worcestershire;

[2] *Elisabeth Machin* (44), wife, married 17 years, born Bromsgrove;

[3] *Emily Guest* (39), sister-in-law, single, barmaid, born Bromsgrove;

[4] *Mary Davis* (37), visitor, widow, born Birmingham;

[5] *Ethel Meredith* (23), barmaid, born Wall Heath;

[6] *Harry While* (17), billiard marker, born Blowers Green;

[7] *Arthur Hackett* (41), hostler, born Halesowen;

[8] *Lucy Timmins* (18), domestic housemaid, born Langley;

[9] *Annie Perks* (17), waitress, born Cradley Heath;

[10] *Ada Round* (19), housemaid, born Dudley:

#### Smethwick Telephone 6/1/1912

“The annual dinner of the draymen in the employ of Showells Brewery Co, Langley, took place on Saturday evening, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. Mr. W. G. Holland (manager and secretary) presided, and an enjoyable evening was spent.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/3/1912

“Billiards. Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers’ Handicap.....

*F. Machin* (TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, rec. 245) easily beat *J. Adams* (CROSS GUNS, West Bromwich, rec. 125) by 123. The loser is deserving of a better start. Scores: *Machin*, 400; *Adams*, 277.”



### Dudley Chronicle 28/9/1912

“An interesting event took place at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Saturday evening, when a complimentary dinner was held and a presentation made to Mr. J. McDonald, of Showells’ Crosswells Brewery, in recognition of the valuable first-aid services rendered by him on the occasion of the railway accident at Lombardstown, county Cork, on August 5<sup>th</sup>. A party of Showells’ Brewery were returning from their annual outing on the train in question when the accident occurred.....

The event of the evening was the presentation to Mr. McDonald, which consisted of a silver cigarette case, a silver match box, and a gold-mounted cigarette holder, together with a cheque from the Great South West of Ireland Railway Company, and a donation from Mr. J. W. Lazenby (Lazenby’s Excursions, Walsall), who arranged the trip on which Messrs. Showells’ employees were at the time of the railway accident.....

Mr. McDonald, in responding, said he thanked them very sincerely, and he was a proud man indeed. (Applause.)”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 25/1/1913

“At the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday evening, a conference was held between representatives of the West Bromwich Friendly Societies’ Council and the Oldbury, Langley and District Friendly Societies’ Council, to consider the demands of the doctors in the various districts for attending uninsured persons and juveniles ..... Ultimately, after further discussion, it was decided, on the motion of Bro. Darby, seconded by Bro. Wilson, to meet the doctors on Thursday next, the conference being arranged at the TALBOT HOTEL.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 1/2/1913

“One of the most brilliant and enjoyable social events in the Oldbury district for some years past took place on Friday evening last week, when a fancy dress ball was held at the TALBOT HOTEL in commemoration of the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Godson Masonic Lodge.....”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 15/2/1913

“In connection with the Smethwick Ladies’ Hockey Club, an enjoyable ball was held on Wednesday evening at the TALBOT HOTEL, Mr. J. Crowther officiated as MC, there being about 100 present. Mr. Bert Ralphs was the efficient accompanist, while the catering was ably carried out by Mr. *Machin*.”

### West Bromwich Weekly News 15/3/1913

“On the application of Mr. *H. F. Machin*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, extensions were granted by the magistrates on Tuesday, for the Langley Unionists Ball on March 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Smethwick Hockey Club Ball on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.”

### Smethwick Telephone 19/4/1913 - Advert

“The Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Company Ltd.

Smethwick, Langley & Oldbury Motor Omnibus Service.

On and after Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1913, these Omnibuses will run as follows.

Week Days.

Leave Smethwick (Rolfe Street) for Langley and Oldbury at 8-15am and 15 minutes past every hour till 12-15 noon, and then every 15 and 45 minutes past every hour till 10-45pm.

Leave Oldbury (TALBOT HOTEL) for Langley and Smethwick at 8-45am and 45 minutes past every hour till 12-45pm, and then 15 and 45 minutes past every hour till 11-15pm.

Sundays.

Leave Smethwick (Rolfe Street) for Langley and Oldbury at 2-45pm and then 15 and 45 minutes past every hour till 10-15pm.

Leave Oldbury (TALBOT HOTEL) for Langley and Smethwick at 3-15pm and then 15 and 45 minutes past every hour till 10-45pm.

Fares.

Smethwick (Rolfe Street) and BELL HOTEL, Rood End, 1d.

BELL HOTEL, Rood End, and Five Ways, Langley, 1d.

Five Ways, Langley, and TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, 1d.  
Smethwick and corner of Crosswells Road and Vicarage Road, 1½d.  
Oldbury and corner of Crosswells Road and Vicarage Road, 1½d.  
O. C. Power, Traffic Manager, Omnibus Offices, 65, Tennant Street, off Broad Street.  
Tel. 2371 and 2 Mid.”

Smethwick Telephone 14/6/1913 - Advert

“The Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Company Ltd.

Oldbury & Blackheath Motor Omnibus Service.

Commencing Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, Omnibuses will run as follows.

Week Days.

Leave TALBOT HOTEL (Oldbury) for Blackheath, Quinton, Bearwood, and Birmingham at 8-5am and 5 minutes past every hour until 1-5pm, then 5 and 35 minutes past every hour until 11-5pm.

Leave HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, for Oldbury at 7-50am and 50 minutes past every hour until 12-50pm, then 20 and 50 minutes past every hour until 10-50pm.

Sundays.

Leave Oldbury at 11-5am and 5 and 35 minutes past every hour until 10-35pm.

Leave Blackheath at 10-50am and 20 and 50 minutes past every hour until 10-20pm.

Fares.

TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, and NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath, 1d.

NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath, and HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, 1d.

TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, and HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, 1½d.

O. C. Power, Traffic Manager, Omnibus Offices, 65, Tennant Street, Tel.2371 and 2 Mid.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1914 - Advert

“Cook, good plain; two maids kept. Also General Wanted.

Apply, *F. Machin*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/2/1915

“The following are the handicap and start made by the handicappers for the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers’ Billiards Tournament.....

*F. Machin*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, receives 200.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/6/1915 - Advert

“Housemaid Waitress, experienced, Commercial; good position; reference.

Apply, *F. Machin*, TALBOT COMMERCIAL HOTEL, Oldbury, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/7/1915 - Advert

“Billiard Marker (man or youth); two tables; live in; references required.

*F. Machin*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Northampton Mercury 9/7/1915 - Advert

“Youth to Learn Licensed Victuallers’ Business. Live in, 8s weekly; good home.

Apply, *F. Machin*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, Birmingham.”

Advert 1916

“Special tariff for commercials and motorists.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/11/1916 - Deaths

“On the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, after a short illness, the beloved wife of *Frederick Machin*, passed peacefully away.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/6/1917 - Advert

“Lady, experienced, take charge Saloon Bar Commercial Hotel; good situation; references required.  
*F. Machin*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/7/1917 - Advert

“Billiard Marker, or discharged soldier; experience not necessary; woman not objected to.  
*Fred Machin*, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, Birmingham.”

Smethwick Telephone 18/1/1919

“On Saturday afternoon a complimentary dinner took place at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, when Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Hicks (proprietors of Smethwick Empire) invited the staff and a few friends to a dinner provided by the host (Councillor *Fred Machin*). Mr. Hicks occupied the chair and was supported by Mr. Jack Judge (author of ‘Tipperary’), Mr. G. Devey, Mr. Chas. Pindur, etc.

The chairman, after the loyal toasts, submitted ‘The Staff and Band’ and spoke in glowing terms of their services.

Mr. Geo. H. Devey (manager) replied, and said he had a very pleasant duty to perform that afternoon in asking Mr. and Mrs. Hicks to accept, on behalf of the staff, a beautiful silver breakfast cruet and egg cruet, and to Mr. Hicks a silver-mounted tobacco jar. Mr. Hicks suitably responded, and said everything was working harmoniously.....

During the afternoon songs were rendered by ..... Mr. Jack Judge (who gave his latest creation, ‘There’s a happy land of Sunshine’).....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1919 - Advert

“Alldays Landalette, 14-18 HP, CAV lighting, spare wheel; good running order and appearance; £485.  
TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 7/2/1920

“The West Bromwich, Oldbury and Smethwick branch of the Typographical Society has arranged to hold a smoking concert at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, this (Saturday) evening, to welcome members of the branch who have served in HM Forces. Mr. F. O. Roberts, MP, has promised to attend.”

*Frederick Machin* was a councillor for Oldbury Central Ward from 1913 to 1925.

He died in May 1930 aged 64.

He was registered as *Henry Frederick Machin*, from 1910 to 1918, in the licensing register.

See also VINE AND RAILWAY, Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis.

Smethwick Telephone 4/9/1920 - Advert

“Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1920.

Instructed by Mr. *Fred Machin*, late of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, to sell by Auction at the Town Hall, Oldbury, near Birmingham, the Surplus Household Furniture and Effects. Wines, Spirits, Imported and English Cigars. By Messrs. Jones, Son, and Vernon (FAI).

Comprising Bedroom and Dining Room Appointments. Hotel Cutlery, China and Glassware. Bed and Table Linen, etc, etc. Also the Large Stock of Wines and Spirits. Imported and English Cigars.

Sale to commence at 2pm sharp. Catalogues on application.”

Smethwick Telephone 1/10/1921 - Advert

“Dancing (Select). TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.

Every Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday (Commencing Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>), 7.30-10 o’clock.

Admission 1s 6d.

The latest Blackpool Dances, including ‘Silver Star,’ ‘Appy Land,’ ‘Fox Trot,’ etc, illustrated and explained. Music under the direction of Mr. L. E. Dodgson.

A Select Monthly Subscription Class commencing shortly, for particulars, apply the Instructor and MC, G. H. Dodgson, CTD, UATD, any Dance Evening at the Hotel.”

Smethwick Telephone 24/12/1921 - Advert

“Dancing (Select). TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.

Christmas Eve, Bon-Bon and Steamer Dance, 7.30-11. Admission 2s.

Grand Fancy Dress Carnival, Boxing Day (Monday), 7.30-1 o'clock. Six Prizes. Admission 2s 6d.

Special 'Bus for each district.

Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, Mascot Night and Lucky Spot Dance, 1s 3d.

New Year's Eve, Novelty Night.

Lauri Dodgson's Jazz Band at each Dance.

MC, G. H. Dodgson, CTD, MUATD.”

Smethwick Telephone 15/4/1922 - Advert

“Dancing (Select). TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.

Mondays, 1s. Saturdays, 1s 6d. Sequence and Non-Sequence Dancing, 7.30-10.30.

Special Novelty Night, Saturday. Novelties Free. Admission 1s 6d.

Annual Ball, Easter Tuesday. Benefit Night. Tickets 2s 6d. Dancing 7.30-12. Special Conveyances.

Special Notice. These Classes will be transferred to the Temperance Hall, Smethwick, commencing Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

MC, G. H. Dodgson, CTD, MUATD.”

*Ernest Smith* – check also PIE FACTORY, Tipton.

The Court Leet met here. [1923]

Smethwick Telephone 10/11/1928

“Old Boys' Association connected with the 148<sup>th</sup> (Smethwick) Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, will be held today (Saturday) at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Dudley Chronicle 14/3/1929 - Advert

“Oldbury Citizens' Sports Committee invite Works Teams to compete in the Tug of War and Push-ball Competitions at the Annual Easter Tuesday Sports Carnival on the Town Football Ground.

Prizes to the Value of £4. No Entrance Fees.

Headquarters, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.”

Smethwick Telephone 5/10/1929 - Advert

“Selma Dance Club, TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.

Re-opening Dance, Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1929, 8pm to 12pm and monthly thereafter.

Early Application for Membership invited as numbers limited.

Apply: Marion Cox, Secretary, 36, John Street, Smethwick.”

Dudley Chronicle 22/5/1930

“A public meeting of the Worcestershire County Association of the National Union of Teachers was held in the Town Hall, Oldbury, recently.....

Following the business meeting, members of the association attended a luncheon at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/10/1930

“Several handsome donations were received yesterday for the *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* Norton Canes Pit Disaster Fund, which continues to draw practical sympathy from all parts of the Midlands. The Tramps Jazz Band of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, as the result of a collection made in the streets of Oldbury last Saturday, have sent along a sum of £17 11s.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/11/1930

“In order to assist the *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* fund for the relief of the dependants of the

victims of the Grove Pit disaster, a dance will be held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Saturday next.”

*Frederick Ernest Mealing* – see also CROSS, Kingswinford.

Dudley Chronicle 18/2/1932 - Advert

“The TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury.

Modernised and Under New Management.

Luncheons – Teas – Dinners.

First-Class Accommodation for Meetings, Parties and Dancing. Self Contained Suite.

Excellent Cuisine. Table d’hote and A-la-Carte. Popular Prices.

Telephone: Broadwell 1268.”

Smethwick Telephone 20/1/1934

“Miss Belle Wallace, daughter of Councillor and Mrs. Frank Wallace, of Oldbury, celebrated her coming-of-age on Friday evening, when there was a happy gathering at the TALBOT HOTEL. Some sixty guests attended, and were welcomed by Councillor and Mrs. Wallace, and after supper, there was dancing to music by the ‘Elite’ Orchestra.

Miss Wallace’s birthday was actually on Saturday, and so at midnight there was a brief interval, during which the toast of the evening was submitted and graciously responded to.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/2/1935

“Founded by Mr. John Chambers and Mr. William Marsh in 1835, the firm of Chambers and Marsh Ltd, timber merchants and builders’ suppliers, Freeth Street, Oldbury, held a centenary celebration dinner at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Saturday night. Mr. W. P. Homes, managing director, presided ..... It was a matter for congratulation that the company had been able to keep going for 100 years, and he felt that one of the contributing factors was that it had always been a ‘family’ affair.

To commemorate the centenary, Mr. Homes, on behalf of the firm, presented gold medals for long service.....

The toast, ‘100 Years Not Out,’ was given by Mr. W. E. Lines, manager, who presented cut-glass wine decanters to Mr. and Mrs. Homes.”

Smethwick Telephone 4/6/1938

“At the annual meeting of the Rotary Club of Oldbury, held on Tuesday, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Rotarian W. K. Adams was elected President in succession to Rotarian J. W. Larkham.....”

1939 Register

1, Halesowen Street

[1] *Herbert J. King*, date of birth 11/10/1901, hotel keeper, married;

[2] *Dorice M. King*, dob 28/8/1902, hotel manageress, married;

[3] *Nora H. (Stark) Eaton*, dob 12/1/1911, hotel general, single;

[4] *Nellie H. Meson*, dob 14/3/1911, hotel general, single;

[5] *John T. Priestley*, dob 16/10/1921, hotel general, single;

[6] *Ronald Bell*, dob 13/7/1903, mechanical engineer, acting works manager, iron foundry, single;

[7] *Martin A. Risborough*, dob 3/7/1894, civil servant, treasury grade, single:

Evening Despatch 11/12/1942

“.....Birmingham’s Book Drive has resulted in only 100,000 books being handed in ..... So far, the sorting has shown that about 70 per cent of the books go to pulping, 24 per cent to the Forces, and 6 per cent to bombed libraries.

‘No books, no lunch’ is the slogan at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. It is part of the Oldbury effort to collect 50,000 books during a fortnight’s campaign. So far this week about 15,000 have been received, 10,000 from the schools.

The idea of bringing a book as a ‘coupon’ for lunch was suggested by Mr. S F. Digby, the local organiser of

the Ministry of Supply, and Mr. *H. J. King*, licensee of the hotel, at once fell in with it. Diners have gladly accepted this 'condition' and today there was another queue of customers, some of them with half-a-dozen or more books, which were collected as they entered the hotel. Up to last night the hotel had received in this way over 800 books."

#### Evening Despatch 3/3/1943

"How did Catherine Davies, 63-year-old charwoman, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, come to be found lying in Harborne Road, Edgbaston, on Saturday night, suffering from head wounds from which she has since died?

The Birmingham Coroner adjourned the inquest until 11 March, today appealed for information to help throw light on her mysterious death. It is thought that Davies was on her way from Oldbury to some house in Edgbaston."

#### Evening Despatch 11/3/1943

"Verdict of Accidental Death was returned at a Birmingham inquest today on Catherine Davies, aged 63, charwoman, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, who was found lying in the roadway at Harborne Road, Edgbaston, on Saturday evening, 27 February. There was insufficient evidence to show how she came by her injuries....."

#### Birmingham Mail 20/2/1945 - Advert

"Barmaid Wtd. good class trade live in ref. essen. wages £2/10/-.  
TALBOT HOTEL Oldbury nr. B'ham."

An application was made for the erection of a cocktail bar and structural alterations on the first floor, on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1948.

Loyal Order of Moose (Oldbury Langley Lodge No.95) met here. [1950]

#### Tipton Herald 14/5/1955 - Advert

"Jazz – Traditional – Jazz  
'Come on and Hear' The Milenburg Jazzband  
The Midlands' Best.  
Thursday at 8 pm, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1958

"Many years have passed since visitors to the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, were able to exercise the choice indicated by the legends over the bell-pushes – so many that the 'Ostler board' has now become a curio coveted by many visitors to the hotel. 'I have had so many requests for it,' says Mrs. *S. Hand*, wife of the licensee, that when it does come down, I shall probably auction it for local charities."

#### Sandwell Evening Mail 5/12/1991

"Kenneth Horne ..... His radio shows 'Around The Horne' and 'Beyond Our Ken' attracted millions of listeners during the Sixties ..... His radio career took off after being spotted by a BBC producer staging a concert party at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury."

*Bernard Sydney Hyde* – see also NEW NAVIGATION.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1967

"Warley's West Indians are to give an exhibition of their folk songs and dancing, together with film shows on the West Indies, in a special People to People Week organised by the West Indian Unity Association. The event will be held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on November 24."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1968

“After a last-minute change in location Scientologists last night held a meeting in Oldbury to explain some of their ideas. About 20 attended.

The meeting was to have been held at the SANDWELL public house in West Bromwich but because of an alleged objection by the brewery company the venue was altered to the TALBOT in Oldbury.”

It closed in 1969.

It was demolished in 1970.

### THREE CROWNS

21, Portway Road, (Shidas Lane), (Newbury Lane), OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Benjamin Nightingale and others, Birmingham Street, Oldbury

Mr. Morris, brickmaker, Churchbridge, Oldbury

### LICENSEES

William Barnett [1839] – [1851]

John Barnett [1862] – **1888**:

### NOTES

Newbury Lane [1845], [1850]

Shidas Lane [1841], [1850], [1851], [1862]

21, Portway Road [1871], [1873]

### Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/1/1835 - Advert

“A Desirable Public House, at Oldbury, near Dudley.

To be Disposed of by Private Treaty.

The good-will, licenses, and established business of that old, and well-accustomed Public House, known as the THREE CROWNS, situate at Oldbury aforesaid, doing a fair scope of business. The brewing vessels, fixtures, &c, to be taken at a fair valuation. In consequence of the Stock having been reduced, the coming-in will be moderate. The premises are well adapted for the public business, and will always insure to any industrious couple a most excellent trade.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to John Newbold, Auctioneer, Appraiser, and General Agent, either at Dudley or Stourbridge, who has also several other Public Houses and Building Properties to dispose of for investment.

Agent to the Globe Fire and Life Insurance Company.”

*William Barnett* = William Barnet

### Aris's Birmingham Chronicle 16/9/1839

“At the Petty Sessions held at Hales Owen on Monday last, Victuallers' Licenses were granted to the following parties residing in the township of Oldbury.....

*William Barnet*, Spiders Lane.”

### 1841 Census

Shidas Lane

- [1] *William Barnett* (30), engineer;
- [2] *Mary Barnett* (30);
- [3] *Mary Barnett* (15);
- [4] *Sarah Barnett* (14);
- [5] *John Barnett* (12);
- [6] *William Parkes* (20), apprentice engineer;
- [7] *Edward Slim* (15), apprentice engineer:

*William Barnett* was also an engineer. [1845], [1850]

### Birmingham Journal 17/3/1849 - Advert

“Brick Yard, at Oldbury.

To be Let, on Royalty, a Brick Yard, with a Mine of Top and Bottom Clay, of capital quality. It is situated close to a Turnpike Road, and has the advantage of a Wharf at the Canal, and Railroad to it. There is a large Stove erected on the premises, and the Proprietor would erect a Steam Engine on easy terms.

Apply to *William Barnett*, Engineer, THREE CROWNS INN, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 10/8/1850 - Advert

“To Coal Masters and Brick Makers.

To be Sold, an Atmospheric Steam Engine, 26-inch Cylinder, in good condition, and now erected; with Boiler, Winding Apparatus, Sills, Doors, &c, complete; has been working a Thick Coal Pit 100 yards deep. Also an Iron Pit Frame, with Pulley and Runner, complete. Bricks will be taken as part payment.

Apply to *William Barnett*, THREE CROWNS INN, Oldbury.”

### London Gazette 25/7/1857

“In the Matter of the Petition of *William Barnett*, now and for eighteen years and upwards last past residing in Newbury-lane, Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, Engineer, and Blacksmith, and for the last eight years of such period also carrying on business as a Brickmaker, and during a portion of such period also working at Kettlebrook Colliery, near Tamworth, in the county of Stafford.

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, at Oldbury, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 10th day of August next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary.”

### Birmingham Journal 26/9/1857

“County Court. Insolvents.

On Thursday last, C. Winston, Esq, held a sitting of the Oldbury County Court, and disposed of the following insolvency cases.....

*William Barnett*, victualler and brickmaker, of Oldbury, came up for his final order, supported by Mr. Watson, and opposed by Mr. Wright, of the firm of Hayes and Wright. Adjourned till the 7<sup>th</sup> October.”

### 1861 Census

Portway Road – THREE CROWNS

- [1] *John Barnett* (31), brickmaker, born Dudley Port;
- [2] *Letitia Barnett* (30), wife, born Dudley Port;
- [3] *Elizabeth Barnett* (10), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Samuel Barnett* (6), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Kate Barnett* (4), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Hannah Barnett* (1), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Mary Bird* (14), servant, born Oldbury:



Birmingham Daily Post 11/9/1862

“At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before Captain Bennitt and Mr. J. T. Chance, *John Barnett*, THREE CROWNS INN, Portway Road, was charged with having on the 1<sup>st</sup> instant kept his house open for the sale of liquor during prohibited hours. Fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/11/1862

“*John Barnett*, THREE CROWNS INN, Newbury Lane, charged with having in his possession two unjust measures, was fined 2s and costs.”

1871 Census

21, Port Way Road

- [1] *John Barnett* (42), brick master, born Oldbury;
- [2] Letticia Barnett (41), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Mary E. Barnett (20), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Samuel Barnett (17), son, lost one arm, born Oldbury;
- [5] Kate Barnett (14), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Hannah Barnett (11), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] William Barnett (9), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] John Barnett (7), son, born Oldbury;
- [9] Clara Barnett (5), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [10] Martha Barnett (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [11] Emily M. Barnett (1), daughter, born Oldbury;

1881 Census

Portway Road – THREE CROWNS INN

- [1] *John Barnett* (52), brickmaker and publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Letticia Barnett (51), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Samuel Barnett (26), son, agent, born Oldbury;
- [4] W. Barnett (20), son, engine tender, born Oldbury;
- [5] J. Barnett (16), son, pattern maker, born Oldbury;
- [6] C. Barnett (15), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] M. Barnett (14), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] E. Barnett (11), daughter, born Oldbury;

*John Barnett* was also a brick maker. [1884]

The license lapsed in 1888.

**THREE HORSESHOES**

19, (38), Freeth Street, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Robert Mason

Mrs. Mary Hines

George Hartland, Bearwood Road, Smethwick (later at 73, Crosswells Road, Oldbury)

LICENSEES

Thomas Welch [1861] – [1865]  
George Hughes [1865] – [1866]  
David Pearson (1867 – [1871]  
William Wilson [1881] – [1884]  
William Wilson (1884 – [1886]  
George Edward Pearson [1888] – 1890);  
Arthur Astley (1890 – 1908):

## NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

### 1861 Census

Freeth Street – THREE HORSE SHOES

- [1] *Thomas Welch* (33), smith and beer seller, born Alverley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Savia Welch* (37), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *John Wallen* (16), lodger, labourer, born Sibey, Leicestershire;
- [4] *John Davis* (34), lodger, labourer, born Walsall;
- [5] *James Degg* (19), lodger, labourer, born Walsall Wood;
- [6] *Mary Welch* (8), visitor, born Bobbington:

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/12/1861

“W. Parkinson of Westbromwich and White are again matched to fight at catch weight on December 26, for £10 a side, and a bet of £22. Parkinson will be at *T. Welch*’s, Freeth Street, Oldbury, today (Saturday), where he will be happy to meet all his friends. The whereabouts may be known at *Thomas Welch*’s, the HORSE SHOES, or at Mr. Kimberley’s, the TRAVELLERS REST, Church Street, Oldbury.”

*Thomas Welch*, retailer of beer, Freeth Street. [1862]

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/4/1862

“D. Blount of Handsworth will fight Marley of Wolverhampton at 8st or 8st 2lb, for £10 or £25 a side. Money ready at Mr. *Welch*’s, THREE HORSESHOES, Freeth Street, Oldbury.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/9/1862

“Blout of Handsworth and White of Halesowen are matched to fight at catch weight, for £15 a side. They meet on Saturday evening, September 6, at *T. Welch*’s, THREE HORSESHOES, Oldbury, to draw up articles.”

### Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/5/1863

“Aston Cross Grounds. Should the weather prove favorable on Monday, May 4, there is no doubt of a large attendance to witness the undermentioned matches.....

T. Thomas of Tividale and Webb of Kates Hill, Dudley. For the six score yards match, for £10 a side, in which great interest is taken not only in Birmingham, but in the localities the men hail from, the money has been made good to the final stakeholder, Mr. Challingworth of Dudley. The men to toe the scratch punctually from two to half-past two; to start by mutual consent in 15 minutes, or go by the first report of pistol. The man going before the pistol is fired to lose. The stakeholder (Mr. Challingworth) and the referee (Mr. Coates) to pick a party to fire the pistol. Thomas will be at home at the GATE INN, Tividale, and Webb at *Welch*’s, THREE HORSE SHOES, Oldbury, on May 3, from their training quarters, where they will be glad to see their friends.”

[Webb won by two yards.]

*Thomas Welch* was also a smith. [1864]

Birmingham Daily Post 7/1/1864 - Advert

“Freehold Property at Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bindley, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1864, at Six o’clock in the afternoon, by order of the surviving Trustee for Sale, under the Will of Mr. Robert Mason, deceased, in one lot, or in the following lots, as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale, and subject to conditions to be then produced.

Lot 1. All that Messuage Dwelling House, or Tenement, situate in Freeth Street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, used as a Retail Beerhouse, under the sign of the THREE HORSE SHOES, with the Blacksmith’s Shop, Out-buildings, and Premises thereto belonging, and now in the occupation of *Thomas Welch*.

Also, Two Dwelling Houses and Premises adjoining to the above.....”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/2/1864

“T. Jones (Brushey) of Oldbury will run Homer of Mucham 120 or 200 yards level, and give or take expenses to run at Bristol or Birmingham. Money ready at *Welch*’s, THREE HORSESHOES, Oldbury.”

*Thomas Welch* – see also BLACK HORSE, Freeth Street.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/12/1864 - Advert

“To Blacksmiths. Wanted, a Young Man, about 20, who has been used to Shoeing and Jobbing. Apply at the THREE HORSE SHOES, Freeth Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/8/1865 - Adverts

“Wanted, a young Man, from the country, as Shoeing and Jobbing Smith. Apply, *George Hughes*, THREE HORSE SHOES, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/5/1866 - Adverts

“Wheelwright Wanted.

Apply to Mr. *George Hughes*, THREE HORSE SHOES, Freeth Street, Oldbury.”

AND

“Wanted, Two Wheelwrights.

Apply to *G. Hughes*, THREE HORSE SHOES, Freeth Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 28/7/1866 - Advert

“Oldbury. Capital New-Licensed Inn, the THREE HORSE-SHOES, Freeth Street, Oldbury.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of, by Private Treaty, the above capital new-licensed Inn, now doing a good in and out-door Business. The Premises consist of Front Tap Room, Smoke Room, Cooking Kitchen, excellent Brewery and Cellaring, with every convenience for the Business. In-coming about £70. Rent £30. Immediate possession may be had, the present proprietor having other engagements.

For further particulars, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Hotel Valuer, Wesley Street. Oldbury.”

Dudley Herald 29/6/1867

“*David Pearson* ..... HORSESHOE, Freeth Street, Oldbury ..... fined 2s 6d and costs ..... prohibited hours ..... only in business 5 months.”

*David Pearson*, beer retailer, Freeth Street. [1870]

1871 Census

38, Freeth Street

[1] *David Pearson* (40), publican, born Loxley, Warwickshire;

[2] *Emma Pearson* (38), wife, born Birmingham;

- [3] Ann Pearson (16), daughter, born Brades Village;
- [4] Ellen Pearson (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] George Pearson (10), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] William Pearson (8), son, scholar, born Burnt Tree;
- [7] Emily Pearson (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Sophia Pearson (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [9] Elizabeth Pearson (10 months), daughter, born Oldbury:

*David Pearson* – see also UNION, Tabernacle Street.

#### 1881 Census

38, Freeth Street – THREE HORSE SHOES

- [1] *William Wilson* (49), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Wilson (44), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] William Wilson (26), son, merchant's clerk, born Oldbury;
- [4] Susan Cox (14), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1883 - Died

“On the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, aged 46 years, Sarah, the beloved wife of *William Wilson*, Freeth Street, Oldbury.”

*William Wilson*, beer retailer and town crier, 38, Freeth Street. [1884]

#### Smethwick Telephone 22/5/1886

“*William Wilson*, landlord of the THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, was summoned for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. Mr. Shakespeare defended. PS Stanton stated that he was passing the defendant's house a few minutes after twelve o'clock on the Sunday morning named, and saw a man coming down the entry with something in his pocket. Witness followed the man some distance, and then asked him what he had in his pocket, and he replied that it was beer that had been given to him for filling the furnace. They went back together to *Wilson*, who confirmed the man's statement, adding, ‘I did not think I was doing wrong.’ Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, said that the beer was a free gift to the man, and was not a part of his pay for the work done. The defendant also confirmed this statement. After consultation with his colleagues Mr. Avery said the magistrates were of opinion that an offence had been committed within the meaning of the Act, but there were extenuating circumstances, and the defendant would therefore be let off with a fine of 5s and costs, the license not to be endorsed.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 28/8/1886

“The annual Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday..... The following persons had been summoned for offences against the licensing laws, and dealt with as follows ..... Beerhouses..... *William Wilson*, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1886, selling during closing time, fined 5s and costs..... In the case of those persons who had been summoned and convicted, their houses having been well conducted since, and no further complaints being made against them, the licenses were all renewed except in the cases of David Bates and Edward Waterhouse, which were refused.”

*George Pearson*, beer retailer, 38, Freeth Street. [1888]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/1/1889

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, *George Edward Pearson*, landlord of the THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Freeth Street, was charged with assaulting his wife, on December 25. Mr. Hinds prosecuted, and Mr. B. Shakespeare defended. It was alleged by the complainant that because she did not get her husband's breakfast ready he struck her

several times on the left eye with his closed fist, destroying the sight, and necessitating her treatment at the Birmingham Eye Infirmary.

Mr. Torbitt, surgeon, who was examined, expressed the opinion that the injury to the eye was caused by a sharp instrument. In cross-examination, he admitted that most likely the injury was caused by complainant defending herself with a knife in her hand.

For the defence it was contended that complainant in defending herself ran the knife into her eye.

The Bench said that the case was a very serious one, although the aspect was altered by the medical evidence. The offence would be reduced to one of common assault, and defendant would be fined 20s and costs, or in default of payment twenty-eight days' hard labour."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 2/9/1890

"On Sunday night Mr. *George Pearson*, landlord of the THREE HORSE SHOES INN, Freeth Street, Oldbury, met with a serious accident whilst driving a horse and trap at Brades Village. *Pearson* was returning home from Tipton, being accompanied in the trap by another man and a woman. Upon reaching Brades Village the wheel of the vehicle caught in the tram-line, which caused the trap to swerve round, and *Pearson* was thrown out. In falling his head struck against the hub of the wheel, causing a serious scalp-wound. The horse took fright and bolted, but was stopped before it had proceeded far. The injured man was conveyed to his home, and attended by Dr. MacMillan."

#### 1891 Census

19, Freeth Street – THREE HORSE SHOES

[1] *Arthur Astley* (36), beerhouse keeper, born Birmingham;

[2] *Eliza Astley* (35), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Arthur Astley* (11), son, scholar, born Birmingham;

[4] *Rosa Astley* (13), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;

[5] *Maud Astley* (8), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;

[6] *Harry Astley* (5), son, scholar, born Birmingham:

*Arthur Astley*, beer retailer and brewer, 19, Freeth Street. [1896]

#### 1901 Census

19, Freeth Street

[1] *Arthur Astley* (45), brewer and publican, born Birmingham;

[2] *Eliza Astley* (45), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Rose Astley* (23), daughter, born Birmingham;

[4] *Arthur Astley* (21), son, fitter, carriage works, born Birmingham;

[5] *Maud Astley* (18), daughter, milliner, born Birmingham;

[6] *Harry Astley* (16), son merchant's clerk, born Birmingham:

The license was surrendered on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1908.

#### Smethwick Telephone 25/11/1911 - Advert

"Estate of William Hinds, deceased.

Sale of Freehold Shop and Dwelling House Properties, situate at Oldbury.

By Messrs. Samuel Jones, Son, & Vernon, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1911, at 7 o'clock pm prompt (subject to Conditions of Sale to be then produced and read).....

Lot 3. The Freehold Property, comprising Retail Shop (formerly the THREE HORSE SHOES INN), No.19, Freeth Street, Oldbury; and Two Dwelling Houses adjoining; together with the Warehousing and Shopping at the rear, with entrance from Orchard Street. Tenants: Messrs. Bagnall, Taylor, and Others, at a low weekly rents amounting to £37 1s per annum.

No.19 has a Front Shop, sitting room and four bedrooms. In the private yard is the wash-house, w.c., etc....."

Smethwick Telephone 23/12/1911

“.....A second sale was conducted at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, by Mr. Frank H. Jones, FAI. This was equally successful to that of the previous evening; of eight lots submitted seven were sold and good prices realised. The figures were as follows.....

A freehold property, comprising a retail shop, 19, Freeth Street, Oldbury, and two dwelling houses (producing £36 18s), £255.”

**TIGER**

12, (7), Eel Street, OLDBURY

**OWNERS**

Mr. Whitehouse, Eardisley, Herefordshire [1864]

John Jordan, Langley Hall, Oldbury (later John Jordan and Co. Ltd.)

J. W. J. Kingstone Ltd. [1927]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1929]

**LICENSEES**

Simeon Robinson [ ]

Thomas Savage [1861]

Thomas Bird [1862]

Benjamin Horton **(1862 – 1863);**

Edwin Powell **(1863 – [1880]**

Aaron Allott [1881] – **1894);**

Mary Ann Allott **(1894);**

Charles Aaron Allott **(1894 – 1895);**

Joseph Gough **(1895 – 1896);**

Thomas Duffield **(1896 – 1897);**

Jonah Debney **(1897 – 1922);**

William Rollason **(1922);**

Albert Patrick Underwood **(1922 – 1925);**

John Thomas Hamer **(1925 – 1930):**

**NOTES**

7, Eel Street [1871], [1873], [1881]

12, Eel Street [1891], [1892], [1896], [1901], [1912], [1916], [1921]

**Birmingham Journal 25/10/1856 - Advert**

“Excellent Old-Licensed Public House, the TIGER INN, Oldbury.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, the Licenses and valuable Possession of the above commanding-situated Public House, close to several extensive Works, now doing one of the best Businesses in the town. Rent and payments are very low.

The Premises are replete with every convenience, possessing large Club Room, four Sleeping Rooms, Smoke Room, Private Bar, front and back Parlour, Tap Room, two large Cellars, capital Brewery, Stabling, Gig-house, entire Yard, Piggeries, and Out-offices. Immediate possession may be had.

For further particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 27/3/1858 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, that good-accustomed Old-Licensed Public House, the TIGER INN, Elle Street, near the Whimsey Bridge, Oldbury. The House is roomy, having front Bar and front Parlour, Smoke Room, and Kitchen, large Club Room, three Chambers, good Cellaring, Stable, and Coach-house, large Yard, and well supplied with Water. Coming-in low. The present Tenant is leaving on account of having other important engagements. Apply on the Premises; or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

*Simeon Robinson* issued tokens from here.

London Gazette 6/7/1858

“Whereas a Petition of *Simeon Robinson*, formerly of Bromley-lane, in the parish of Kingswinford, Staffordshire, Charter Master and Retail Brewer, afterwards of the same place, out of business, then of Eel-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, and afterwards of Newbury-lane, Oldbury aforesaid, Colliery Manager, then of Newbury-lane aforesaid, out of business, then of Eel-street, Oldbury aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, and then and now of Stone-cross, Westbromwich, Staffordshire, in lodgings, out of business, 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 *Simeon Robinson*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Simeon Robinson* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 21st July instant, 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 the choice of the creditors’ assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *Simeon Robinson*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Joseph Heapy Watson, Registrar 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.”

1861 Census

Eel Street

- [1] *Thomas Savage* (40), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] *Kate Savage* (35), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Mary Ann Savage* (17), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Louisa Woodhouse* (20), barmaid, born Oldbury;

London Gazette 6/9/1861

“Whereas a Petition of *Thomas Savage*, now and for the last ten months residing at the TIGER INN, Eel-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Retail Brewer and Dealer in Tobacco, also working as a Miner, previously, and for four years, residing at Shiders-lane, Oldbury aforesaid, and during the first eighteen months of such time carrying on the trades or businesses of a Grocer and Provision Dealer, Licensed Retailer of Tea and Tobacco, and working as a Miner, and during the remaining two years and six months of such time carrying on the trades or businesses of a Licensed Victualler, Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Retail Brewer, Dealer in Tobacco, and also working as a Miner, 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 *Thomas Savage*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Thomas Savage* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 27th day of September instant, 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 the choice of the creditors’ assignees is to take place at the time so appointed. All persons indebted to the said *Thomas Savage*, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Messrs. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, Registrars of the said Court, at their office, at the Court-house, in Oldbury, the Official Assignees of the estate and effects of the said insolvent.”

Worcester Journal 19/4/1862

“A few nights ago a robbery was committed at the house of Mr. *Thomas Bird*, innkeeper, of Oldbury, when cigars, a large quantity of spirits, and numerous other articles, value £7, were stolen. An entrance was effected from the yard by breaking open the cellar fastening, from which an easy access was obtained to other parts of the house. A man named William Butler has been committed for trial at the assizes charged with participating in the offence.”

Worcester Chronicle 23/7/1862

“Worcestershire Summer Assizes.....

William Butler was indicted for burglariously entering the dwelling house of *Thomas Bird*, at Oldbury, on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, and stealing various articles. Mr. Chance prosecuted.

Prosecutor is landlord of the TIGER public house, Oldbury, and on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> April he found his premises had been entered, and some Demerara rum and other articles stolen. Rum similar to that lost was found the next day in the prisoner’s possession, and prisoner said he bought it of Mr. Taylor. Mr. Taylor was called, and denied having any Demerara rum in his possession at the time. Matches similar to some lost were also found in prisoner’s possession. Prisoner was seen by a witness near the house at half-past two o’clock on the morning of the robbery, with three others.

Guilty of receiving the goods, knowing them to have been stolen.

Prisoner put in a certificate from the rector of his parish.

Six calendar months’ hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/9/1862

“At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before Captain Bennitt and Mr. J. T. Chance, *Thomas Bird*, victualler, TIGER INN, Eel Street, was charged with having on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult kept his house open for the sale of liquor during prohibited hours. The case was proved by Police-constable 118, who stated that he visited the house of defendant on the morning in question, at nearly two o’clock, and there found five men drinking. It was stated that defendant had been previously fined for having allowed gaming in his house. Fined 5s and costs, and cautioned that if he again offended the license would be suspended.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/10/1862 - Advert

“The TIGER INN, Oldbury. By Mr. Robert H. Jones.

To be Disposed Of (the Proprietor going Abroad), this very excellent fitted up Old-established Licensed House, doing a steady in and out-door Trade.

The Premises are in a good business neighbourhood, and consist of spacious Bar, Parlour, Bagatelle Room, Kitchen, and back ditto, extensive Club Room, and four Bed Rooms. There are also capital Outoffices, Stabling, Cellarage, and a spacious Yard, with a never-failing supply of hard and soft water.

Rent £25. Stock and Fixtures at a valuation, which will be low.

Apply on the premises, or to Mr. Robert H. Jones, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Accountant, Church Square, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 1/11/1862 - Advert

“The TIGER INN, Eel Street, Oldbury. By Mr. Robert H. Jones.

To be Sold by Auction, on Thursday Next, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, at Eleven o’clock precisely.

The whole of the Household Furniture, including Beds, Bedding, four-post and other Bedsteads, Dining Room Furniture, &c, with a portion of the Brewing Plant, a capital Gig, two Silver Watches, about 2cwt of Nails, and other important Effects.

Catalogues of the Auctioneer, at his Offices, Church Square, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/11/1862

“*Benjamin Horton*, TIGER INN, Eel Street, was charged with having eight unjust measures. Defendant had only taken to the house two days previous to the visit of Mr. Overend, and under these circumstances the Bench simply ordered him to pay costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/9/1864



“The annual meeting for the granting and renewal of licenses for the Oldbury and Hales Owen district was held yesterday.....

Mr. Shakespeare applied for a license on behalf of Mrs. Mary Ann Barton, Whimsey Bridge, Church Bridge, Oldbury.....

The application was opposed by Mr. Whitehouse, of Eardisley, Herefordshire, the owner of the TIGER, a licensed house in the neighbourhood.....

After consideration, the Magistrates decided to grant the applications of ..... Barton.”

#### County Advertiser 15/9/1866

“The annual licensing meeting of the magistrates was held on Tuesday.....

*Edwin Powell*, of the TIGER INN, Oldbury, were reprimanded.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/12/1868

“An adjourned inquest into the circumstances attending the death of William Holden, which took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November last from a fall of coal at the Lamb Pits, which belong to Messrs. Dawes, was held before Mr. Ralph Docker (Coroner), yesterday, at the TIGER INN, Eel Street, Oldbury. Mr. P. Baker (one of her Majesty’s Inspectors of Mines) was in attendance during the inquiry.

William Matthews said he resided at Blackheath, and was a miner employed at the above-named colliery.

He was in the pit at the time deceased met with his death. They were in the act of taking out some timber in a gate-road, when they heard a ‘bump,’ which was followed by a fall of about nine feet of coal, which smothered them both. He (witness) was first got out, and escaped with but a slight injury to one ankle. Deceased was got out in the course of ten minutes, but only lived a few seconds. He attributed the accident entirely to a ‘bump.’

John Whinsper, who was also employed in the pit at the time of the accident, likewise stated that in his opinion the pit was ‘safe,’ and that had it not been for the ‘bump’ the accident would not have happened.

A plan of the working in the colliery was presented, and the arrangements considered satisfactory.

No blame was attached to any person, and the jury therefore returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

*Edwin Powell*, beer retailer, Eel Street. [1870]

#### 1871 Census

7, Eel Street

[1] *Edwin Powell* (45), licensed victualler, born Beech Lanes;

[2] *Eliza Powell* (38), wife, born Hall Green, Worcestershire;

[3] *Sarah Powell* (3), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] *Harriett Powell* (2), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] *Thomas Matthews* (22), lodger, labourer, born Simpson, Buckinghamshire:

#### 1881 Census

7, Eel Street

[1] *Arron Allott* (36), publican, born Shires Hall, Yorkshire;

[2] *Mary Allott* (40), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Charles Arron Allott* (9), son, scholar, born Elesecar, Yorkshire;

[4] *Mary Ann Allott* (6), daughter, scholar, born Elesecar, Yorkshire:

#### 1891 Census

12, Eel Street – TIGER INN

[1] *Aaron Allott* (47), licensed victualler, born Wath-on-Deerne, Yorkshire;

[2] *Mary Allott* (50), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *E. A. Allott* (19), son, glassworks labourer, born Stubbin, Yorkshire;

[4] *M. A. Allott* (16), daughter, born Stubbin, Yorkshire;

[5] *Elizabeth Allott* (9), daughter, born Oldbury:

*Aaron Allott* and his wife, *Mary*, both died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1894.

Birmingham Daily Post 4/8/1894

“Yesterday morning *Mary Ann Allott*, aged twenty-one years, landlady of the TIGER INN, Eel Street, Oldbury, committed suicide in a most determined manner.

She resided at the public house named with her aunt, *Emma Mann*, and her brother. Between six and seven o'clock yesterday morning the deceased, who has been strange in her manner for some weeks past, inflicted a terrible wound in her throat with a large carving-knife whilst she was standing in front of a looking-glass in her bedroom. Afterwards she walked into her aunt's bedroom adjoining, and, as well as she could, said she hoped God would bless her aunt. The latter called for assistance, and the deceased was subsequently found at the top of the stairs bleeding profusely from the wound she had inflicted. Dr. *Buttery* was called in, but his services were of no avail. The despondent state of the deceased's mind is accounted for by the fact that about three months ago her father and mother died, both deaths taking place within about three months, and this preyed upon her mind.”

*Thomas Duffield* – see also ENGINEERS ARMS.

West Bromwich Weekly News 26/1/1901

“On Tuesday evening Mr. A. H. *Herbert* (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the TIGER INN, Eel Street, respecting the death of *Thomas Reed* (52), engine driver, formerly residing at Eel Street, who was found dead at his home under singular circumstances on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst.

*Charles Reid* said deceased had been living alone for some time, his wife and family having left him in consequence of his violent conduct. On Saturday afternoon witness visited his father and found him dead in bed.

Dr. *Marsh*, who made a post mortem examination of the body, attributed death to apoplexy.

The jury returned a verdict of Natural Causes.”

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.....

Then came the chief event, and considerable interest was manifested over the result, both men being considered expert with the deadly tube, and some very spirited wagering ensued for the match outright and on each bird. *Debney*, however, had the call for the match, odds of 5 to 4 on him being laid.

*Debney* was first to the mark. He brought his first three birds down in clinking fashion, his fourth he missed, but he grassed his fifth and sixth, thus scoring five out of six birds – not a bad performance considering the light. *Hall* now followed, but started disastrously, for he placed no cartridge in his gun, with the result that the dickey bird escaped, *Hall* paying the penalty, the bird being counted. His second attempt was as bad, for his cartridge failed to explode, but, according to rules, no bird was allowed. His third attempt saw *Hall* more fortunate, for he grassed a good bird. His next was a miss, but he killed his fifth, missed his sixth, but managed to bring his seventh down, making his score three. *Debney* again went to shoot at his last five birds; shooting in splendid fashion, his first two birds came to grief, but the next he missed. However, he killed another, bringing his total to eight kills, which left *Hall* with the difficult task of killing all his birds to make a tie. He scored at his first attempt, but, missing the next, was out-shot. Going on at his remaining birds he succeeded in killing two out of his last three.....

The pair shot again at three birds each, for a couple of sovereigns. *Debney* was again successful.....”

1901 Census

Eel Street – TIGER INN

[1] *Jonah Debney* (32), publican, born Oldbury;

- [2] Emma Debney (30), wife, born Netherton;
- [3] Thomas Debney (9), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] Charles Debney (5), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] Jonah Debney (1), son, born Oldbury;
- [6] John Debney (56), boarder, widower, general labourer, born Netherton;
- [7] Mercy Smith (15), domestic servant, born Tividale:

Sporting Life 2/5/1902

“Mr. *J. Debney*, of the TIGER INN, Oldbury, challenges all England at pigeons on the JOLLY NAILORS Grounds, West Bromwich, for from £5 up to £20 a side. The conditions are for Mr. *Debney* to shoot at eleven birds, and his opponent to shoot at ten birds, 25 yards rise, 60 yards fall, with the use of two barrels.”

A team from here took part in the Langley and District Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

1911 Census

Eel Street – TIGER INN

- [1] *Jonah Debney* (42), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Emma Debney (40), wife, married 21 years, born Oldbury;
- [3] Thomas Debney (19), son, labourer at tube works, born Oldbury;
- [4] Charles Debney (15), son, labourer at tube works, born Oldbury;
- [5] Jonah Debney (11), son, school, born Oldbury;
- [6] Leonard Debney (7), son, born Oldbury;
- [7] Rose Debney (4), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] Harriet Turley (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury;
- [9] John Woodall (66), father-in-law, widower, canal boatman, born Dudley:

Smethwick Telephone 21/1/1928 - Advert

“Re J. W. J. Kingstone, Ltd, Smethwick.

Important Sale by Auction of 20 Licensed Houses in the County Boroughs of Smethwick and West Bromwich, and at Warley and Oldbury, all within a radius of six miles of the centre of the City of Birmingham, and comprising in separate lots.

8 Valuable Fully Licensed Houses.

7 ‘On’ Beerhouses, and 5 ‘Off’ Licenses.

Together with the Seven Quarter Brewery, Offices and Premises, known as the Summit Brewery, and various Freehold Shop and Dwelling House Properties adjoining the several Licensed Houses.

By Messrs. Jones Son & Vernon, FAI, at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1928, at 4pm precisely (unless sold previously by private contract).....

Lot 4. The TIGER INN. Freehold, Fully Licensed, Eel Street, Oldbury.”

Dudley Chronicle 1/3/1928

“Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon, of West Bromwich, held a successful property sale at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham. The lots included many licensed properties in West Bromwich, Oldbury, and Smethwick, and so keen was the competition that all the lots were sold, the sale realising altogether well over £60,000, whilst three public houses, the price of which were not included in this figure, were sold privately. They were the ROYAL OAK INN, Park Street, Oldbury; the TIGER INN, Earl [sic] Street, Oldbury, and the ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street, Oldbury.”

The license was surrendered and the house closed at 10pm on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1930.

Smethwick Telephone 16/5/1931 - Advert

“Preliminary Advertisement. Sale of Desirable Freehold Investment Properties.....

Lot 9. Freehold Dis-Licensed Premises, formerly known as the TIGER INN, Eel Street, Oldbury, together with the Cottage at the rear.”

Smethwick Telephone 13/6/1931 - Advert

“Sale By Auction ..... on Tuesday Next, 16th June, 1931.....

Lot 8. Eel Street, Oldbury (With Vacant Possession). Freehold Dis-Licensed Premises, formerly known as the TIGER INN, Eel Street, Oldbury, situate just off the main Oldbury to Blackheath Road and Midland Red Bus route. Frontage 17 yards, 0 feet, 8 inches.”

**TITFORD LODGE**

Titford Lane, Langley, OLDBURY

OWNERS

T. S. Hatlow, Wednesbury Mills

LICENSEES

Benjamin George Hurley [1845]

Richard Barnsley [1850]

John Silk [ ] – **1858**);

Abraham Timmins (**1858** – [ ]

Samuel Johnson [1884] – **1885**):

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 14/9/1850 - Advert

“Langley New Church, Oldbury. Freehold Building Land.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. William Green, at TITFORD LODGE INN, Titford Lane, Oldbury, on Monday, the 23rd day of September, 1850, at Five o’clock in the afternoon.

Various lots of Building Land, having frontages to the streets round the proposed Churchyard, and to Park House Lane.....”

*Samuel Johnson* = Samuel Johnstone

Smethwick Telephone 29/8/1885

“Oldbury Licensing Sessions.....

Superintendent Hardman called the attention of the justices to the fact that there were a number of houses in the division the licenses of which were annually renewed although they were not used as public houses, and he opposed a further renewal of the licenses this year, there being no necessity for their continuance ..... *Samuel Johnson*, full licensed, situate at Titford, Langley, which had been closed 20 years.....

PS Stanton gave evidence in respect of the license held by *Samuel Johnstone*, and stated that it had not been used for the purposes of a licensed house for 20 years.

George Johnstone, son of the late *Samuel Johnstone*, said his father had been dead some years, and he personally did not wish to hold the license, but would like to have a transfer granted.....

After the magistrates had considered in private the applications for renewals, Mr. Avery announced the following decisions. The renewal of licenses of ..... *Samuel Johnstone* ..... were refused.”

## TRAVELLERS REST

11, (24), Churchbridge, (Halesowen Street), (Church Street), (Birmingham Street), Oldbury Green, OLD-BURY

### OWNERS

Edward Darby  
Joseph Hickton (Hecton), Haden Hill, Old Hill  
Samuel Sherwood  
Grigg and Brettell Ltd. (acquired in 1949)

### LICENSEES

Stephen Turner [1843] – [1855]  
Richard Downing [ ] – **1858**;  
Joseph Kimberley (**1858** – [1862]  
Solomon Brookes [1860]  
Richard Moore [1862] – [1866]  
Henry Jones [1868]  
Edward Darby [1881] – [1891]  
Mrs. Ellen (Smith) Darby [ ] – **1893**;  
Samuel Sherwood (**1893** – **1949**);  
Albert Victor Sherwood (**1949**);  
David Wylde (**1949** – **1954**);  
Mrs. Sarah Morgan Wylde (**1954** – **1956**);  
Ida Betty Powell (**1956** – **1962**);  
Annie Horton (**1962**);  
Suzy Harrison (**1962** – **1963**);  
Elsie May Griffin (**1963** – [ ]

### NOTES

24, Church Bridge [1881]  
11, Church Bridge [1891], [1911], [1939]

[‘Lost Landscape. Portway Road, Oldbury. A Black Country Street.’ by Alan Dodson](#)

“There were three pubs in my day in the Eel Street, Churchbridge and Portway Road ‘square’ although there had been as many as eight over the years. The BUILDERS ARMS stood at the corner of Little Eel Street and Portway Road. It was a large pub and even as a boy I remember it well, a solid cube of a building wrapping round the corner, with double bay windows, an imposing entrance facing Portway Road and large upstairs windows overlooking both streets. Adding to the impression, the road which formed a shallow depression from the bridge began to rise into the lane quite sharply at the Little Eel Street corner. One can imagine the BUILDERS ARMS was built to be more than just a watering hole for canal labourers and had the air of the establishments which later became known as ‘commercial hotels.’ The large function room on the first floor was much in favour for twenty-first birthday celebrations and the like. The BRICKMAKERS ARMS was at the corner of the other end of Eel Street and Churchbridge, smaller but in many ways similar. They were simply known as ‘The Top’ and ‘The Bottom’ although my father always referred to ‘The Top’ as ‘Beasley’s’ after the family whose members were licensees from 1913 until 1945.

The TRAVELLERS REST, known to all as ‘*Sherwood’s*’ or ‘*Sammy Sherwood’s*’ after the licensee from 1893 until 1945, which might be some sort of record, was a small pub in Churchbridge next door to ‘The Bottom,’ with rooms not much bigger than those of the neighbouring houses but distinguished by its own double bay windows and arched doorway.”

It had a beerhouse license.

*Stephen Turner* = Steven Turner

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/10/1843

“Thomas Hadley (alias the Barber of Oldbury) is open to fight Charles Davis, of Westbromwich, for from £5 to £50 a side; or Isaiah Hunter, of Tipton, for the same sum. His money is ready at *Stephen Turner’s*, TRAVELLERS REST, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/4/1845

“Isaac Champion (late of Sheffield but now of Oldbury) will play any of the following a match at quoits, viz, George Haywood, Henry Dickins, or John Hattersley, for £5 or £10, distance seven yards, hard ends; each to carry his own weight of quoits. The money is ready at *Steven Turner’s*, TRAVELLERS REST, Oldbury. He will give or take £1 for the match to come off at Sheffield, or on the borders of Birmingham.”

1851 Census

Birmingham Street on Oldbury Green

- [1] *Stephen Turner* (49), stone miner, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Turner (48), wife, beerhouse keeper, born Rowley;
- [3] George Stumps (27), son-in-law, glass cutter, born Smethwick;
- [4] Hannah Stumps (23), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Arthur Stumps (3), grand-son, born Oldbury;
- [6] Stephen Turner (5), grand-son, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [7] John Campbell (58), lodger, widower, stone miner, born Monmouthshire;
- [8] Richard Powell (31), lodger, widower, stone miner, born Bilston;
- [9] Ann Powell (11), house servant, born, Potteries:

Birmingham Journal 12/2/1853 - Advert

“Improving Freehold and Leasehold Properties, Oldbury Green, and Halesowen Street, Oldbury, Worcestershire; and Blue Gates, Smethwick, Staffordshire.

Messrs. Hammond and Oldfield have received instructions from the Executors of the late Edward Darby to Submit to Auction, on Wednesday Next, the 16th day of February, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, at Six o’clock in the evening, in the following or such other lots as may be arranged at the sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced.....

Lot 4. Two Freehold Houses; one, a Retail Public House, called the TRAVELLERS REST, in the occupation of *Stephen Turner*; a Retail Shop adjoining thereto, in the occupation of James Eaton; together with the Land and Premises set out at the back thereof.

This lot will have a right of road down the gateway.”

*Stephen Turner*, beer retailer, Birmingham Street. [1855]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 20/3/1859

“*Joseph Kimberley* of the TRAVELLERS REST, Oldbury, has a lad he will match to fight Alf Walker’s lad at 7st 8lb, for £25 a side. By sending £5 to us, and articles to *Joseph Kimberley*, to fight in the London Ring, a match may be insured.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/11/1859

“Bridgnorth Petty Sessions.....

Prize Fight at Shipley Common. The court was crowded to hear this case brought forward on the information and complaint of Mr. Henry Baxter, superintendent of the Shropshire constabulary force, the defendants being Richard Male, Joseph Male, Richard Whitehead, Joseph Hale, and William Jones, of Dudley, victualler, for aiding and abetting a prize fight on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of October last, on Shipley Common, between Bridgnorth and Wolverhampton, in which Richard Male and Thomas Sheppard were the combatants, and were matched to fight for £5 a side.

*Bells Life* of October 30, produced in court, noticed the transaction as follows. ‘Richard Male and Thomas Sheppard, both of Oldbury, met on Monday last, at Shipley Common, six miles beyond Wolverhampton, at catch weight for £5 a side. Male was seconded by Young Rock, of Birmingham, and Joe Hale; and Sheppard was attended by Malpas and Whitehead. Male got first blood and knock down blow, the first in the eight, the latter in the eleventh round, and in fact had the fight after the first quarter of an hour all in his favour, without a scratch, with the exception of the left ogle being discoloured; whilst Sheppard caught it heavily on the nob and frontispiece. In the sixty-third round Male led off with his left on the nob of Sheppard, who in return rushed to close fighting, and after an exchange Male got down. To the surprise of all the referee cried ‘foul.’ Immediately the ring was broken in, Sheppard was carried off, and the referee disappeared, without assigning any cause to Male or Rock why he cried ‘foul.’ Male immediately proceeded to Mr. *Kimberley*, the stakeholder (keeper of the TRAVELLERS REST, Oldbury), and gave him notice not to give up the stakes. The stakeholder should hold the stakes to ascertain if any appeal was made to the referee by the umpires. The affair seems to us of a very suspicious character.’

To support the charge, Superintendent Baxter called William Hill, of the New Inn, Claverley parish, who deposed that he saw the fight on Shipley Common, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October last; there were stakes and a roped ring, &c.....

[Defendants had to provide bail to keep the peace for a period.]

#### Birmingham Journal 9/6/1860 - Advert

“Freehold Business Premises, situate at Oldbury Green, in the County of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Cooksey and Rollason, on Monday Next, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, at the house of Mr. John Green, known by the name of the JUNCTION SPIRIT VAULTS, Oldbury, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

All those Two Freehold Houses, one whereof is occupied as a Retail Public House, called the TRAVELLERS REST, in the occupation of *Joseph Kimberley*, and the other a Retail Shop adjoining thereto, in the occupation of James Turner, situate at Oldbury Green, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Edward Caddick, Solicitor, New Street, or to the Auctioneers, Paradise Street, West Bromwich.”

#### Birmingham Journal 10/11/1860 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale, at the TRAVELLERS REST, Church Bridge, near Oldbury.

The property of Mr. *Solomon Brookes*, who is declining the Public Business.

To be Sold by Auction, by A. G. Atree, on Monday Next, November 12, commencing at Eleven o’clock.

All the excellent Brewing Vessels, Barrels, and Public House Fixtures, excellent Household Furniture, comprising mahogany Loo and other Tables, Sofas, Trafalgar Chairs, Easy Chairs in hair, large mahogany and other Chests of Drawers, mahogany and other Bedsteads, Tump of Hops, useful Black Horse, Spring Trap and Harness, three Hams, Sack Cart, and a useful assortment of Household Effects.

Auctioneer’s Offices, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.”

#### 1861 Census

Birmingham Street on Oldbury Green – TRAVELLERS REST

[1] *Joseph Kimberley* (41), victualler, born Stourbridge;

[2] Emma Kimberley (26), wife, born Harborne;

[3] Joseph Kimberley (16), son, labourer, born Oldbury;

[4] Elizabeth Kimberley (14), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] Emma Kimberley (1), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Robert Kimberley (1 month), son, born Oldbury;

- [7] Josh Clews (14), visitor, labourer, born Harborne;  
[8] Harriet Lloyd (20), servant, born Oldbury;  
[9] George Hurst (17), lodger, woolen weaver, born Wigston, Leicestershire;  
[10] Samuel Cawthorn (29), lodger, woolen weaver, born Wigston, Leicestershire;  
[11] William Measures, (28), lodger, woolen weaver, born Wigston, Leicestershire;  
[12] William Measures (39), lodger, woolen weaver, born Wigston, Leicestershire;  
[13] Thomas Phipps (30), lodger, woolen weaver, born Wigston, Leicestershire:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/12/1861

“W. Parkinson of Westbromwich and White are again matched to fight at catch weight on December 26, for £10 a side, and a bet of £22. Parkinson will be at T. Welch’s, Freeth Street, Oldbury, today (Saturday), where he will be happy to meet all his friends. The whereabouts may be known at Thomas Welch’s, the HORSE SHOES, or at Mr. *Kimberley*’s, the TRAVELLERS REST, Church Street, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/1/1862

“P. Morris of Birmingham and W. Parkinson of Westbromwich are matched at 8st for £25 a side. Morris and his backer, R. Brettle, will attend *J. Kimberley*’s, the TRAVELLERS REST, Church Street, Oldbury, tomorrow (Monday) to draw up articles, &c.”

London Gazette 29/8/1862

“*Joseph Kimberley*, of Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Publican, but previously of Oldbury aforesaid, Coal Dealer and Publican, late a Prisoner for Debt in the Gaol at Worcester, in and for the county of Worcester, having been adjudged bankrupt by a Registrar of the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Worcester, attending at the said Gaol of Worcester, on the 15th day of July, 1862, and the proceedings in the said bankruptcy having been transferred to the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, a public sitting, for the said bankrupt to pass his Last Examination, and make application for his Discharge, will be held before Allan Maclean Skinner, Esq, QC, the Judge of the said Court, on the 27th day of September next, at the said Court, at Oldbury, at ten o’clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said bankrupt to surrender. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, Gentlemen, of Oldbury, are the Official Assignees, and Henry Jackson, of Westbromwich, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/10/1862 - Advert

“To be Sold, by Private Treaty, the TRAVELLERS REST Retail Brewery, Church Street, Oldbury. Coming-in £50.  
Apply upon the Premises, or to John Gray, Auctioneer, Coleshill Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Journal 15/11/1862 - Advert

“The TRAVELLERS REST TAVERN, Church Street, Oldbury.  
By John Gray. To be Disposed Of, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above very compact Retail Brewery. The Trade now being done is large and profitable, and by attention could be considerably increased. Coming-in only £50.  
Apply to John Gray, Auctioneer, 117, Coleshill Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/5/1863 - Advert

“Capital New-Licensed Inn, the TRAVELLERS REST, Church Street, Oldbury.  
Opposite the County Court, and fronting the main Turnpike Road.  
By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, in consequence of the present Proprietor having other engagements.  
The House consists of Front Bar, Smoke Room, large Tap Room, three Bed Rooms, large Club Room, good Cellar, capital Brewery, Stabling for eight Horses, Marble and Skittle Alley, Piggeries, large and enclosed Yard, with a good supply of Water. Immediate possession may be had.  
Coming-in about £60. Rent £22 per annum.



For further particulars and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, Hotel Valuer, and Estate Agent, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/3/1866 - Advert

“To be Sold, an excellent angular Sign Board. Also, Two famous Bulk Windows. Apply, *Richard Moore*’s, TRAVELLERS REST, Oldbury.”

London Gazette 31/3/1868

“*Henry Jones*, now and for the last fourteen days living in furnished lodgings at the TRAVELLERS REST INN, Oldbury-green, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, out of business, and previously thereto of the TRAVELLERS REST INN, Oldbury-green, Oldbury aforesaid, Retail Brewer, having, been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, on the 26th day of March, 1868, is hereby required to surrender himself to George Steward Watson, Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 20th day of April next, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely, at the said Court. The Registrars of the said Court are the Official Assignees, and Messrs. Shakespeare and Hartill, of Oldbury, are the Solicitors acting in the bankruptcy.”

1881 Census

24, Church Bridge – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] *Edward Darby* (33), carter and publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Ellen Darby* (40), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] John Oakes (70), lodger, widower, labourer, born Oldbury;
- [4] Jane Lenton (18), servant, born Oldbury:

1891 Census

11, Churchbridge – TRAVELLERS REST INN

- [1] *Edward Darby* (43), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Ellen Darby* (50), wife, born Halesowen:

*S. Sherwood* issued tokens from here.

*Samuel Sherwood*, beer retailer and brewer, 11, Church Bridge. [1896]

Birmingham Daily Post 22/8/1900

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

Mr. Jeffries opposed the renewal of the license of the KINGS ARMS INN, Birmingham Street, kept by the Manchester Brewery Company Limited; the TRAVELLERS REST INN, Hales Owen Street, kept by *Samuel Sherwood*; the JOLLY COLLIER INN; Albert Street, kept by Alice Baker, on the ground that they continued to give the long pull. The objection set forth that it was an unfair system of trading, that it was opposed to the wishes of the licensed trade generally, that it was contrary to public order and morality and calculated to increase drunkenness, that the license in each case was not necessary, and that the holder was not a fit and proper person to hold such license.

Mr. R. J. Lawrence appeared on behalf of the Manchester Brewery Company, and Mr. J. Clark represented the other two.

Mr. Jefferies, who opposed the licenses on behalf of the Oldbury Licensed Trade Association, gave evidence to the effect that the three publicans in question were giving more than 25% over measure agreed upon by resolution of the trade. Witness was subjected to a severe cross-examination by Mr. Lawrence, in the course of which he acknowledged that trade combinations did sometimes fail, and that in the event of this particular one failing all the publicans would go back to the old plan of giving excessive over-measure.

The Bench retired to consider their decision, after which the chairman remarked that the justices did not consider there was any reasonable ground of objection in the arguments laid before them why the licenses should not be renewed. The licenses would therefore be renewed.”

### 1901 Census

Churchbridge – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] *Samuel Sherwood* (31), publican, born Tipton;
- [2] *Lucy Sherwood* (31), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Ellen C. Sherwood* (7), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Samuel E. Sherwood* (1), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Lucy M. Sherwood* (6 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Emma Rollinson* (16), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

### 1911 Census

11, Churchbridge – TRAVELLERS REST

- [1] *Samuel Sherwood* (42), brewer and publican, born Tipton;
- [2] *Lucy Sherwood* (41), wife, married 18 years, assisting in the business, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Ellen Caroline Sherwood* (17), daughter, assisting in the business, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Samuel Edward Sherwood* (11), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Lucy Maud Sherwood* (4), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Albert Victor Sherwood* (1), son, born Oldbury:

### 1939 Register

11, Churchbridge

- [1] *Samuel Sherwood*, date of birth 19/4/1869, brewer and publican, married;
- [2] *Lucy Sherwood*, dob 14/2/1870, incapacitated, married;
- [3] *Albert V. Sherwood*, dob 26/6/1909, chief cost clerk, chemical works, single;
- [4] *Nellie Rooney*, dob 5/3/1887, paid domestic duties, single:

*Samuel Sherwood* died in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1949.

*David Wylde* was married to *Sarah Morgan*.

He died in 1954.

### Blackcountryman (Spring 1915)

‘Were We Really Poor?’ by Brian Dakin (Billy Spake Mon)

“.....The women would drink stout from a jug I usually fetched from the TRAVELLERS REST outdoor while the men drank in the smoke, traditionally male territory.....”

[c.1960s]

### Birmingham Daily Post 23/6/1962

“The driver of a police car had to brake hard and swerve to the offside of the road when a car shot in front of it from the offside of the road, Oldbury magistrates were told yesterday.

*Joseph Horton* (49), of the TRAVELLERS REST, Churchbridge, Oldbury, pleaded guilty to driving a car while under the influence of drink, and was fined £20 with four guineas costs and disqualified from driving for 12 months.”

## UNION

Church Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

Charles Allison Grayson [1855]

Ball [1857]

Richard Pace [1861]

## NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

### London Gazette 13/9/1859

“*Charles Allison Grayston* (sued and committed as Charles Grayston, and sometimes sued and addressed as Charles Allison Graystone and Charles Graystone), formerly of Smethwick, then of Wolverhampton, both in the county of Stafford, Commercial Traveller, then of the UNION TAVERN, Church-street, Oldbury, Commission Agent for Wines and Spirits, and Keeper of Ale and Porter Stores, then of Westons-buildings, the Flash, Oldbury, Commission Agent, then of Oldbury-green, Oldbury, all in the county of Worcester, then of No.66A, Paradise-street, Rotherhithe, in the county of Surrey, then of No.72, Ickniel-square, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, out of business or employment, then and late of Bole Bridge-street, Tamworth, in the county of Stafford, Clerk at the Glascote Colliery, near Tamworth, in the county of Warwick.”

*Charles Allison Grayston* – see also PERROTT ARMS.

### Worcester Herald 11/4/1857

“Worcestershire Easter Quarter Sessions.....

William Tonks was convicted of having, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1856, at Oldbury, feloniously stolen 3s 6d and a piece of leather, the property of John Walleth. Mr. Byrne prosecuted.

Prosecutor, an elderly man, on the afternoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> August went into the WHITE HORSE INN, Oldbury, where he remained drinking about three-quarters of an hour. He afterwards left the inn, and, having to wait for his brother, sat down on the step of an adjoining public house, the UNION, where he went to sleep.

Whilst asleep, the articles named in the indictment were taken from his pocket.

Mrs. *Ball*, landlady of the UNION, and a young man named Wise, who was there at the time, both deposed to having seen prisoner put his hand into prosecutor’s pocket, and Wise observed him take the money out. He remarked to him upon the impropriety of his conduct.

The same night prisoner was given into custody, and committed for trial at the October sessions. Prosecutor, however, was absent when the case was called on at the sessions, and his recognisances were estreated. Prisoner was admitted to bail to appear at the Epiphany sessions, but did not attend, and hence the lengthened term between the committal and trial of the accused. He had previously been convicted of felony. Eighteen months’ hard labour.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1861

“Yesterday, James Green, labourer, was charged with uttering a counterfeit shilling. On the 8<sup>th</sup> he went into the house of *Richard Pace*, a publican, of Oldbury, and called for some ale, for which he put down half-a-crown. Mr. *Pace* told him he had smaller change than that, and prisoner immediately picked up the half-crown and put down a shilling, which Mr. *Pace* took. It was afterwards found to be bad, and upon searching the prisoner the half-crown was found to be also bad. A few days previously prisoner changed half-a-crown for some rum at another publican’s, but it was discovered, and he gave Mr. Knight, the publican, a good one instead. The wife of prisoner was brought up a few weeks ago upon the same charge, having uttered three counterfeit pieces of money; but as the presiding magistrate thought there was some doubt about the identity of the woman, he gave her the benefit of it and discharged her. The male prisoner was yesterday remanded for a fortnight, in order that the Mint authorities might be communicated with.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 6/3/1861

“Worcestershire Adjournd Quarter Sessions.....

James Green, labourer, was indicted for having, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December last, attempted to pass a base half-crown and two base shillings, to Mr. *Pace*, publican, Oldbury. A verdict of guilty was returned, and the prisoner was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.”

1861 Census

Church Street – UNION TAVERN

[1] *Richard Pace* (45), beerhouse keeper, born Birmingham;

[2] Elizabeth Pace (55), wife, born Newport, Shropshire:

[1885]

UNION

24, (9), Tabernacle Street, (Chapel Lane), OLDBURY

OWNERS

David Pearson

W. B. Weightman, Casby Mills, Grantham, Lincolnshire

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (leased)

Thomas Oliver Ltd. (acquired c.1917)

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired c.1946)

LICENSEES

Aaron Whitehouse [1850] – [1860]

John Darby [1861]

Mrs. Mary Ann Whitehouse [1862]

Mary Ann Morris [ ] – **1863**;

William Jukes Jnr. (**1863** – [1871])

David Pearson [1872] – **1889**;

Benjamin Smith (**1889** – **1892**);

Elizabeth Mold (**1892** – **1893**);

Samuel Cooper Snr. (**1893** – **1898**);

Alfred Cottrill (**1898** – **1901**);

Nathaniel Hadley [1901]

Henry Watkins (**1901**);

Mary Jane Watkins (**1901** – **1902**);

Stephen Richard Caddick (**1902**);

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (**1902** – **1906**);

Sarah (Beasley) Horton (**1906** – **1908**);

Samuel Baker (**1908** – **1910**);

Mrs. Elizabeth Beasley (**1910** – **1912**);

John Horton (**1912** – **1914**);

Abraham Thomas Millward (**1914** – **1924**);

Alfred Plumb (**1924** – **1925**);

William Penn (**1925** – **1931**);

William Penn (1931 – 1932); [son of above?]  
Harvey Palmer (1932 – 1938);  
William Weaver (1938 – 1943);  
Annie Clarissa (Weaver) Turner (1943 – 1947);  
William Edwin Turner (1947 – 1959):

## NOTES

Chapel Lane [1851]  
9, Tabernacle Street [1871], [1873], [1881]  
24, Tabernacle Street [1891], [1892], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1921], [1939]

*Aaron Whitehouse*, retailer of beer, Chapel Lane. [1850]

### 1851 Census

Chapel Lane

[1] *Aaron Whitehouse* (35), victualler and brickmaker employing 22 labourers, born Tipton;  
[2] Ann Whitehouse (35), wife, born Rowley;  
[3] Mary Ann Whitehouse (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;  
[4] Thomas Whitehouse (11), son, scholar, born Oldbury;  
[5] James Whitehouse (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;  
[6] Jane Whitehouse (7), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;  
[7] Emma Whitehouse (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;  
[8] Betsy Brockhouse (22), general servant, born Oldbury:

*Aaron Whitehouse* was also a brickmaker. [1854], [1860]  
He issued tokens bearing UNION INN – brick and tile manufacturer.

### County Advertiser 27/3/1858

“William Harvey, a youth of 18, was charged on the information of John Thorpe, with stealing an engine brass, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst, the property of *Aaron Whitehouse*, of Oldbury. The offence was fully proved, and he was sentenced to 21 days’ hard labour in the House of Correction.”

### Birmingham Journal 25/9/1858 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, that excellent Old-licensed good Business Public House, the UNION INN, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury, which comprises front Tap Room, front Parlour, Bar, Cooking Kitchen, four Chambers, large Club Room, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Store Room, Stabling, lock-up Coach-house, Piggeries, Pump of excellent Water, and enclosed Yard.

There are five Clubs attached to the House; it is situated in a populous neighbourhood, and close to the extensive Ironworks belonging to Captain Bennitt. This is a rare opportunity for any party wishing to embark in the business. The present Proprietor is leaving solely on account of his health.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply on the Premises; or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

### Worcestershire Chronicle 11/1/1860

“Worcestershire Epiphany Sessions.....

Edward Holden, 18, collier, charged with stealing a saw from *Aaron Whitehouse*, at Oldbury, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October last, was found guilty; and a previous conviction having been admitted, he was sentenced to six months’ hard labour, and to be once privately whipped.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 2/10/1860 - Died

“On the 29<sup>th</sup> ult, after a painful illness, aged 17 years, Sarah Jane, second daughter of Mr. *Aaron Whitehouse*, of Oldbury, deeply regretted by family and friends.”

*John Darby* = John Darbey

### 1861 Census

Tabernacle Street – UNION INN

- [1] *John Darby* (47), victualler, born Smethwick;
- [2] Eliza Darby (47), wife, born Kearsley, Warwickshire;
- [3] Rebecca Darby (16), daughter, born Smethwick;
- [4] John Darby (9), son, born Smethwick;
- [5] Ellen Darby (4), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [6] Elizabeth Morris (18), niece, general servant, born Smethwick:

### Birmingham Journal 8/6/1861 - Advert

“Oldbury. A Capital Opportunity. The UNION INN, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed of by Private Treaty, by direction of Mr. *John Darbey*, who is giving up the Public Business, the Licenses and Possession of the above well-known Inn. No Goodwill required. The Effects and Stock to be taken to at a valuation. The above is an excellent and unusual opportunity of taking a good accustomed Inn. Immediate possession can be had.

Apply to Mr. J. S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Valuer, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 23/11/1861 - Advert

“Important Notice. To Publicans, Brokers, and Others, (under a Bill of Sale), upon the Premises of Mr. *Aaron Whitehouse*, UNION INN, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury.

By Thomas Ault. To be Sold by Auction, on Wednesday Next, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1861, commencing at half-past Ten o’clock am.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above well-known Old-licensed Public House; also the whole of the Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, public house Fixtures, Gas Fittings, and other Effects, particulars of which will appear in catalogues, to be had at the Place of Sale, and at the Auctioneer’s, High Street, West Bromwich, and High West, Smethwick.”

### 1871 Census

9, Tabernacle Street – Public House

- [1] *William Jukes* (48), publican, born South Wales;
- [2] Louisa Jukes (41), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] John Price Jukes (19), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] Mary Jane Jukes (17), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Frederick Jukes (15), son, born Oldbury;
- [6] Harriet Jukes (13), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] Thomas Jukes (11), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] Joseph Jukes (9), son, born Oldbury;
- [9] Richard Jukes (7), son, born Oldbury;
- [10] Charles Jukes (3), son, born Oldbury;
- [11] Elizabeth Green (14), general servant, born Oldbury;
- [12] James Harper (46), boarder, musician, born London;
- [13] John Crawshaw (35), boarder, musician, born Manchester;
- [14] Richard Wilcox (31), boarder, musician, born Wakefield;
- [15] Fred Walton (29), boarder, musician, born Manchester;
- [16] Charles Thompson (19), boarder, artist, born New York, America;
- [17] James Haslem (13), boarder, artist, born Manchester:

### Birmingham Daily Post 4/5/1871 - Advert

“The Publicans and Others. The UNION INN, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by John G. Wright, This Day (Thursday), May 4.

All the Public House Effects, Household Furniture, and other Goods belonging to Mr. *William Jukes*, UNION INN, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury, under an Execution from the Sheriff; comprising Beer Machine, Measures, Bar Fittings, oblong and other Tables, Eight-day Clock, Chairs, Benches, Gas Fittings, Oval Mash Tub, Cooling Vats, Boilers, Barrels, Tubs, Brewing Utensils, Bedsteads, Bedding, and Chamber Furniture. Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 20/8/1873 - Advert

"For Sale, 30-horse power High Pressure Beam Engine, suitable for pits or other works. Apply, *David Pearson*, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/12/1876

"Yesterday Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, held inquests at the UNION INN, Tabernacle Lane, upon the bodies of Michael Laughton (61), night watchman, of the same locality, and Thomas Wane (48), collier, Brades Village, who both died very suddenly.

In the case of Laughton it appeared that he returned from his work about midday on Monday and went to bed. Soon afterwards the woman at whose house he lodged heard him make a peculiar noise, and on going to his room saw that he was gasping for breath and bleeding at the mouth. She ran for a doctor, but before the latter arrived the deceased expired.

With regard to Wane, it transpired that he went to bed with his son about 11 o'clock on Wednesday night. The next morning the son arose about half-past five and went to work, leaving the deceased, who was then apparently in good health, in bed. The deceased did not get up, and at 12 o'clock his landlady called to him to go down to dinner. She received no answer, and on going upstairs found that he was dead.

In both cases a verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned."

#### 1881 Census

9, Tabernacle Street

[1] *David Pearson* (51), licensed victualler, born Leobury, Warwickshire;

[2] *Emma Pearson* (48), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Ellen Grainger* (20), daughter, married, born Oldbury;

[4] *George Pearson* (20), son, born Oldbury;

[5] *Emily Pearson* (16), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] *Sophie Pearson* (13), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] *John Pearson* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[8] *Clara Pearson* (5), daughter, born Oldbury;

[9] *Clara J. Grainger* (2), grand-daughter, born Oldbury;

[10] *Thomas Jukes* (21), general servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/4/1884

"*Thomas Hunt* (30), navy, of Congleton, Cheshire, for stealing a waistcoat, the property of *David Pearson*, of the UNION INN, Tabernacle Street, on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst, was fined 10s and costs, or, in default, fourteen days' hard labour."

*David Pearson* – see also THREE HORSESHOES.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1890

"Last evening an inquest was held at the UNION INN, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury, before Mr. E. Docker (coroner), on the body of a male child, whose parents, William and Eliza Green, reside in Inkerman Street, Oldbury.

From the evidence given it appeared that the mother gave birth to a still-born child on Saturday, a woman named Eliza Crumpton attending to her. Nothing further was done until Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> inst, when an application was made to Dr. Cunningham for a certificate for burial of the body. This was refused, and information was given to the police. The mother of deceased was in a wretched condition, and lay on an old mattress on the floor of the bedroom, with only a blanket to cover her. The house contained only one bed-

room, and in this the husband, wife, and four children slept, the eldest child being about eight years of age. It was shown that no provision was made for the baby.

Mrs. Crumpton stated that the child was still-born.

Mr. McMillan, assistant to Dr. Cunningham, stated that he could not tell whether the child had had a separate existence unless a post mortem examination was made.

The father of the deceased, who is a forehead puddler, was called, and gave his evidence in such a way that the Coroner expressed strong disapprobation at his conduct, and remarked that if he treated his wife and family in accordance with the way he gave his evidence he could only describe him as a worthless fellow. The jury concurred in the views expressed by the coroner. They returned a verdict to the effect that the child was still-born, and added to it a recommendation that the coroner should censure the father of the child, and also that the police should be requested to call the attention of the sanitary inspector to the condition of the home.

The father was called into the room and severely reprimanded by the Coroner, who said he considered he had behaved in a brutal manner towards his wife in neglecting to provide her with the necessaries at her confinement.

Sergeant Clarke was directed to call the attention of the sanitary inspector to the state of Green's home."

### 1891 Census

24, Tabernacle Street

- [1] *Benjamin Smith* (46), innkeeper, born Smethwick;
- [2] Sarah A. Smith (38), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Edwin Smith (13), son, scholar, born Denbighshire;
- [4] Lillie Smith (7), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [5] Louisa Smith (4), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [6] Clara Smith (3), daughter, scholar, born Wednesbury;
- [7] Lydia Wilson (20), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

*Benjamin Smith* – see also BUSH, Leabrook Road, Tipton.

### Smethwick Telephone 8/4/1893

"UNION INN, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury.

Mr. W. H. Pass is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1893.

The Valuable Brewing Plant, and Portion of Household Furniture, comprising Boilers, Well-made Mash Tub, Fermenting Vessels, Deal Vats, Copper Refrigerator, 60, 100, and 120 Gallon Casks (all cooper made and in good condition), Iron Bedsteads, Palliasses, Beds, Bed Clothing, and numerous other effects as set forth in Catalogues, to be had from the Auctioneer.

Sale to commence at 11am prompt.

Auctioneer's Office, 13 Church Street, Oldbury."

### 1901 Census

24, Tabernacle Street – UNION INN

- [1] *Nathaniel Hadley* (30), engine fitter and publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Mary E. Hadley (30), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Gladys Hadley (6), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Horace Hadley (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] Doris Hadley (8 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Harriet Hadley (25), sister, born Oldbury;
- [7] Rebecca Heeley (16), domestic servant, born Tividale:

### Smethwick Weekly News 18/1/1902 - Advert

"Under New Management. Call at the UNION INN, Tabernacle Street, Oldbury.

N. W. B. Ales in splendid condition.

Wines, Spirits and Cigars of best quality.



Stabling for 6 Horses.  
Free and Easy every Saturday and Monday.  
Proprietor, Mr. *S. R. Caddick* (late of Smethwick).”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 1/2/1902

“On Thursday se’nnight a complimentary supper took place at the house of Mr. *S. R. Caddick*, UNION INN, Tabernacle Street, when a large company assembled to greet the landlord in his new abode. After the renewal of the cloth, Mr. S. Sherwood, of Oldbury, was voted to the chair, and Mr. H. Thomas occupied the vice chair.....”

*Stephen Richard Caddick* – see also RAILWAY, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.

*Sarah Beasley* married Arthur Horton in November 1907.

#### 1911 Census

24, Tabernacle Street – UNION INN

[1] *Elizabeth Beasley* (45), widow, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;  
[2] *Annie Wright* (22), servant assisting in business, born Dudley:

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Central Darts League. [1939]

#### 1939 Register

24, Tabernacle Street

[1] *William Weaver*, date of birth 23/6/1901, examiner, steel tubes, married;  
[2] *Annie (Weaver) Turner*, dob 15/12/1905, domestic duties, married:

*Annie Clarissa Weaver* married *William Edwin Turner* in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1946.

*William Edwin Turner* – see also NEW INN.

It closed in 1959.

## VICTORIA STORES

58, (26), Birmingham Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Walter Showell, Langley, Oldbury  
Showell and Sons Ltd. (later Showell and Co. Ltd.)

### LICENSEES

Harriet Taylor [1861]  
Montague Alfred Taylor [1866] – **1869**);  
Walter Showell (**1869** – [ ]  
William Judd [1871] – **1872**);  
John Grosvenor (**1872** – [1873]  
George Bonser [1880] – **1884**);

Henry Hinchley (1884 – 1886);  
John Thorp (1886 – 1887);  
John Boddington (1887 – 1888);  
Ann Boddington (1888 – 1889);  
William Stokes Cox (1889 – 1890);  
David Charles Price (1890);  
Charles Clifton (1890 – 1891);  
Denis Corbett (1891 – 1897);  
Annie Lena Corbett (1897);  
James Forrest (1897 – 1900);  
Joseph Thomas Mills (1900 – 1901);  
Harry Grantham (1901 – 1903);  
Lydia Steele (1903 – 1904);  
William Nightingale (1904 – 1905);  
Elizabeth Nightingale (1905 – 1906);  
Thomas Shaw (1906):

## NOTES

26, Birmingham Street [1871], [1873], [1881]  
58, Birmingham Street [1891], [1901]

It had a 6-day beerhouse license.

### 1861 Census

Birmingham Street on Oldbury Green

- [1] *Harriet Taylor* (32), manager of wine vaults, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Montague Taylor* (20), brother, dealer in Burton Ales, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Mary Jaques* (27), house servant, born Cloughton, Leicestershire:

*Montague Alfred Taylor* married Emma Davis in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1862.

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/2/1866

“On Tuesday evening a soiree and presentation took place in the People’s Hall, Oldbury. There was a good attendance, and the hall was tastefully decorated with evergreens, banners, &c. The proceedings commenced with the performance of a selection of vocal music, after which refreshments were supplied in the hall, by Mr. *Montague Taylor*. The presentation of the testimonial to Mr. Oliver Johnson then took place. Mr. Bowlby having referred to the great good Mr. Johnson had done in establishing musical performances in the town, Mr. Marsh presented Mr. Johnson with a purse containing one hundred guineas, after which Mr. Sadler, on behalf of the ladies, presented the same gentleman with a handsomely-bound copy of the ‘Elijah.’ Mr. Johnson, who was much affected, thanked the donors for the testimonial which they had been so kind to present to him.

Several other songs were afterwards given, and the performance concluded by the singing of the National Anthem.”

### Stourbridge Observer 15/9/1866

“On Tuesday, the annual licensing meeting was held in the Magistrates’ Room. The magistrates present were E. Moore, S. Hanbury, and F. Adkins, Esqrs. There were three applications for old licenses.....

Mr. *Montague Alfred Taylor*, the STORES, Oldbury.

Mr. Shakespeare opposed on behalf of the licensed victuallers in the neighbourhood. In answer to Mr. Shakespeare applicant said he had lived in the house three years. He had a refreshment house connected with the public house. He carried on the confectionery business. He applied last year. He had six rooms on

the ground floor, three of which were used for drinking purposes. He had four bed-rooms, three of which only are used by the family, having a bedroom always vacant. Mr. Shakespeare had nothing whatever to say against the character of Mr. *Taylor*. His objection to the license being granted was that where there were ten licensed victuallers within 200 yards there could be no necessity for another. The magistrates, however, thought differently and granted the license.”

Worcester Journal 1/12/1866 - Deaths

“November 23, Jesse Smart, youngest son of Mr. *Montague A. Taylor*, of Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/10/1867

“The first entertainment of this season was held at the Independent School, Talbot Street, Oldbury, on Monday evening, the Rev. W. W. Jubb occupying the chair. An attractive programme was produced, in which Mr. G. W. Midgley, of Birmingham, gratified the audience with several of his popular readings, and the reverend Chairman gave a reading from Washington Irving in excellent style. The entertainments were enlivened with songs from Mr. Oliver Johnson and Mr. *Montague A. Taylor*, accompanied by Messrs. Hayward and Howl. Solos on the cornet were given by Mr. William Yates, and on the piano-forte by Dr. Hayward, Miss Weston, and Miss Nash, and altogether a very pleasant evening was spent.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 5/2/1868 - Deaths

“On the 16<sup>th</sup> ultimo, in the 27<sup>th</sup> year of her age, Emma, wife of *Montague Alfred Taylor*, of Oldbury, and daughter of D. F. Davis, Esq, late of The Brades.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 12/12/1868 - Marriages

“On the 9<sup>th</sup> inst, at St. John’s, Dudley, by the Rev. E. H. L. Noot, *Montague A. Taylor*, of Oldbury, to Maria, youngest daughter of the late D. F. Davis, of The Brades.”

*M. A. Taylor* issued tokens from here.

1871 Census

26, Birmingham Street

[1] *William Judd* (36), baker, born Foleshill, Warwickshire;

[2] *Ellen Judd* (38), wife, born Foleshill, Warwickshire:

*William Judd*, beer retailer, Birmingham Street. [1872]

*John Grosvenor*, beer retailer, 26, Birmingham Street. [1873]

Dudley Guardian 24/10/1874

“Worcestershire Quarter Sessions.....

Rachael Cooke (56), labourer, was indicted for stealing a tumbler glass, on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, the property of Mr. *Showell*, of the STORES, Oldbury. Mr. Godson prosecuted; prisoner was undefended.

Prisoner was in the habit of visiting the STORES, and glasses being missed her house was searched, and one that was identified was found there.

Six months’ hard labour.”

Dudley and District News 28/8/1880

“On Monday, the Annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury division was held.....

The Bench would deal with the several application for new licenses.....

*George Bonser* and *Charles Roberts* applied for six days’ licenses to be altered to seven days’, for houses situate in Oldbury ..... Adjourned.”

Dudley and District News 2/10/1880

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Oldbury and district were held on Monday.....

*George Bonser* and Charles Roberts each applied for six days' licenses to be altered to seven days' licenses. Both applications were refused, the old licenses in each case being granted."

#### 1881 Census

26, Birmingham Street

- [1] *George Bonser* (39), beerhouse keeper, born Tamworth;
- [2] Elizabeth Bonser (38), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Clara C. Bonser (18), daughter, dressmaker, born Oldbury;
- [4] John E. Bonser (16), son, coach maker, born Oldbury;
- [5] Walter Eardley (28), lodger, coach painter, born Coventry:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 28/5/1881

"Ellen Martin was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the VICTORIA STORES, Birmingham Street, on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst.

*George Bonser* said about nine o'clock on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup>, the defendant came into the stores, kept by him, and sang an indecent song. She struck him and his son whilst trying to put him out, and was very violent.

Defendant was fined 10s and costs."

*George Bonser*, beer retailer, 26, Birmingham Street. [1884]

*George Bonser* – see also ROSE AND CROWN, Halesowen Street.

#### Wolverhampton Express and Star 10/3/1885

"Mr. Jackson made a renewed application for the transfer of the license of the BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, from a man named Yeomans, to *George Bonser*.

It appears that Mr. *Bonser* formerly kept the VICTORIA STORES, in Birmingham Street, and left that place to go to the BRIDGE INN. An application was made for the transfer at the time, but as he had just previously been summoned for two infringements of his license at the STORES, the Bench refused the application, but agreed to grant a temporary authority till 10<sup>th</sup> March, in order to facilitate Mr. *Bonser's* getting another tenant. The premises at the BRIDGE INN are owned by Messrs. Butler and Co., Wolverhampton.

The Bench now refused to grant the application on the ground that no new facts were stated, but agreed to grant a further temporary authority to one of the employés of Messrs. Butler and Co. until transfer day."

AND

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/3/1885

"Mr. H. Jackson applied on behalf of *George Bonser* for a transfer of the license of the BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, from William John Yeomans. Superintendent Hardman objected to the application, on the ground that the applicant had been convicted for keeping open during prohibited hours, and for permitting gambling on the 16<sup>th</sup> December last. The Bench declined to grant the application. A temporary transfer was subsequently granted to Mr. Samuel Fellows, the agent of Messrs. Butler and Company, of Wolverhampton."

#### Liverpool Weekly Courier 25/9/1886

"At Oldbury Alfred Wall, 23, striker, of Smethwick, was charged with stealing a silver mounted jug and a glass, of the value of 3s, the property of Joseph Parkes, of the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury.

On Saturday a football match took place in a field at the rear of the RAILWAY INN and after the match concluded prisoner and a number of companions adjourned to the public house, where they remained for a short time. Immediately after they left the jug and glass were missed. Prosecutor gave information to Police-sergeant Stanton, and he and Mr. Parkes hired a cab and went in pursuit of the party. Proceeding in the direction of Smethwick they overtook four of them, whom they searched, and failed to find the missing property. They subsequently returned to the VICTORIA STORES, Birmingham Street, where they found the remainder of the team. They were called into a private room and searched. Prisoner, it was alleged, was observed to stoop down in a suspicious manner, and soon afterwards Mr. Parkes found the jug under the seat where he had been sitting.

Prisoner denied all knowledge of the robbery.

Police-sergeant Stanton later on found the glass on a bench in the room where the prisoner and his companions had been drinking. The officer took seven of them to the police station, where the prisoner pleaded guilty to the charge of stealing the jug. He expressed himself sorry for what he had done, and pleaded that he was under the influence of beer.

The bench took a lenient view of the case, and allowed prisoner to go on the payment of the costs, 26s 6d.”

*John Boddington*, beer retailer, Birmingham Street. [1888]

#### 1891 Census

58, Birmingham Street

[1] *Charles Clifton* (47), beerhouse manager, born Langley;

[2] *Elizabeth Clifton* (43), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Edmund Clifton* (23), son, baker, born Liverpool;

[4] *William Clifton* (18), son, driver on steam hammer, born Liverpool:

#### Smethwick Telephone 11/4/1891 - Advert

“Notice of Removal.

Owing to want of Space *Corbett's* Dining Rooms, are now at the VICTORIA STORES, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

Nearly opposite Post Office.

Hot Dinners Daily. Tea &c.

Catering for all Parties on the most reasonable Terms.”

#### Birmingham Mail 17/7/1891 - Advert

“General Servant, good, strong, Wanted at once.

*Corbett*, VICTORIA STORES, 58, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

*Denis Corbett*, beer retailer and dining rooms, 58, Birmingham Street. [1896]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1900 - Advert

“Bakers and Confectioners and Refreshment House Keepers.

Ale, Beer, Wine License attached; large dining room; splendid premises. Goodwill £50; fittings, trade utensils not to exceed £45.

VICTORIA STORES, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

*Harry Grantham* = Harvey Grantham

#### 1901 Census

58, Birmingham Street – VICTORIA STORES INN

[1] *Harry Grantham* (24), publican and eating house, born Brownhills;

[2] *Elizabeth Grantham* (27), wife, born Grimley, Worcestershire;

[3] *Harrold Grantham* (1), son, born Burton, Staffordshire;

[4] *Baby Grantham* (1 month), son, born Oldbury;

[5] *Gertrude Mellor* (14), nursemaid, born Burton, Staffordshire;

[6] *Emma Berkett* (33), waitress, born Wednesbury:

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

The license was surrendered on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

## VILLAGE TAVERN

70, (14), (7), Dudley Road, (14, Brades Village), (Brades New Village), OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Arthur Wright, Oldbury

Thomas Plant, Plant's Brewery, Netherton [1901]

Ansells Ltd. (acquired in 1937)

### LICENSEES

David Hadley [ ]

Charles Sturges [1855] – [1865]

Joseph Powell [1869] – [1870]

Joseph Pugh [1871]

James Lewis [ ] – **1872**);

Charles Sturgess (**1872** – [1873]

John Guest Peacock [1880] – [1883]

Thomas Plant [1884] – **1886**);

George Allen (**1886** – **1898**);

Francis Stevenson (**1898** – **1901**);

Plant's Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1901** – **1910**);

Charles Salter [1901] – [1903] manager

George Hinton (**1910** – **1912**);

Sarah Ann Smith (**1912** – **1913**);

David Willetts (**1913** – **1920**);

Elizabeth Willetts (**1920** – **1930**);

Sarah Ann Hinton (**1930** – **1947**);

Albert Cooper (**1947** – **1950**);

Alfred Radcliffe (**1950** – **1951**);

George Alder Oakley (**1951** – **1952**);

Ernest Powell (**1952** – **1953**);

William Sambrook (**1953** – **1956**);

William Frederick Knowles (**1956** – **1958**);

Albert Grazier (**1958** – **1961**);

Joseph George 'Joe' Oakley (**1961** – [1962])

### NOTES

Brades New Village [1862]

7, Dudley Road [1871], [1873], [1881]

14, Dudley Road [1891], [1901]

14, Brades Village [1896]

70, Dudley Road [1911], [1921], [1939]

### Birmingham Journal 21/5/1859 - Advert

“Freehold Property, New Brades Village, Oldbury, Worcestershire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Hawkins, on Tuesday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 1859, at the house of Mr. *Charles Sturges*, the VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, Oldbury, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to condi-

tions to be then produced.

All those Two substantially-built Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, together with a valuable Plot of Building Land adjoining the same, and together also with the Out-buildings and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate at New Brades Village, in Oldbury aforesaid, fronting to a street leading out of the Oldbury and Dudley Turnpike Road called Albion Street, and the said Plot of Land having also a frontage to a street called Salop Street.

The Property is in the occupation of Richard Davies and Isaac Thomas, and adjoins the FOUNTAIN TAVERN, kept by Mr. Thomas Babbs, and produces a yearly rental of £17 11s.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. H. Plunkett, Solicitor, Oldbury and West Bromwich; or to the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

#### 1861 Census

Dudley Road – VILLAGE TAVERN

- [1] *Charles Sturges* (39), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Martha Sturges* (40), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] *Mary J. Sturges* (15), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Harriet A. Sturges* (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Martha Sturges* (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Charles S. Sturges* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] *John H. B. Sturges* (4), son, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Emily M. Sturges* (4 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [9] *Caroline Griffiths* (18), servant, born Wednesbury:

#### Newcastle Journal 17/2/1862 - Deaths

“At the residence of Mr. Joseph Simpson, Union Place, Moray Street, Emerald Hill, on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, Mr. *David Hadley*, late of the VILLAGE TAVERN, Oldbury, near Birmingham.

#### London Gazette 21/12/1869

“Notice is hereby given, that *Joseph Powell*, of the VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler and Spade and Shovel Maker, has left in the office of the Chief Registrar of the Court of Bankruptcy, Quality-court, Chancery-lane, London, a list of his debts and liabilities, and a statement of his property and credits, as required by the Bankruptcy Amendment Act 1868.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1869.

Henry Chas. Barker, No.11, Great James-street, Bedford-row, London, W.C.; Agent for William Shakespeare, of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Solicitor for the person registering the Deed.”

#### 1871 Census

7, Dudley Road – VILLAGE TAVERN

- [1] *Joseph Pugh* (36), painter employing 2 men, born Tipton;
- [2] *Hannah Pugh* (34), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Ann Pugh* (2 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Sarah Glazebrook* (20), general servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 8/7/1871 - Advert

“VILLAGE TAVERN INN, Brades, Oldbury.

By E. Cox. The Licenses and Possession of that Old-established Old-licensed Inn, situate on the Turnpike Road. The Premises comprise four Cellars, Tap Room, Parlour, Bar Parlour, large Club Room, two Bed Rooms, Brewery and Malt Room, three-stall Stable, Coach-house, with Loft over both, large Yard; Carriage Drive. Rental £30. In-coming fair valuation.

Apply to Mr. E. Cox, Auctioneer and Valuer, High Street, West Bromwich.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1871 - Adverts

“By E. Cox. This Day, at 11 o’clock at the VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades, Oldbury – the whole of the Public

House Fixtures, Brewing Plant, Utensils, Furniture, and Effects. The whole to be cleared off without reserve.”

AND

“To Publicans and Others.

Unreserved Sale, at the VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades, Oldbury.

By E. Cox, This Day (Monday), July 31, at Eleven o’clock, unless disposed of by Private Contract – the whole of the Public House Fixtures, Brewing Plant, and Effects, comprising twenty bushel Mash Tub, Coolers, Tubs, 200 gallon wrought-iron Boiler, 140 gallon cast-iron ditto, hogshead and half-hogshead Barrels, Malt Crusher, four-pull Ale Machine, Gas and Water Fittings, Cut Glass, Tables, and a variety of Effects.

The House to be Let, with possession at once.

Apply, Auctioneer’s Office, High Street, West Bromwich.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1878 - Advert

“Full-Licensed House. VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, near Oldbury. In-coming about £300.

Apply, Gray, Son, and Walker, Agents and Valuers, 31, Temple Row (three doors from Bull Street), Birmingham.”

#### Dudley and District News 28/8/1880

“On Monday, the Annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury division was held.....

The magistrates decided to grant the whole of the applications for the renewal of old licenses with the exception that of *John Guest Peacock*, one of those who had been convicted of permitting drunkenness .....

Adjourned.”

#### Dudley and District News 2/10/1880

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for Oldbury and district were held on Monday.....

The license of Mr. *John Guest Peacock*, innkeeper, Brades Village, was renewed. The applicant was cautioned, he having been fined during the past year.”

#### 1881 Census

7, Dudley Road

[1] *John G. Peacock* (28), licensed victualler, born Upper Gornal;

[2] Elizabeth Peacock (29), wife, born Cheltenham;

[3] Annie E. Peacock (4), daughter, born Upper Gornal;

[4] John G. Peacock (3), son, born Upper Gornal;

[5] Phoebe Clark (15), servant, born Upper Gornal:

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 30/7/1881

“General Servant Wanted; good references required.

Apply, VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 4/7/1882 - Advert

“General Servant, for Public-house. 18 to 20. Good character.

Apply, VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/7/1883 - Advert

“VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades, Oldbury. Immediate possession. Near to Brades Steel and Oldbury Gas Works.

Apply on premises.”

#### London Gazette 7/8/1883

“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 *John Guest Peacock*, of the VILLAGE TAVERN, the Brades, near Oldbury, in the county of Worcester,



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. W. H. Tinsley, Solicitor, 31, Priory-street, Dudley, in the county of Worcester, on the 17th day of August, 1883, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 1st day of August, 1883.

Wm. Hy. Tinsley, 31, Priory-street, Dudley, Solicitor for the said Debtor."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/4/1884

"At Oldbury Court yesterday, *Thomas Plant*, brewer, of Netherton, and landlord of the BRADES TAVERN, was charged with neglecting to have his name painted on the sign of the house named. Police-sergeant Staunton proved the case, and defendant was fined 10s and the costs."

Smethwick Telephone 14/8/1886

"*George Allen*, landlord of the VILLAGE TAVERN, Rounds Green was summoned for supplying beer to a person who was drunk upon his licensed premises.

Police-constable Smith gave evidence, and the case was dismissed as there was no evidence that the defendant had supplied any beer."

AND

"Joseph Cutler, of 22, Rounds Green, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk at the VILLAGE TAVERN, Rounds Green, on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Police-constable Smith proved the charge."

Smethwick Telephone 28/8/1886

"The annual Licensing Sessions were held on Tuesday.....

The following persons had been summoned for offences against the licensing laws, and dealt with as follows ..... Licensed Victuallers.....

*George Allen*, selling to drunken persons, on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, dismissed."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1887 - Advert

"Found, 24<sup>th</sup> December, Newfoundland Dog, black and white.

Apply, VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, near Oldbury."

*George Allen*, beer retailer, Brades Village. [1888]

Birmingham Daily Post 23/12/1889 - Advert

"Lost, on Tuesday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, between West Bromwich and Spring Hill, a black-and-tan Collie Dog; white frill on breast.

Anyone returning him to VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, will be rewarded. Retainer after this notice will be prosecuted."

Birmingham Mail 25/2/1890

"Today, at the Oldbury Police Court, *George Allen* (50), of the VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, licensed victualler, was fined 10s and costs for being drunk on his own licensed premises, on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst."

AND

County Express 1/3/1890

"At Oldbury, on Tuesday, *George Allen*, landlord of the BRADES TAVERN, Brades Village, was charged with being drunk on his licensed premises, on the 17<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Sharpe defended.

Police-constable Smith said he saw the defendant being taken down the road by two men, he being drunk. When he got near his own door he fell. Witness afterwards saw him in the passage near the kitchen door.

Defendant's wife said he had not had anything to drink in the house.

Fined 10s and costs."

1891 Census

14, Dudley Road – VILLAGE TAVERN

[1] *George Allen* (50), licensed victualler, born London;

[2] Jane Allen (48), wife, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Post 4/1/1893

“At the Police Court, yesterday, John Regan, of Brades Village, was charged with assaulting *George Allen*, landlord of the BRADES TAVERN, Brades Village, on December 26. Prosecutor said that at closing time on the night named he was standing on the step at the front of his house when he observed the defendant talking to another man on the opposite side of the road. Defendant was using threatening language towards witness. Subsequently defendant walked across the road and struck him on the arm. As witness pushed him away defendant again struck him on the chest. Defendant, who alleged that prosecutor struck him first, was fined 5s and costs, or fourteen days.”

1901 Census

14, Dudley Road

[1] *Charles Salter* (31), public house manager, born Stourbridge;

[2] Mary Maria Salter (30), wife, born Stourbridge;

[3] Charles W. Salter (6), son, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/9/1901

“At Oldbury yesterday, *Charles Salter*, landlord of the VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, was charged with refusing to pay his fare on the Birmingham and Midland Tramways on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult, using obscene language, and being drunk and disorderly. The first two cases were adjourned.

Evidence was given that defendant was locked up for being drunk. Dr. Buttery was called in, and said defendant had had some beer, but was more excited than drunk. A fine of 5s and the costs was imposed.”

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

County Advertiser 18/7/1903

“On Wednesday, at Rowley Regis Police Court – before Messrs. A. H. Bassano, C. W. Bassano, J. W. Tilley, and G. H. Holcroft – John Gorton (21), alias Walter Douglas, labourer, who refused to give his address, but belongs to Birmingham; John Henry Green (24), alias John Turst, glassworker, of Mill Street, Aston, Birmingham; and John Bourton (21), horse dealer, of Adderley Street, Bordewsley, Birmingham, were charged in custody on remand with uttering base coin at Tividale on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, and also with having base coin in their possession on the same date. Mr. F. Hooper, of Birmingham, appeared to defend Green and Bourton. Mary Hill, sister of the landlord of the BROWN LION INN, Tividale, stated that on the afternoon of the date named, the prisoners Gorton and Bourton visited the public house, and were supplied with some drink and cigarettes. Gorton tendered a five shilling piece, which witness examined and refused to accept, as she did not care to take it. Gorton said, ‘It is all right; I wish I had a thousand of them.’ Witness, however, told him that she should not take it, and Bourton then paid for the drink. In reply to Mr. Hooper, witness said she still adhered to her statement made on the previous Wednesday that Bourton was the man who came into the house with Gorton.

Thomas Cox, landlord of the SEVEN STARS INN, Tividale, said that the prisoners Gorton and Bourton visited the house on the date named and purchased two glasses of ale. A five shilling piece was handed to witness in payment of the ale, but this he refused to take as it did not seem to be satisfactory to him, and he had also received an intimation, whilst the prisoners were in the house, that bad money was being passed in the district.

James Griffiths, of High Street, Tipton, stated that on the afternoon of the date named, he saw Police-constable Heatherley searching for three men who were running away in the direction of Dudley Port. The officer asked witness to follow them and he did so upon his bicycle. They crossed over the London and North Western Railway and witness caught them up. He rode alongside the prisoners for about forty yards and called upon three young men to assist him to capture them, but they all refused. Witness then caught Gorton and held him until Police-constable Heatherley arrived upon the scene. The other two prisoners ran away

across the fields.

Police-constable Heatherley stated that whilst he was chasing the prisoners he noticed Gorton put his hand in his left hand pocket, pull out something, and throw it away. Upon arriving at the spot witness found sixteen base crown pieces (produced). Witness conveyed Gorton to Old Hill Police Station, and the other two prisoners, when charged with the offence, said they did not know where Tividale was.

Mary Salter, wife of *Charles Salter*, of the VILLAGE TAVERN, Brades Village, Oldbury, stated that on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst the prisoners Gorton and Bourton visited her house and were supplied with some drink. Gorton gave her a five shilling piece and witness handed him 4s 6d change. She could not say whether the coin was a base one as she had since disposed of it.

Police-sergeant Evans, of the Birmingham police, deposed to seeing the three prisoners leaving a public house in Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. They separated, but witness subsequently saw them together again at the Snow Hill Station. The same evening, upon receipt of a telephonic message from Old Hill, he arrested Bourton, who in reply to the charge, said he did not know where Tividale was, and he had been in the city all that day.

Detective Harris deposed to arresting Green, who also denied being at Tividale.

Police-constables Lawson and Foulkes described a conversations they heard between the three prisoners at Handsworth Station on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst, after they had been remanded and were being escorted to Winson Green Gaol. Gorton said, 'I wish I had never seen — Tividale,' to which Green replied, 'I have never been there before, and I will watch I don't go again.' Bourton said, 'Nor me, I don't know where Tividale is.'

Harry Arthur Griffiths, jeweller, of High Street, Cradley Heath, deposed to examining the sixteen five shilling pieces found by Police-constable Heatherley; they were all counterfeit.

When charged with the offences by the magistrates' clerk (Mr. T. Cooksey), Gorton said, 'I plead guilty to attempting to pass one base coin not knowing it to be bad. These two fellows (pointing to the other prisoners) were not with me on the afternoon, although they were with me on the morning when seen by Sergeant Evans.'

The other prisoners pleaded not guilty, and Mr. Hooper, on their behalf, urged that there was no evidence whatever against Green, and that the witnesses were mistaken as to Bourton. Both men were in Birmingham during the day in question. A number of witnesses were called to prove this, but eventually the Bench committed the prisoners for trial at the Assizes, bail being refused.

Mr. A. H. Bassano (the presiding magistrate) complimented James Griffiths, the cyclist, for the pluck he displayed to secure the arrest of the three prisoners. Superintendent Pilliner said the police much appreciated the valuable assistance they received from Griffiths, through whose efforts the prisoners had been brought to justice.

Detective Harris gave Superintendent Pilliner particulars of the prisoners' antecedents, which raised the ire of Bourton, who attempted to assault Harris, and declared his intention of killing him for giving the Staffordshire police particulars, which he characterised as an injustice. Owing to his violence it was necessary for a policeman to stand near to him in the dock."

[For the initial hearing see under BROWN LION.]

#### Staffordshire Sentinel 27/7/1903

"The County Assizes.....

John Gorton, 21, clerk, and John Henry Green, 24, glass blower, and John Bourton, 21, horse dealer, were charged with uttering to Thomas Cox, on July 4<sup>th</sup>, at Tividale, Rowley Regis, a piece of counterfeit coin resembling a 5s piece, well knowing it to be false and counterfeit. Gorton was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, Green was discharged, and Bourton was sentenced to five months' imprisonment."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/2/1908

"The Great Tornado.....

Considerable damage was done at Oldbury, chiefly in the Brades Village district. Here there was one fatal case, a widow named Elizabeth Lane (38) being killed through a chimney crashing through the roof of the one-storey house in Dudley Road where she lived with her five children. There are four rooms to the house. The dining room and the kitchen form that side of the house nearest to the VILLAGE TAVERN. Three out of the four chimneys on the tavern were blown down, two of them crashing through the roof of the inn, and

the other falling about a distance of twenty feet on to the roof of Mrs. Lane's house."

County Express 1/8/1908

"Bowling..... The outstanding feature of the match, VILLAGE TAVERN (Oldbury) v GRAND TURK (Kingswinford), was the fine bowling of W. Guy and C. Nicholls for the TURK, and L. Carrol and J. Crump for the VILLAGE TAVERN. I notice W. Handley defeated his man. Although the home team were beaten their performance for a new team was fairly good, and the visit of the GRAND TURK to Oldbury has given quite an impetus to the game in the district."

1911 Census

70, Dudley Road

- [1] *George Hinton* (33), general labourer, tube works, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Kate Hinton* (31), wife, married 7 years, born Oldbury;
- [3] *May Hinton* (6), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Doris Hinton* (5), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Joseph Jinkens* (36), boarder, general labourer, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Harriet Franks* (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

*Sarah Ann Hinton* had been married to *William Cox Hinton* who died in 1930. She had previously been married to *Edward Thomas Perry* who died in 1898.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/1/1932

"Gazette Insurance. Claims Paid for Minor Accidents.

The best newspaper insurance is undoubtedly the one which is generous in its provisions against the everyday risks of life. Such an insurance is that offered free by the *Birmingham Gazette*. Adult Accidents.....  
*Mrs. S. A. Hinton*, Dudley Road, VILLAGE TAVERN, Oldbury. Accident to reader – broken collar bone.  
Newsagent: *Mr. Jackson*, Dudley Road, Brades Village, Oldbury."

1939 Register

70, Dudley Road – VILLAGE TAVERN

- [1] *Sarah A. Hinton*, date of birth 20/6/1875, publican, widowed:

*Sarah Ann Hinton* died in 1947.

*Albert Cooper* – see also MANCHESTER STORES.

*William Sambrook* – see also WAGGON AND HORSES.

*Joe Oakley* was married to *May*.

Closed

**WAGGON AND HORSES**

17a, (17), (54), Church Street, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Isaac Perrins (acquired c.1789)  
Samuel Phillips Perrins

H. Fulford and Co., Old Street, Birmingham  
Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. [1894], [1899]  
Ansells Ltd.  
Peter B. Rawson  
S. A. Brain and Co. Ltd. [1997], [1999]  
Shakespeare Taverns [2016]  
Mike Westwood (leased) [2023]

## LICENSEES

Jane Taylor [1824]  
Thomas Powell [1829] – **1833**)  
William Green (**1833** – [1836]  
James Green [1841]  
Edward Perrins [1845] – [1860]  
Aaron Peacock [1861] – **1869**);  
Robert William Tilsley (**1869** – [1874]  
Samuel Philip Perrins [1880] – **1885**);  
Thomas Bastable (**1885** – **1886**);  
Henry Maynard (**1886** – **1887**);  
Mrs. Amelia Jane Nightingale (**1887** – **1889**);  
Ellen Taylor (**1889** – **1891**); manager  
Henry Felton (**1891**);  
Edward Lewis Walker (**1891** – **1892**);  
Joseph Udall (**1892** – **1894**);  
Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1894** – **1906**);  
Arthur Griffin [1895] – [1896] manager  
J Bearley [1900]  
C. Grenville [1901]  
John Wassell [1901] manager  
W H Brookes [1901]  
G Perks (**1902** – [ ] tenant  
John Taggart (**1906** – **1911**);  
Alexander James Davis (**1911** – **1920**); manager  
Ernest Gosling (**1920** – **1922**);  
Arthur Harvey (**1922** – **1927**);  
William Joseph Moore (**1927** – **1929**);  
Samuel Alfred Abbott (**1929** – **1932**);  
Francis George Cartwright (**1932**);  
Samuel Higgins (**1932** – **1933**);  
Arthur Harold West (**1933** – **1935**);  
William Money (**1935**);  
Roland Henry Biggs (**1935** – **1946**);  
Joseph Foster (**1946** – **1949**);  
Ronald Ernest Griffin (**1949** – **1951**);  
Reginald Thomas Benjamin Trough (**1951** – **1952**);  
William Sambrook (**1952** – **1953**);  
Norman Holt (**1953** – **1955**);  
Henry Grosvenor (**1955** – **1956**);  
Thomas Cemm (**1956**);  
Richard Henry James Reeves (**1956** – **1958**);  
Samuel Storey (**1958** – **1961**);

Arthur William Woodbine (1961 – 1962);  
Albert Grazier (1962 – 1969);  
Sohan Singh (1969 – 1970);  
Daisy Walters (1970 – 1983)  
Peter Barry Rawson (1986 – [1993]  
Andrew Gale (2000 – 2012)  
Jackie Evans [2013]  
Mike Westwood (2016 – [ ]  
Lorraine Thickett [2017]

## NOTES

54, Church Street [1871], [1873]  
17, Church Street [1891], [1896], [1912], [1921]  
17a, Church Street [1901], [1911], [1939], [1986]

WAGGON AND HORSES HOTEL [1911]  
WAGON AND HORSES HOTEL [1944]

It had a beerhouse license.

It is listed in ‘The CAMRA National Inventory’ of pub interiors of outstanding historic interest.

The Holt Brewery Co. issued tokens from here.

Isaac Perrins was a prizefighter.  
He died in 1800.

### Baldwins London Weekly Journal 21/8/1824

“Warwick Assizes, August 16. Turner v Edwards.

This was an action for seduction of the plaintiff’s daughter, whereby he was deprived of her services.....

Mary Turner, a good-looking girl, was put into the box.....

I am the plaintiff’s daughter. It is now three years ago since I first became acquainted with James Edwards. I shall be 18 in October. The defendant paid me visits at my father’s house. He often came, sometimes as often as five or six times a week. He was received as my suitor, and he made profession of visiting at the house in that character. He often uttered to me the most honourable protestations. One Thursday night he came, and, with a particular warmth of manner, told me he had given the parish-clerk money to pay for our marriage. He gave me reason to think that it would take place in three weeks. We went to Birmingham to buy the ring. He paid for it in a shop in my presence. We then walked about a little way, when he said it was too late to be married that day, but that he would take me to church with him next Sunday. We went home together that time to my mother’s house. After being here a short time, he proposed to me to accompany him to the WAGGON AND HORSES, where we stayed together. He had told me that he would marry me on the Sunday following, and repeated what he had before said at Birmingham – that it was his full intention to have married me that day, if it had not been too late when we came there. I was deceived so much by these assurances, that I yielded to his pressing solicitations of remaining with him till morning. In the morning I reproached him and called upon him to accomplish his promise of marrying me. It was not long until the consequences of my misconduct left me no longer capable of concealing my shame. The defendant not only refused to redeem his pledges, but has since married another. I gave birth to a child on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February last, the fruit of our criminal intercourse.....

*Jane Taylor*, examined by Mr. Sergeant Vaughan – I keep the WAGGON AND HORSES at Oldbury. I remember the night that Mary Turner and the defendant stopped at my house. They asked for a bed. I asked defendant whether he had married her; and he said he just had that day at Birmingham. I have since heard

him say he had married another woman.

Cross-examined: The mother of Mary Turner came to my house that night. She asked me where the girl was, and I told her she had gone up stairs with Edwards. She said no more, but went home. We thought the parties were married. It was Mary Turner, and not Edwards, who asked for the bed.

Chief Justice (to witness): Did you think this was the conduct of a modest woman? Do you think a proper woman would come in this way with a young man, to a public house, and ask for a bed?

Witness: My Lord, I saw nothing improper in her conduct.....

Lord Chief Justice Best, in his charge to the jury, said ..... he was of opinion that if they did find a verdict for the plaintiff, the very smallest sum of damages would satisfy the justice of this case.....

The Jury deliberated some very short time, and then found for the plaintiff – damages, one shilling.”

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/3/1833 - Advert

“On Sale by Private Contract, by Roderick.....

The Licences, Good-will, and possession of an old established Public House, known by the sign of the WAGGON AND HORSES, adjoining the Court House at Oldbury, in the occupation of Mr. *Powell*, who has accumulated an independency, and is retiring from business.”

#### Worcester Journal 10/10/1833 - Advert

“Dainmore Farm, Welland, near Upton-on-Severn.

To be Sold by Auction, by Thomas Cooke, on Monday and Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> days of October, commencing at ten o'clock each morning, for eleven to a minute.

All the Farming Stock, Ricks, Implements, Working Tools, Household Furniture, and all other Effects of Mr. *William Green* (who is removing to keep the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, at Oldbury, near Dudley).....”

#### Shrewsbury Chronicle 3/3/1837

“Adjourned Quarter Sessions.....

William Pattison, a collier, was indicted for stealing a sovereign from John Griffiths, at Oldbury. The prosecutor stated that, having been drunk on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> February, he went next morning (Sunday) to the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, to quench the spark in his throat, and meeting with the prisoner, he treated him with some ale, and continued drinking until he again became tipsy, and fell asleep; during his drunken slumber, the prisoner, by way of showing his gratitude, picked his pocket of a sovereign, and then went off; this was seen by another witness, who gave information and the prisoner was apprehended, with 19s 6d in his possession. The Jury returned a verdict of guilty, and he was sentenced to 6 months' hard labour. The Chairman then called up the prosecutor, and after lecturing him on his profligate and drunken conduct on the Sabbath-day, ordered that he should pay his own expenses.”

#### 1841 Census

Church Street

[1] *James Green* (30), publican;

[2] *Mary Ann Green* (20);

[3] *Sarah Green* (70);

[4] *William Green* (15), forgeman;

[5] *George Barker* (20), m.s.:

#### London Gazette 14/4/1843 - Notice

“Whereas a Fiat in Bankruptcy, bearing date the 1st day of April 1843, is awarded and issued forth against *James Green*, of Oldbury, in the county of Salop, Licenced Victualler, and he being declared a bankrupt is hereby required to surrender himself to Edmund Robert Daniell, Esq, one of Her Majesty's Commissioners of the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, holden at Birmingham, on the 24th day of April instant, at eleven in the forenoon, and on the 20th of May next, at twelve at noon, 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, the Official Assignee, Birmingham, whom the Commissioner has appointed, and give notice to Mr. Benton, Solicitor, Temple-street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Journal 27/5/1843

“Bankruptcy Court.....

In Re *Green* (Oldbury).

Mr. R. Benton, solicitor, attended for the assignees, and Mr. Allen, barrister, for the bankrupt.

In answer to questions put by Mr. Benton to the bankrupt, he said, ‘I was not aware that I was in insolvent circumstances until Mr. Benton served me with a notice of bankruptcy. I knew that I owed a considerable sum, but not that I had £700 of debts which I could not pay. I had an action with Messrs. Williams, of Worcester ..... I was aware that I owed more than I could pay at that time, but I had no expectation that my creditors or my mother would press me. The warrant of attorney which my mother put in execution against me was dated the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, three days after the notice was served upon me. My mother pressed me for security as she was about to leave me.....’

Between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of March a customer was found to purchase the effects of the bankrupt, and £212 of the amount received paid over to the bankrupt’s mother, under the warrant of attorney.

Mr. Benton: It was a mere trick to obtain time. The mother received £212 from the sale of the property, and the creditors get nothing.

The examination of the bankrupt resumed: I do not know where my mother is. Her name is Sarah Green.

The £90 I owe to Messrs. Williams is for spirits, &c.

Mr. Benton applied to the court to adjourn the bankrupt’s last examination, which was agreed to, in order to obtain further disclosure of his estate and effects.”

Birmingham Journal 24/6/1843

“In Re *Green* (Oldbury).

This was an adjourned last examination of the bankrupt, who formerly lived at the WAGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, and upon being questioned by Mr. Benton, solicitor, he stated that he was unable to give any further information relative to the action brought against him by Messrs. Williams, of Worcester, than that which he gave at the last meeting.

The Commissioner remarked that, as the examination of the bankrupt was adjourned expressly for the purpose of receiving this, with other information, he should adjourn the examination sine die.”

*Edward Perrins* was also a liquor merchant. [1845], [1850]

Worcestershire Chronicle 12/1/1848 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Land and Buildings, at Oldbury, in the County of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Oates and Perrins, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Friday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1848, at four o’clock in the afternoon, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

Lot 1. All that Public House, known by the sign of the WAGON AND HORSES, and in the occupation of *Edward Perrins*, adjoining the Court House at Oldbury aforesaid, with the Stable, Yard, Garden, and Out-buildings thereunto belonging, together with the Cottage or Tenement, with the Yard thereunto belonging, at the back of the Court House, now in the occupation of Thomas Blunt.

Also all that Close, Piece, or Parcel of Land, situate at the back of the Court House at Oldbury aforesaid, and adjoining Lot 1, divided into convenient Building Lots, numbered respectively from 1 to 14, and which are delineated and shown on a plan annexed to the Particulars of Sale.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Clowes and Wedlake, 10, Kings Bench Walk, Temple, London; W. B. Collis, Esq, Treasurer of County Courts; or to the Auctioneers, Stourbridge.”

Birmingham Journal 22/7/1848

“Tipton District, M.U., I.O.O.F. The members and friends of the Lord Anson Lodge met on Monday last, to celebrate their thirteenth anniversary, at Host *Perrin*’s, WAGON AND HORSES INN, when they sat down to a repast the excellence and profusion of which did great credit to the worthy host and hostess.....”



Birmingham Journal 26/7/1849

“On Wednesday last, the anniversary dinner of the Lord Anson Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, M.U., was celebrated at Host *Perrin*’s, the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, when ample justice was done to the excellent spread provided by the host, in his usual style, by upwards of eighty of the members.....”

Birmingham Journal 17/8/1850 - Advert

“Oldbury. Extensive Sale of Draught Horses, Waggons, Carts, Harness, Gearing, Gigs, Carriages, &c. To Contractors, Ironmasters, Dealers, and Others.

Mr. Gray had been favoured with instructions from Mr. Humphrey Darby, of the Brades Farm, near Oldbury, to offer for Sale by Auction, on Tuesday, September, 10<sup>th</sup>, 1850 (he having no further use for the same).

Thirty-three Waggon and Cart Horses (well-known good workers); Three 4½-in wheel Carts (nearly new), several useful Waggons, Two Four-wheeled Carriages (single and double body), very handsome Dennett Gig with richly cut lamps and drab linings, Iron Land Roll, Thiller and Trace Gearing in sets, and a variety of other Effects. The whole will be removed for the better convenience of sale to the house of Mr. *E. Perrin*’s, WAGGON AND HORSES INN, adjoining the Court House, Oldbury.

Description catalogues will be ready by the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, and may be had at the Farm; the Place of Sale; the *Midland Counties Herald* and *Journal* Offices, and Lamp Tavern, Birmingham; the STAR AND GARTER, and Mr. Williams, Printer, Wolverhampton; and the residence of the Auctioneer, Dudley.

Refreshments will be provided, and on the table at Eleven o’clock precisely.

Sale to commence at Twelve.

Office, Market Place, Dudley; Residence, Trindle.”

Birmingham Journal 24/8/1850 - Advert

“To Builders and Others.

Unreserved Sale at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. Wright, at Mr. *E. Perrins*’s, WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, on Friday Next, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Forty Pairs of Sashes and Frames, the whole having been made expressly for some intended Building, which will not be erected.

The above will be found well worthy of the attention of the trade, being made in the best and strongest manner, and of first-rate well-seasoned materials, and are fitted complete with Beads, Laths, Hanging Styles, Window Boards, &c.

May be viewed the day previous to the sale, on application to Mr. *Perrins*.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.”

1851 Census

Church Street

[1] *Edward Perrins* (42), victualler, born Upton Warren, Worcestershire;

[2] *Betsy Perrins* (53), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *William Nash* (36), visitor, grocer, born Stourbridge;

[4] *Maria Parkes* (27), house servant, born Worcestershire;

[5] *John Taylor* (24), servant and brewer, born Warwickshire:

*Edward Perrins* was a member of the jury at Worcestershire Midsummer Quarter Sessions in 1852.

Birmingham Journal 15/10/1853

“The Colliers Strike.

In the district round Wednesbury the men have been at work during the week. At Oldbury and its vicinity the thin coal miners have returned to their employment at an advance of sixpence per diem.; but it is confidently reported that, in consequence of the masters having given them notice of withdrawing the advance, they purpose joining the movement this day (Saturday). On Tuesday, the thick coal miners – who still hold out – had an open air meeting in the yard at the rear of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN. A resolution

was passed, offering to resume work at an advance of sixpence per day, and the allowance of half an hour's time for breakfast, instead of a shilling and two hours' diminution. A deputation of three men was appointed to wait on Captain Bennitt, one of the most influential masters in the district, and communicate this determination on the part of the pitmen. The deputation accordingly proceeded to the colliery, but not finding that gentleman there, they addressed letters to several of the masters, stating the result of their meeting. To these communications they received no reply. It will be recollected that the advance originally required by the thick coal men was one shilling per diem. On Thursday another meeting was convened by the workmen at the yard of the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, when several persons addressed the assemblage. The utmost order and decorum prevailed throughout the proceedings. The various speakers strongly inculcated peace and conciliation, and recommended an adjournment to Saturday (this day), at two o'clock in the afternoon. This was unanimously carried, and after singing a portion of a hymn, the meeting separated in the most orderly manner. The effects of the strike are already visible in the district. One or two large iron works are nearly, if not quite, at a stand."

#### Birmingham Journal 22/10/1853

"The colliers in Oldbury and its vicinity have, with a few exceptions, during the past week resumed work on the old terms. It will be remembered that at a meeting held in the yard adjoining the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, on Thursday week, a resolution was passed to the effect that they would return to their work at an advance of 6d per day, and a diminution of half an hour (at breakfast time) in the period of labour. Three men were then instructed to wait upon their employers with copies of the resolution, but no reply has been returned.

A number of miners from Bilston, Wolverhampton, and Shut End, were seen in the neighbourhood in the early part of the week, with the expressed intention of commencing operations at Oldbury, if the Oldbury colliers themselves were determined still to hold out. This fact, combined with the promise of one of the large masters, that they should have the desired allowance of half an hour's rest, has doubtless been the means of bringing about this resumption of work. Notwithstanding the present aspect of matters, it is still expected by the major part of both the thick and thin coal miners that their employers will concede to them the advance of 6d per diem. Several of the large iron works had during the last two days of last week to entirely suspend operations on account of the strike, but we are glad to say are now in full work."

#### Reynolds's Newspaper 25/6/1854

"A very important meeting was held on Monday, June the 10<sup>th</sup>, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, half-way between Birmingham and Wolverhampton, of the different branches of the Edge-tool Makers of the district....."

*Edward Perrins* was a member of Oldbury's first Local Board of Health in 1855.

#### Staffordshire Sentinel 13/10/1855

"On Thursday-week, the coroner, R. Docker, Esq, held an inquest at the house of Mr. *Edward Perrins*, the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, on the body of a youth named Samuel Millard, fourteen years of age, who was killed on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult, by being drawn over the pulley of one of the shafts of a coal pit belonging to Captain Bennitt, and situated near the blast furnaces in Oldbury. T. Wynne, Esq, Government Inspector of Coal Mines, attended the inquiry; Mr. Harding, solicitor, of Birmingham, being present to watch the proceedings on behalf of the engineer, Edward Turner, a youth aged about twenty, to whose negligence the accident was alleged to be attributable, and who attended the inquiry in custody of Superintendent Overend. The evidence of several witnesses presented the following facts.

On the night of Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup> ult, the deceased, with three men named Phineas Lewis, Richard Wychard, and Francis Hartshorn, were employed in a coal pit called 'The Puff and Dart,' belonging to Captain Bennitt, and having at seven o'clock on Friday morning completed their work, the four got into a skip, and ascended the shaft in the ordinary manner. The men duly came to the top of the shaft, but the speed did not slacken, and perceiving that the skip must ascend higher than usual, the doggy, Mr. Clueley, shouted to the persons in the skip, 'Jump for your lives.' The skip continued to ascend, but before it reached the pulley, Hartshorn and Lewis jumped from it, the former falling upon the plates near the edge of the pit, and the latter upon the

wagon which covered the pit's mouth, and which the banksman, Bennett, had the presence of mind to place over the shaft immediately the skip came to the surface. Wychard laid hold of the frame-work, and by that means saved himself. The unfortunate lad (Millard), however, was taken over the pulley with the skip, and fell partially beneath it upon the bank. He was taken up in an insensible condition, conveyed home, and died in a few minutes afterwards. It was shown that just previously to the accident the engineer was shouted to to 'mind the top;' he was then on the boiler side, six or eight yards from the engine, where he had been standing looking at his father repairing a steam-cock, and he then immediately ran towards the whimsey. The steam was blowing hard, and the witness was of opinion that the prisoner did not hear the shouts. In the course of the hearing the prisoner said nobody hooted to him until the skip was over the pulley; and that 'he would have been in the engine in time if it hadn't been for the board which crossed from the boiler side to the engine house.'

The coroner briefly summed up the evidence. The jury consulted five minutes, and then returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Edward Turner, who will consequently have to take his trial at Worcester. Mr. Wynne cautioned the prisoner that if he ever had the charge of an engine again, never to leave it on any account whilst men were ascending."

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 12/3/1856

"Worcester City and County Lent Assizes.....

Edward Turner was indicted for the manslaughter of Samuel Millard, at Halesowen, on the 28<sup>th</sup> September last. Mr. Cook, for the prosecution, stated the facts of the case, which were that the prisoner, who had the charge of an engine used for drawing up the skips from a coal pit, had caused the deceased's death by not being at his post when the signal-bell rang announcing that a skip was coming up. The consequence was that the skip was drawn over the roller at the pit's mouth, and the deceased killed; the men escaped. He was proceeding to comment on the fact of the prisoner's absence as being a sufficient ground on which to maintain an indictment for manslaughter, when he was stopped by the judge, who, having read the depositions, thought it could not be proved that prisoner heard the customary signal, or that his absence was avoidable. The charge, therefore, must fall to the ground.

A verdict of acquittal was, in consequence, taken."

#### Birmingham Journal 3/5/1856 - Advert

"Langley Green, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, on Wednesday next, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Perrins*, known by the sign of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, (by order of the Mortgagee), in one or more lots, and subject to conditions to be then produced – all those Five Freehold Dwelling Houses, with the Out-buildings and Gardens thereto belonging....."

#### Birmingham Journal 7/10/1857

"An inquest was held on Friday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst, at the house of Mr. *Edward Perrins*, the WAGGON AND HORSES, before W. Hayes, Esq, Deputy Coroner, on the body of a man named George Rogers, who died a few days previously, as alleged, from the effects of blows he received in a fight with his nephew, Charles Rogers, on a Saturday night in August. Charles Rogers was in custody on the charge of manslaughter. The evidence, however, showed that the prisoner had not acted in such a way as to warrant a verdict of manslaughter; and although it was clear that the deceased died from the effects of injuries he had sustained by a fall, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/12/1857

"A good deal of dissatisfaction was recently created among a large section of the shopkeepers and inhabitants of Oldbury, by a resolution adopted by the Local Board of Health, to the effect that henceforth no stalls would be allowed to be erected in the centre of the town. Meetings of the inhabitants took place, and a deputation appointed to wait upon the Commissioners, in order to represent the inadvisability of the order and to request them to rescind it. It was then replied that the stalls were removable under the common Highway Act, and that it was therefore of no use for the Board to rescind the resolution. No stalls in consequence were for several weeks erected in the town, and with a view to provide other accommodation, the Board

advertised for sites for a Market Hall, but those which were tendered being deemed unsuitable, the matter was suspended for a while. Meantime Mr. *Edward Perrins*, the landlord of the WAGGON AND HORSES public house, having been satisfied by the Board that they would throw no obstacle in the way of his erecting a Market Place, but on the other hand would encourage a private speculation, he had recently commenced a building on a site of land at the back of the WAGGON AND HORSES. We understand it will be a commodious brick building, covered with slate. Its length will be 190 feet, its breadth 22 feet, and its height to the wall plates 12 feet; and there will be a row of stalls on either side. It will be erected by Mr. Joseph Read, and from Mr. *Perrins's* own plans. The cost will be between £300 and £400, and the building it is expected will be finished early in January; meantime we believe stalls are permitted.”

Birmingham Journal 16/1/1858 - Advert

“A New Market Hall for Oldbury.

Mr. *Edward Perrins* begs to announce that he Will Open the New Market Hall, recently erected by him, near the Old Market Place, Oldbury, on Saturday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of January instant, and that the Letting of the Stalls therein will take place on Tuesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, at Two o'clock in the day, when a Public Dinner will be provided, at the house of Mr. Clift, the JOLLY COLLIER, near the Market Place.”

Worcester Journal 7/1/1860

“Worcestershire Epiphany Sessions.....

Benjamin Riley, 23, miner, was indicted for having maliciously wounded Thomas Hunt, at Oldbury, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Mr. Richards prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended.

Prosecutor and a companion were at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, on the night in question.

The prisoner came in, and in a few minutes struck Hunt's companion. After also striking prosecutor with his fists, he took up a quart jug and struck him on the head. He bled very much, became insensible, and remained so till next morning. He was drunk at the time. The surgeon stated that the loss of blood was so great that had he not been up at the time, the prosecutor must have died.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy as he was in drink. Six months' hard labour.”

Birmingham Journal 6/6/1860 - Advert

“Sale at the House of Mr. *Perrins*, the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury.....”

Birmingham Journal 2/2/1861 - Advert

“Unredeemed Pledges.

By Mr. J. S. Parkes, at Mr. *Aaron Peacock's* WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury ..... a great quantity of Men's, Women's, and Children's Wearing Apparel, with numerous other Effects.”

Birmingham Journal 13/3/1861 - Advert

“Important Sale.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. S. Parkes, on Tuesday Next, the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, at the house of Mr. *Aaron Peacock*, the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Church Street, Oldbury (removed for convenience of sale), the under-mentioned valuable Property; comprising nine Dog Carts and Gigs, nearly new; capital Harness and Waggon Horses, nine sets of Carriage and Gig Harness, silver mounted; two Ladies' Side Saddles, nearly new; two Hunting Saddles, by the best makers; three second-hand Bridles, six Harness Collars, equal to new; four sets of Thiller Tackle, three Phaetons, one new Dog Cart, one set of Silver-mounted Harness, new; together with a quantity of Household Furniture and other Effects, consisting of Counters, Chairs, mahogany Chest of Drawers, twenty-six Ale Casks, from 120 gallons down, Spirit Fountain, twelve dozen of new Shovels, &c, &c.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

1861 Census

Church Street – WAGGON AND HORSES

[1] *Aaron Peacock* (45), innkeeper, born Tipton;

[2] Phoebe Peacock (46), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Thomas Baily (35), widower, servant, born Lilleshall, Shropshire;

[4] Ann Bartlam (21), servant, born West Bromwich;

[5] Rebecca Vaughan (21), servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/2/1865 - Advert

“Horses and Carriages, &c.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, This Day (Monday), in the Market Hall, Back of Mr. *Aaron Peacock's*, WAGON AND HORSES INN, Church Street, Oldbury, at Eleven o'clock – Horses and Vehicles, Hops, &c.”

The Era 17/12/1865 - Advert

“WAGGON AND HORSES Concert Hall, Oldbury, near Birmingham.

Wanted, a First-class Comic Singer. None but first-class need apply. References required. Mr. Bob Farmer can write.

*A. Peacock*, Proprietor.”

Illustrated Sporting News and Theatrical and Musical Review 24/2/1866 - Advert

“Mr. Joe Boyle, the Great Comic, and only Rival of Vance, and Mrs. Joe Boyle. Serio-comic, and Characteristic Vocalist, having concluded a very successful engagement at the Temperance Hall, Sandbach, have opened at the Bulls Head Concert, Longton, Staffordshire, on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>; return to the STORK Concert Hall, Greatbridge, second engagement, April the 16<sup>th</sup>, for one month; and open at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, for six weeks, second engagement; at liberty March the 5<sup>th</sup>, for one month. All communications addressed to the Bulls Head Concert Hall, Longton, will meet with strict attention.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/2/1866

“The adjourned Worcestershire Epiphany Sessions commenced yesterday at the Shirehall.....

The following gentlemen were sworn on the grand jury ..... Mr. *Aaron Peacock*, Oldbury, victualler.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/9/1866

“At the West Bromwich Police Court, on Saturday, Samuel Densley and Harriett, his wife, were charged with stealing a quantity of wearing apparel, including two shawls, two skirts, a pair of stockings, one white muffler, &c, the property of James Curtis, of White Heath, Rowley Regis. Mr. Ebsworth, of Wednesbury, defended the prisoners.

Elizabeth Curtis, wife of the prosecutor, stated that on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July last, she packed up the articles produced into a bundle, and left them at Mr. *Peacock's*, the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, in order that Robert Ashton, the carrier, might take them to her daughter, who lives at Yoxall. From information she received she went on Thursday week to the house of the prisoners' daughter at Bloxwich, near Walsall, and there received the shawl produced. She afterwards accompanied police-sergeant Lester to the house of the prisoners at Greets Green, and found the remaining articles. Before being apprehended, the husband admitted his guilt.

There being no evidence that the woman was implicated in the theft she was discharged, and the man was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.”

Illustrated Sporting News and Theatrical and Musical Review 27/7/1867 - Advert

“Mr. and Mrs. Joe Boyle, at the STORK Concert Hall, Great Bridge, Staffordshire, 4<sup>th</sup> engagement opens at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury; 4<sup>th</sup> engagement commences at the Liver, Liverpool, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, for one month. At liberty on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. Address as above.”

*Aaron Peacock* was nominated for Guardians of the Poor in 1868 but was not elected.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/2/1869

“At the Oldbury Police Court, on Tuesday, before Mr. H. Chance and Mr. J. Everitt, a theatrical singer of this place, named Thomas Villiers, was charged with attempting to commit a criminal assault on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Janu-

ary, upon the person of Jane Jackson, a Concert Hall singer. Mr. Jackson appeared for complainant, and Mr. Shakespeare for the defence.

It appeared from complainant's statement that during the month of January, she was engaged at the RED COW, Oldbury, as a professional singer, and defendant was at the same time employed in a similar capacity, at the WAGON AND HORSES, which is only a few doors off. She (complainant) was a married woman, and on the night in question was going home about ten o'clock, in company with her little girl, when she met defendant, who asked her where Mr. Jackson was. She told him he was gone to Jarth, and that she did not know him (defendant). He asked her if it would be possible for him to get lodgings at Mrs. Parkes's, where she was then living, and ultimately it was agreed that he should go to the house and see if he could obtain lodgings. They went home together, and shortly after she was compelled to go to the RED COW to fulfil her engagement. Defendant went with her to the WAGON AND HORSES, and asked her to have something to drink, but she refused and left him. Between eleven and twelve the same night defendant met her and accompanied her home, she thinking at the time that he had got lodgings at the house. She lighted a candle, and as she was going to the kitchen door to get some supper he pulled her on his knee. He released her, but as she was turning round he caught her again, and threw her on the floor, where he attempted to effect his purpose. He tore her dress, and badly bruised her arms. She then went to bed, and defendant remained in the kitchen all night. Defendant left the house in the morning, and stayed in town several days, but he had gone when she had the warrant issued for his apprehension. He had only been recently apprehended.

Mrs. Parkes and Mr. Parkes were called for complainant.

Mr. Shakespeare, in defence, said complainant was a willing party to the assault, and had only raised the report to clear herself.

Mr. Moore and Mr. *Peacock* were called for the defence, and the Bench dismissed the case on the ground of insufficient evidence."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/7/1869

"At the Oldbury Magistrates' Office on Tuesday, William Bennett, professional singer, of Oldbury, and John Rowley, carter, of West Bromwich, were charged with stealing a horse, the property of David Thomson, coal dealer, of the same place. Mr. Dicken appeared for the prisoner Bennett.

The evidence showed that the prisoner Rowley was sent by the prosecutor on the previous Tuesday with a load of coal to deliver at Oldbury, at the house of Mr. Gould, Bristnall Fields. Instead of taking the coals there he sold them to a Mrs. Smith, BELL INN, Rood End, for 7s 6d. He stayed there with the prisoner Bennett and spent some of the money. He afterwards went down to Oldbury and went to the WAGON AND HORSES, in company with the other prisoner, and there he sold the animal to a Mr. Peasland, horse dealer, of Oldbury, for 46s. The bargain was effected through the recommendation of Bennett, who said 'it was all right,' and the prisoner Rowley's own horse.

The magistrates discharged the prisoner Bennett with a caution, and committed Rowley to take his trial at the Assizes for stealing the horse, and also on the second charge of stealing the coal."

[At Worcestershire Summer Sessions John Rowley pleaded guilty to stealing a horse and a load of coals and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.]

*Aaron Peacock* – see also GEORGE, Brades Village.

*Robert William Tilsley* = Robert William Tildesley

#### Birmingham Daily Post 7/7/1870 - Advert

"Lost, on Saturday, July 2, at Oldbury, a Black-and-Tan Terrier Bitch; answers to the name of 'Busy.' Anyone returning the same to the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, will be handsomely Rewarded. Anyone keeping it after this notice will be prosecuted."

#### Dudley Herald 30/7/1870

"The anniversary of the Lord Anson Lodge, 1026 of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, was held at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street, on Monday....."

### 1871 Census

54, Church Street

[1] *Robert W. Tilsley* (44), publican, born Ombersley;

[2] *Kate Tilsley* (40), wife, born Kidderminster;

[3] *Elizabeth Hooley* (23), niece, barmaid, born Southam, Warwickshire;

[4] *Agnes Burell* (23), general servant, born Southam, Warwickshire;

[5] *Thomas Hirons* (29), general servant, born Southam, Warwickshire:

### County Advertiser 2/9/1871

“On Saturday morning a shocking accident occurred at the Old Fly Colliery, Old Hill, worked by the British Iron Company. Two men named Thomas Debney and Benjamin Nickless, sinkers, were engaged in repairing the pit-shaft, when ‘a running in’ took place, and they were precipitated to the bottom, and covered with a large quantity of earth, bricks, and timber. When the bodies were recovered, Debney, who was 57 years old, and lived in Hill Street, Oldbury, was found to be dead, and Nickless, of Littlefields, Oldbury, had one of his thighs broken in two places.

The inquest on Debney was opened on Monday last by Mr. Docker, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, and adjourned, so that Mr. J. P. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, might attend.

Debney leaves a wife and eight children. Nickless is slowly recovering.”

### Morning Advertiser 20/9/1871

“An inquest was held on Monday, before Mr. Docker, coroner for Worcestershire, at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, touching the death of Thomas Debney. Deceased was a sinker, 57 years old, and lived at Oldbury. He was employed by Mr. Wainwright, contractor.

On Saturday morning, the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, he and other men were engaged widening an old pit shaft, which had come into the possession of the Old Hill Drainage Association. They were instructed by Mr. Wainwright not to take out too much ground before bricking it up. The ground was so hard that it spoiled several picks, and the men had to use steel wedges. At twelve o’clock deceased and his mate, Benjamin Nickles, had to go down about 120 yards to relieve the previous shift, who had made up the ground quite safely. Debney and Nickles had taken out the ground for two kerbs instead of one. They called the engineman for two lengths of kerb pieces, and immediately afterwards the pit sides collapsed, and the men were partially buried. The ‘bowk,’ however, was with some difficulty pulled up, filled with bricks and dust, in the midst of which were the two unfortunate men, Debney being quite dead. The other man was much injured, but he was alive, and hopes are entertained of his recovery.

The Government inspector was present and questioned the witnesses, but it seemed the accident occurred entirely from the fault of the deceased and his mate.

Verdict, Accidental Death.”

### Birmingham Mail 29/9/1871

“Yesterday, Mr. Ralph Docker, the district Coroner, held an inquest at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Church Street, Oldbury, on the body of a middle-aged woman, name at present unknown, who died in a lodging-house, in Birmingham Street, under circumstances of a very distressing nature, on Monday night last. The old woman shortly before her death, stated that she had been in the Dudley Union, and that on the morning following the night she went in, as she was unwell, she went to the doctor, who told her that she was not in a fit state to come out, and that she must go back to the Governor of the Union. She did go back and stayed there a week. She came out last Friday morning, and went to the relieving officer at Oldbury, and upon inquiry was told that the Union was a mile and a half away. She replied that she was not able to go so far, and went away.

The Coroner: How was it she left the Dudley Workhouse? – Why, they turned her out. She came out because she would not lie in the body of the house. She said she had lain a week in the tramp ward.

By a Juror: The woman who keeps the lodging-house said deceased had died from starvation, and there are rumours about that she has been neglected.

The Coroner thought it was absolutely necessary that some of the authorities of the Dudley Union should be required to attend, in order that they might have an opportunity of explaining their conduct in the matter.

The inquiry was accordingly adjourned till next week.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/10/1871

“Yesterday afternoon, at the WAGON AND HORSES, Church Street, before Mr. Ralph Docker, Coroner, an adjourned enquiry was held into the circumstances attending the death of a woman unknown, who, it was alleged, died at a lodging-house in Birmingham Street from starvation. Before coming to Oldbury she had been an inmate of the Dudley Workhouse, and the inquest was adjourned from the previous Thursday in order that further evidence might be obtained.

Mr. Stillard, master of the Dudley Union, attended yesterday, and made a lengthy statement as to the circumstances under which the woman, as a tramp, obtained relief at the Dudley Union. Whilst in the Union, she was treated as an ordinary tramp, and did not complain of illness. Mr. Stillard said he was very anxious to clear himself and the workhouse authorities of any blame which the statements at the previous enquiry had imputed; but the Coroner said there was no further explanation needed.

Mr. Bentley, surgeon, stated that, on Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup> ult, he attended the deceased at the lodging-house. She was in a very exhausted state, and was suffering from diarrhoea. He gave her some medicine, and saw her again on Monday, but she was then unconscious, and died in the evening. In his opinion the cause of death was exhaustion, probably through long fasting and diarrhoea.

The Coroner said the deceased had undoubtedly been in a very destitute condition, but she appeared to have been kindly and properly treated at Dudley. Her treatment certainly was not what was suggested.

The Jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1871

“On Saturday, Jane Webb, a child eight years of age, who resided with her parents at Brades Village, was amusing herself upon a plank over a strong stream of water running into the ‘swag’ near her home, when she accidentally fell over and was carried by the force of the water into the middle of the pool, and was drowned before the requisite aid could be rendered. An inquest upon the body was held yesterday afternoon, at the WAGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury, before Mr. Docker (Coroner), and the verdict returned was Accidentally Drowned.”

County Advertiser 6/1/1872

“A distressing accident occurred on Wednesday evening, at the WAGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury, resulting in the death of a young woman named Agnes Burnell. Mr. *Tilsley*, the landlord, had been out shooting during the day, and upon returning in the evening placed his gun, under the impression that it was not loaded, upon a table in one of the back rooms of the house. About twenty minutes to eight o’clock, Mr. John Hirons, who was sitting in an adjoining room, heard the report of a gun, and running into the room from which the sound proceeded, found Burnell lying on the floor bleeding, and in a state of insensibility. Mr. Sainsbury, surgeon, happened to be present professionally with the landlord, and immediately rendered all the assistance in his power. A large portion of the front of the skull was blown off, and the young woman was suffering from violent hemorrhage. She was quite unconscious, and only survived about forty minutes. The deceased was twenty-three years of age, had been a domestic servant at the house about seven years, and was highly respected by her master and mistress. It is supposed that deceased, not thinking the gun was loaded, was in the act of removing it, when it unexpectedly went off. At the time of the accident, a number of people were in the house, and, as the occurrence soon became known throughout the town, a large crowd collected around the house. Mr. and Mrs. *Tilsley* were naturally very much affected by the melancholy accident.”

[The inquest was held at the WAGON AND HORSES and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.]

*Robert William Tilsley* was also a coalmaster of Tilsley and Peacock, Roway New Colliery, West Bromwich Street. [1873]

Birmingham Daily Post 13/2/1873

“At the Oldbury Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, Mr. Shakespeare, solicitor, made an application on behalf of *R. Tildesley*, WAGON AND HORSES, for an extension of hours on the occasion of a ball to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup>.



Granted.”

Bicester Herald 21/3/1873

“A case, which occasioned much amusement alike to judge, attorneys, and spectators, was heard in the Oldbury County Court, before Mr. A. Martineau, judge. A claim was made by two travelling actresses, calling themselves Fanny Pedley and Rachel Stanley, but who were sisters of the name of Hammond, to recover £1 15s from *R. S. Tildesley*, landlord of the WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury, for wages due. Mr. Shakespeare, solicitor, appeared for the defendant.

The plaintiffs stated that the defendant had engaged them to give a musical and dancing performance in the concert-room attached to his public house. The engagement was for a week, and they were to be paid £1 each for these services. On the 9<sup>th</sup> March they commenced their performances, but after the second evening the defendant paid them their wages for the two nights, and told them he should require their services no longer.

The plaintiff ‘Rachel’ was cross-examined by Mr. Shakespeare, and rendered the following evidence..... On the first night there were about 400 people there, and we were encored several times. On the next night we went through the performance without breaking down. My sister went to do a song, and Mr. Cross played. He played in the wrong key, in B or C, I don’t know which (laughter). At all events, the pitch was too high.

Mr. Shakespeare: Can you tell the difference between a note played in C and a note in B?

Witness: I had ought to do (laughter).

Mr. Shakespeare: Can you distinguish flats from sharps?

Witness: I don’t know anything about that (roars of laughter).

His Honour here observed that plenty of persons sang beautifully without knowing a note of music.....

Mr. Shakespeare remarked that it was perfectly clear that the young ladies were incompetent. They did not understand music, which was a subject upon which the Oldbury people were very fastidious (much laughter).

The Judge: Were you there, Mr. Shakespeare? I should like to have your opinion (loud laughter).

Mr. Shakespeare, continuing: The plaintiffs were engaged because it was thought that such good-looking young ladies would attract an audience. But they conducted themselves so indecently that they were hissed off the stage. He should be able to call a witness who, after staying a few minutes, had left the room, saying, ‘This is too much.’

Mr. *Tildesley*, the defendant, was then called, and said that he had been telling the people through the town that he had got two such wonderful girls, but when the people came to his house and saw them, they called them ‘duffers,’ (laughter). The girls broke down altogether, he believed, owing to nervousness.

Mr. Cross was the next witness. In reply to a question put by Mr. Shakespeare as to whether he knew anything of music, he said: Why, bless yer, I should think I do.

Mr. Shakespeare: You recollect the young ladies coming?

Witness: I should rather think I do. While they were doing a double turn in ‘Blue-eyed Nelly’ they broke down. I could defy either of them to sing a song.

Plaintiff: We can do so now if it is required. We have not been accustomed to such playing as yours.

Mr. Cross: Absurd! Why, bless yer, I have played before the best professionals of the day (prolonged laughter).

Mr. Peacock, another witness, said that he was very fond of a song. He went to the concert-room, but he was so disgusted with what he saw that he drank his glass and left the room.

The judge decided in favour of the defendant, on the ground that the plaintiffs had improperly conducted themselves. The sum of 7s 4d, which had been paid into court by the defendant for the second day’s performance, was allowed to the plaintiffs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1873

“An inquest was held on Saturday, at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Church Street, Oldbury, on the body of John Franks, shingler, aged 47, who was killed on Wednesday night by falling from a canal bridge into a boat at the Brades Steel Works. The evidence showed that the deceased was wheeling a load of hammer cinder from the forge, and that he fell from the bridge into a boat underneath, a distance of 7ft. He was

found dead a short time afterwards. The verdict was Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1874

“Mr. R. Docker, district coroner, resumed the enquiry yesterday, at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, into the cause of the death of five miners, who were killed several weeks ago, by an explosion at the Titford Long Meadow colliery, near Oldbury, belonging to Mr. Joseph Hackett. The proprietor of the colliery stated that the pit is not yet free from fire, and that it was impossible to make a descent.

The Coroner stated that he had been informed that the Government Mines Inspector had been unable to make an examination of the pit, and without his evidence it would not be advisable to proceed with the enquiry. He should therefore adjourn the inquest for a month.”

[Previous hearings were at the NAVIGATION INN, Titford.]

Midland Counties Evening Express 28/11/1874

“Yesterday, an inquest was held at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, before Mr. R. Docker, touching the death of the five miners who were killed by an explosion at the White Heath Gate Colliery. It was shown that the unfortunate men were trying to extinguish a fire in the upper workings, when a blast of hot air was released and scorched seven of them, five of them dying from the burns they received. The pit could not be examined, as it was still on fire; but the jury, being satisfied that the occurrence was accidental, returned a verdict to that effect.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/12/1874

“James Downing, aged 33, machinist, was charged with stealing 2s 3d, belonging to *Robert Tilsley*, of the WAGON AND HORSES public house, Oldbury.

The defendant obtained lodgings at the prosecutor’s house several days ago, and on Saturday night he was found with 2s 3d in his possession, which he had just removed from the till. He was sent to prison for six weeks.”

Worcester Journal 9/1/1875

“Worcestershire Epiphany Quarter Sessions.....

George Smith, 27, hawker, was indicted for stealing a German silver watch, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, at Oldbury, the property of Morris Rawlisher, a travelling jeweller. Mr. Griffiths prosecuted, and Mr. Benson defended.

The prosecutor was showing a German watch, with a view of selling it, to a person at Oldbury station, on the afternoon of the day in question, and, he stated, the prisoner came up to him and said he would buy the watch, but took it out of his hands and ran away. The prisoner was afterwards apprehended at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

The defence was that the prisoner took the watch as a joke.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to six calendar months’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/2/1875

“On Thursday night, Mr. Thomas Hinds, butcher, of Oldbury, met with his death under the following singular circumstances. Mr. Hinds was returning from Birmingham in a trap, accompanied by his wife, son, and servant girl. As they were driving through Smethwick, another vehicle, containing Messrs. Crowther and Hamblet, brush manufacturers, of Oldbury, followed about a quarter of a mile in their rear. When near the Smethwick turnpike, Messrs. Crowther and Hamblet pulled up on the embankment on the side of the road to allow a cart and wagon to pass in the opposite direction. The rising ground overturned the trap and both gentlemen fell out, Mr. Hamblet sustaining an injury to his hip. The horse became released from the shafts, and dashing along the thoroughfare at an affrighted speed, came in contact with the rear of the trap in which Mr. Hinds and family were riding with so much force as to upset the vehicle, and its occupants were pitched into the road. Mr. Hinds fell upon his head, and sustained a concussion of the brain; the servant girl received severe contusions, while Mrs. Hinds and their son escaped with slight abrasions. Mr. Hinds was removed to the offices of Mr. Shakespeare, solicitor, where he was attended by Mr. Jackson, surgeon, and also by Dr. Brown, of Coventry, who was telegraphed for. He, however, succumbed to his injuries early yesterday

morning. The servant girl was conveyed to the West Bromwich Hospital, and yesterday was doing well. The inquest upon the body of Mr. Hinds was held yesterday, at the WAGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, by Mr. R. Docker, district coroner, but was adjourned till Monday, in order that additional evidence might be obtained.”

[The verdict was Accidental Death.]

Wolverhampton Express and Star 16/10/1875

“An adjourned inquest was held yesterday afternoon, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, before Mr. Ralph Docker, coroner, on the body of Benjamin Aldridge (41), Rounds Green, a collier, who had died from injuries received at an explosion in No.2 pit, Ramrod Hall Colliery, on Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. The enquiry, which commenced on Friday last, was adjourned until yesterday, in order to allow of the attendance of Mr. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines. Mr. Scott, assistant inspector, was also present. Mr. Stokes (Dudley) watched the examination on behalf of the friends of the deceased; and Mr. Shakespeare appeared for Thomas Woodhall, doggy, whom the deceased accused of having been the cause of the explosion. Mr. Griffiths, (Miners’ Union) was also present.

Moses Allen, collier, deposed that the pit belonged to the Earl of Dudley, the certificated manager being Mr. William North. Witness and the deceased went down into the pit at six o’clock; the explosion had taken place about an hour afterwards. Witness was about fifty yards distant from where the explosion had taken place. He saw Aldridge crawling along on his knees. In reply to Mr. Baker, he stated that he was not present when Aldridge was set on at work. Naked lamps were hung along the side of the main road. He did not see a safety lamp on a tub near the third parting. He saw a naked lamp in Tom Woodhall’s hands. When Woodhall came up to witness and deceased, the latter said, ‘It is your fault I have been nearly roasted to death.’ Woodhall denied it, and said that he did not tell him to go in. A man named Wood had previously told witness and others that they were not to go into that road where the explosion had occurred until such time as the lamps had been tried. He admitted having disobeyed the order, and gone in the direction of the explosion.

William Wood, collier, stated that Woodhall told witness to remain at the corner of the boat-hole while he examined the various parts. On his return witness went to work, his place being pronounced safe. In reply to Mr. Baker, he said there was no particular station where the men were stopped from proceeding any further before ascertaining that everything was safe. By Mr. Shakespeare: Woodhall told witness to remain at the boat-hole, and stop any other men whilst an examination of the pit was made. They took it for granted that when the lights were up it was all right.

Thomas Woodhall, after having been duly cautioned by the coroner, said that he was overman or doggy at the pit. It was his duty to examine that part where the explosion had occurred. He tried it on the morning of the explosion, and found that it contained sulphur. It was about three feet thick and thirteen yards in length, the average width being about two and a half yards. He directed Wood to prevent any of the men going up that road whilst he examined the other roads. On his return Aldridge was waiting with Wood. Witness and the deceased then went towards the spot where the gas had been found. They stopped at the parting, deceased then undressed himself. A safety lamp was standing close by on a tub where witness had placed it after finding the gas. He told deceased to go in and start in brushing out the gas. When witness had got about fourteen yards along another road he heard the explosion. He then found that the safety lamp was still on the tub. He had told the deceased to take the lamp. Aldridge said, ‘This is your fault, you sent me in.’ By Mr. Baker: He had sent the deceased to brush out the gas. There had never been any great quantity there before. The men generally brushed it out themselves. He did not know whether it was in accordance with the rules of that and other collieries. He did not know anything about a competent person being required by the Act of Parliament to make an inspection after the pit had been pronounced dangerous.

Mr. Baker then read the 32<sup>nd</sup> rule, where it stated that the workmen were to be withdrawn from the mine when dangers were discovered, and that a competent person was to make an examination at once.

Witness, continuing, said he had not time to see any competent man. He intended to have helped the deceased to brush out the gas, as he had done so on previous occasions. He admitted being ignorant of many of the duties contained in the rules.

Mr. Baker: I am sorry to hear you say so; it is a very sad thing.

Witness said he had made Reeves acquainted with the gas being in the pit. Reeves was the man above

witness. Since the accident pipes had been laid on. If they had been placed there before there would have been no sulphur in the part where the explosion took place. The men had complained of there not being any pipes; they had done so on several occasions. They grumbled chiefly about the powder smoke. There was no particular place for the men to stop at until the pit was pronounced safe; they generally stopped where the air was cut off.

Mr. Baker: This is a most deplorable state of things for this man not to understand the rules. It is, indeed, a sad result.

Witness said he had never made any report of his examination; no book had ever been shown to him for that purpose until last Monday. He had never been asked for his report. He reported things to Reeves, and Reeves reported them to someone else. Witness was one of the examiners. There were two others. There were four doggies in the pit.

By Mr. Shakespeare: If Aldridge had taken the lamp the explosion would not have occurred. He must have taken his candle with him, as one had been picked up near to the spot.

By Mr. Baker: He did not know whether, in making his rounds, a safety lamp should be locked. His was not locked. It would lock, but he never locked it. He had no key with him.

Mr. Baker: I am sorry you do not know anything about what the law requires you to know.

The inquiry was then adjourned.”

#### Wolverhampton Express and Star 11/11/1875

“The inquiry into the death of Benjamin Aldridge, which occurred at the Ramrod Colliery, Rowley Hills, from an explosion of gas, terminated yesterday, a verdict of Accidental Death being returned, accompanied by the following statement from the jury: That in the directions given to Aldridge on going into the work, where it was stated all was safe, it had not been shown in the evidence there was any ill-feeling between the two parties, and we look upon the statement that there was ill-feeling as an entire misunderstanding. We think that Aldridge was in some measure contributory to his death. We would also recommend that in future better attention be paid to the ventilation of these pits, and would suggest that all the safety-lamps be locked.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 3/1/1878 - Advert

“General Servant. Wanted, good, respectable General Servant, 25 to 30.  
WAGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 20/3/1878 - Advert

“Young Man (steady, respectable) Wanted, for Public-house. Good references required.  
WAGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1878 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted. From country preferred.  
WAGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### The Era 3/10/1880 - Advert

“Wanted, for WAGGON AND HORSES Concert Hall, Oldbury, Talent for October 18<sup>th</sup> and future dates. To save stamps, the Miss C— and H— G— need not write in through not fulfilling their Engagements. Proprietor, Mr. *S. P. Perrins*; Manager, David H. Cross.”

#### 1881 Census

Church Street – WAGGON AND HORSES

- [1] *Samuel Perrins* (55), publican, born Halesowen;
- [2] *Elizabeth Perrins* (41), wife, born Illey, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Alice Perrins* (7), daughter, scholar, born Halesowen;
- [4] *Annie M. Edgcox* (25), barmaid, born Evesham;
- [5] *Margaret Williams* (40), domestic servant, born Amblecote;
- [6] *Alfred Rose* (23), inn servant, born Coombe, Oxfordshire;

*S. P. Perrins* issued tokens from here.

Worcestershire Chronicle 23/7/1881

“Mr. Superintendent Kemp, who has recently taken charge of Pershore Police division, has been presented with a handsome black marble timepiece by the sergeants and constables of the Oldbury division, of which he had charge for upwards of nine years. The presentation took place at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Oldbury, and was preceded by an excellent dinner, to which about 40 of the superintendent’s most intimate friends sat down.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 10/9/1881

“At the Magistrates’ Clerk’s Offices, on Monday, before Mr. G. Heaton (magistrate), a young man named George Harper, giving his address as Manchester, was brought up in custody on remand, charged with passing base coins in Oldbury. The barmaid at the WAGGON AND HORSES said on Friday night, prisoner went into that house and asked for something to drink, tendering in payment what she thought was a base shilling. She refused to take it, and the man gave her some coppers instead. He again called for some drink tendering again what proved to be a base shilling, she accepted it and handed it to the landlord. It was subsequently found to be counterfeit.

PC Clarke apprehended the prisoner in West Bromwich Street, the same evening, at 10.30. Prisoner first said he came from Wolverhampton, but afterwards gave the above address. Eighteen bad shillings were found in his possession.

Prisoner was remanded.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 17/9/1881

“George Harper (24), of Manchester, was brought up in custody, on remand, charged with passing counterfeit coin at Oldbury, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst.

Annie Curley, barmaid, at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street, said on the evening in question, prisoner went into the house and called for some wine and tendered in payment what she believed to be a base shilling. She refused to take it; he then gave her twopence instead. Prisoner then went away and returned in about 10 minutes and called for some beer, tendering again in payment what afterwards proved to be a base shilling. She received it and handed it to Mr. *Perrins*, who on examining it found it to be counterfeit.

PC Clarke said he heard that a man had been passing counterfeit coin at several public houses in Oldbury, and from the description he received of him he apprehended prisoner at 9.30 the same evening whilst on his way to the station. Witness asked him where he came from when prisoner said Wolverhampton. He saw the prisoner put his hand in his trouser pocket and drop something. At the Police Station he searched him and found in his possession in good money 21 sixpences, 1 fourpenny piece, 2 threepenny pieces, and four and sixpence halfpenny in coppers. Prisoner, in answer to the charge, said he expected it.

PC Nash said when prisoner was being taken to the Police Station he saw him drop from his trouser pocket the purse produced, which was found to contain 18 base shillings wrapped in tissue paper. Superintendent Hardman said he took the coins to Mr. Edward Dutton, watchmaker, Birmingham Street, who pronounced them to be base.

Edward Dutton said the last witness brought the coins to him on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. He tested them and found them to be counterfeit. They withstood the acid well on account of them being coated with silver, but they were very deficient in weight.

Sophia Lloyd, of the ROLLERS ARMS, Halesowen Street, said on the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst the prisoner went into that house and in payment for some beer tendered a counterfeit shilling. She gave him the change and put the shilling on one side in consequence of some remark made by another person in the tap room. Prisoner was remanded in order that the case might be brought before the Mint Authorities.”

AND

Dudley and District News 17/9/1881

“George Harper, a native of Manchester, was brought up on remand at the Oldbury Petty Sessions, before Messrs. Adkins and Heaton (magistrates), charged with passing a counterfeit coin at Oldbury on September

2<sup>nd</sup>.

Prisoner was also charged with passing bad coins at the house of a beerhouse keeper named Lloyd, in Halesowen Street, and at the HEN AND CHICKENS beerhouse kept by William Powell.

A remand was granted for eight days in order that the Mint authorities might be communicated with.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 22/10/1881

“Worcestershire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.....

George Harper (43), fitter, pleaded guilty to uttering a counterfeit shilling at Oldbury, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and was sentenced to six months’ hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/12/1881 - Advert

“Pianist Wanted, used to Concert Hall business.

Apply, *S. Perrins*, WAGON AND HORSES, Concert Hall, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1882 - Advert

“General Servant (respectable, good) Wanted. None others need apply.

WAGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury.”

The Era 27/1/1883 - Advert

“Wanted, Ladies in all Lines, for February 5<sup>th</sup> and future dates, for Six Nights; also for Monday and Saturday.

Address, *S. P. Perrins*, WAGGON AND HORSES Concert Hall, Church Street, Oldbury, near Birmingham.”

Wednesbury Herald 2/6/1883

“On Saturday morning an alarming accident occurred on a pit mound near IZONS Pool, which has resulted in the death of three persons. It appears that a number of young people were picking coal on the mound, when three of the party got too near a portion of the bank which is burning, and all three – two female and one boy – sank into the midst of the fire. They were extricated as speedily as possible, but all of them were burnt in a most frightful manner about the head, arms, and upper parts of the body.

Benjamin Hadley (10), residing at Brades Village, and Cecilia Evans (14), of Canal Side, Oldbury, were removed to the West Bromwich District Hospital, and the girl died there on Sunday. Matilda Ellen Hadley (18), of Albert Street, Oldbury, was removed to her home, where she died on Sunday morning from the effects of the burns. The boy, Hadley died on Tuesday night.

On Tuesday an inquest was held before Mr. Hooper on the bodies of the two former at the West Bromwich District Hospital.

The jury censured a workman named Harris, who saw the accident, for his inhuman conduct in not assisting the children.

On Thursday Mr. M. Docker held an enquiry at the WAGON INN, Church Street, Oldbury, on the body of Matilda Ellen Hadley.

In both cases a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1885 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Public House, in Church Street, Oldbury; and Freehold Market Hall, adjoining.

By Roderick and Son. To be Sold by Auction, at the Property Mart, 6, Temple Row West, Birmingham, on Tuesday Next, September 15, at 6 o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

Lot 1. A valuable Full-Licensed Freehold Corner Liquor Vault and Tavern, known as the WAGON AND HORSES, in Church Street, Oldbury, adjoining the County Court, in the centre and best business part of Oldbury, for the last nine years in the occupation of Mr. *Samuel Phillips Perrins*, the owner, who is now retiring, and will give early possession to the purchaser.

The premises afford ample business and domestic accommodation, and include a well-arranged Brewhouse, Stabling, Coach-house, and spacious Cellars.

This house has for many years done a large and profitable trade, and its prominent position, adjoining the County Court, in one of the principal thoroughfares and best business parts of the town, gives it unusual

importance, and renders it well worth the attention of brewers.

The valuation will probably not exceed £300,

Lot 2. The substantial Freehold Premises, known as the Market Hall, in the rear of the said Public House, and approached from Church Street.

This market is very centrally situated in the town of Oldbury. The hall is a substantial brick-built structure, about 70 yards long, and it has stalls and other necessary arrangements.

For plans and further particulars, apply to Mr. Shakespeare, Solicitor, Church Street, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneers, 2, Temple Row West, Birmingham.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 11/12/1886

“Oldbury Police Court. Tuesday ..... Transfers of Licenses.....

Temporary Authorities ..... *Henry Maynare to Amelia Jane Nightingale.*”

Mrs. *Amelia Jane Nightingale*, beer retailer, Church Street. [1888]

#### 1891 Census

17, Church Street – WAGGON AND HORSES

[1] *Ellen Taylor* (38), widow, manageress licensed house, born Birmingham;

[2] *Mary E. Taylor* (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[3] *Tom L. Taylor* (9), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] *Ethel Taylor* (6), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] *Harry M. Taylor* (2), son, born Oldbury;

[6] *Sarah Aston* (21), domestic servant, born Great Bridge:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1891

“The annual licensing session for Oldbury petty sessional division was held yesterday at the Court-house. Superintendent Speke presented his annual report, which showed there were now in the division 4,340 inhabited houses, compared with 3,930 in the year 1881, being an increase of 410 during the last ten years, and there was one house for the sale of intoxicants to about each 154 inhabitants. The Sunday evening services of sacred music and song held at various licensed houses in the division, and to which he called their attention at the last licensing meeting, were now entirely suppressed.....

Superintendent Speke opposed the transfer of the license of the WAGON AND HORSES HOTEL, Oldbury, from *Ellen Taylor* to *Henry Filton*, on the ground that the latter was convicted for permitting drunkenness on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August last. Having heard Mr. Shakespeare, who represented the applicant, the Bench granted the transfer.”

#### Midland Sun 29/4/1893

“At the Oldbury Police Court on Tuesday, *Joseph Udall*, landlord of the WAGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 25<sup>th</sup> March. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Sergeant Cooper visited the house about 9.45 on Saturday night, the 25<sup>th</sup> ult. In the taproom he saw two men drunk. One of them, Alfred Kinchen, was standing in a leaning position over the counter. He could not stand still, but was continually staggering. He also saw a man named Hill, who was sitting down quite drunk. He called Mr. *Udall*'s attention to the condition of the two men, and he replied that he could not help it if they were drunk. Witness said, they were drunk and that Mr. *Udall* should request them to leave. He did not, however, make any attempt to get them off the premises. The officer spoke to Hill, who got up at once and staggered across the room falling against the door, which led to the street. Kinchin was led out of the house by a friend and was conveyed home in a cab. For being drunk Kinchin had already been summoned, and fined, but on the summons being issued he absconded and a warrant had to be issued for his arrest.

By Mr. Shakespeare: He had given evidence some hundreds of times. He was not aware of having done anything wrong in mentioning the fact of Kinchin having absconded. He did not make a memorandum of his conversation with *Udall*. Was not aware that defendant had been employed for 30 years at Chance's.

When he entered the room there would be about 30 people in the house. He entered in the ordinary course of his duty, and not through having received outside information. He stood about two minutes glancing around the room; and on seeing Hill and Kinchin at once concluding they were drunk. The landlord did not tell him Hill had only been in the house only ten minutes, nor did defendant deny either of the men were drunk. Hill said that if he was drunk, it was for the want of it. Kinchin had a jug before him. For the defence Mr. Shakespeare pointed out that publicans had a great deal of prejudice created against them by the way in which some houses were conducted, and by the cry against drunkenness, which was being raised throughout the country at the present time. He would like the Bench to bear in mind the respectability of defendant who had worked for a period of 30 years for Messrs. Chance. Granting that the statements of the officer were true, he commented that the conduct of the two men was not such as to give the landlord any impression that they were intoxicated.

A fine of 5s and costs, £1 3s 6d in all, was inflicted.

Hill was fined 2s 6d and costs, 18s 6d in all, for being drunk on licensed premises on the same day.”

*Joseph Udall* was convicted of permitting drunkenness on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1894.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday, at the Court-house.....

The following cases, in which Superintendent Chare objected to the renewals, were also considered.....

*Joseph Udal*, WAGON AND HORSES INN, Church Street.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 27/2/1895

“At the Police Court, yesterday, Benjamin Bowers, haulier, was charged with stealing a quantity of coal, of the value of 16s, belonging to the Holt Brewery Company, Birmingham, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended.

*Arthur Griffin*, manager of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Church Street, Oldbury, said that on the date named he engaged defendant to draw the coal from the Great Western Railway station at Oldbury to his house. As the coal did not arrive he saw defendant, who said a mistake had been made, and the coal had been taken to another person. Defendant offered to pay for the coal or fetch another load, but witness demanded his own coal, which was subsequently returned.

For the defence, Mr. Sharpe denied the offence, and urged that the charge was brought in consequence of a mistake.

The magistrates fined defendant £2 4s, including costs, or, in default, fourteen days’ hard labour.”

#### Dudley Herald 10/9/1898

“The adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Oldbury, were held on Tuesday.....

With regard to the WAGON AND HORSES, in Church Street, kept by the Holt Brewery Company Limited, the Bench approved of the plans, also subject to one or two conditions.”

Rebuilt

The Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. were ordered to pay costs of £2 16s 6d, on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1899, for permitting drunkenness.

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 3/2/1900

“Ancient Order of Foresters. On Tuesday evening last the members of court Battle Oak No.2554, a branch of the Smethwick and West Bromwich District, having obtained the sanction of the Registrar of Friendly Societies for England to remove the court from the JUNCTION VAULTS to the WAGGON AND HORSES HOTEL, Church Street, Oldbury, held their first meeting in the new room.....”

#### 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.....

*J. Bearley*, WAGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, 120.”

#### 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.....

*C. Grenville*, WAGON AND HORSES, Oldbury.”

#### 1901 Census

17a, Church Street

[1] *John Wassell* (62), public house manager, born Tipton;

[2] *Elizabeth Wassell* (52), wife, born Netherton;

[3] *Rebecca Raybould* (87), mother-in-law, widow, born Wellington, Shropshire;

[4] *Mary Brown* (24), barmaid, born Cheltenham;

[5] *Eliza Brown* (18), domestic servant, born Saltley, Warwickshire:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 31/8/1901

“At the Oldbury Police Court, on Tuesday, *Fanny Thompson*, a servant in the employ of *Mrs. W. H. Brookes*, of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Church Street, was charged with stealing 17s, the money of her employer.

*Polly Brookes* said the prisoner was engaged with her, as a general servant, on August 11<sup>th</sup>. On August 12<sup>th</sup> she placed £11, in various coins, in a drawer in her bedroom, and on Sunday night she counted the money again and found 17s missing. She told the prisoner on the following day she had lost some money, but she replied that she had not been in the bedroom. She had also missed twelve handkerchiefs, a pair of drawers, and three yards of silk ribbon, a metal chain, knife, pencil case, and a silver brooch, from the same drawer. She discharged the prisoner and gave information to the police.

*Heber Hingley*, milliner and draper, of Church Street, said on August 13<sup>th</sup> the prisoner went to his shop and purchased a lady’s hat at 4s 11½d, and the next day a pair of corsets at 2s 11½d, and stockings and a skirt, tendering half a sovereign in payment.

Inspector *Male* deposed to visiting the house of *Mrs. Bowen*, in West Bromwich Street, a married sister of the prisoner, when he received from her a number of articles which the prisoner had purchased, and he asked her how she accounted for them, but she made no reply. He then charged her with stealing 17s, the property of *Mrs. Brookes*. At the Police Station she was searched by a female searcher, who found a metal chain, a silver brooch, a knife, and pencil case belonging to *Mrs. Brookes*.

Prisoner was bound over under the First Offenders Act to come up for Judgement when called upon.”

#### Smethwick Weekly News 18/10/1902

“A complimentary dinner to customers and friends was given on Tuesday night at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Church Street, Oldbury, by the owners (the Holt Brewery Co.) on the occasion of having a new tenant in the form of *Mr. G. Perks*, of Dudley. There was an excellent attendance, about 70 sitting down to a very substantial dinner.....”

Court Battle Oak, Ancient Order of Foresters met here. [1903]

*John Taggart* – see also OLDE BULLS HEAD.

#### 1911 Census

17a, Church Street – WAGGON AND HORSES INN

[1] *Alexander James Davis* (37), licensed house manager, born Great Bridge;

[2] *Maud Davis* (37), wife, married 14 years, assists in the business, born Bilston;

- [3] Vera Davis (6), daughter born Birmingham;  
[4] Lizzie Aston (25), domestic servant, born Oldbury;  
[5] Robert Shaw (32), barman, born Birmingham:

Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire 1912

"Foresters (Court No.2554) (John Newey, secretary) WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury."

*Arthur Harvey* – see also COCK, Smethwick.

*Samuel Alfred Abbott* – see also PHEASANT, Smethwick.

*Francis George Cartwright* – see also PHEASANT, Smethwick.

Oldbury Weekly News (April 1932)

"The principal item on the programme at the WAGGON AND HORSES ..... Wednesday last week was a bout (6 rounds) between Harry Downes (Smethwick) ..... Jimmy Rose (West Bromwich)....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/4/1938

"Oldbury District Darts Champion.

S. Bayliss, of the Trade Union Hall and Institute, Oldbury, is the individual champion of the Oldbury and District Darts League which comprises between 300 and 400 players. He won the honour – which carries with it the Councillor Vickers Cup – by defeating G. Price, the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green, thrower, in the final at the WAGON AND HORSES, Oldbury, last night....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/12/1939

"Entries are now open for the Oldbury and District Darts League. All teams must apply to the WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury, on or before 16 December."

1939 Register

17a, Church Street

- [1] *Roland Henry Biggs*, date of birth 12/2/1893, public house manager, married;  
[2] Alice B. Biggs, dob 16/10/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Evening Despatch 11/12/1939

"Entries are now open for the Oldbury and District Dart League. All clubs must apply to the WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury, on or before 16 December."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/12/1944

"In an action for damages for personal injuries brought by Mrs. Alice *Biggs*, of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Church Street, Oldbury, against the Midland 'Red' Bus Co, heard at Birmingham Assizes yesterday the Commissioner (Mr. J. W. Morris, KC) reserved judgement till Monday.

Plaintiff's case was that while she was attempting to board a late bus at Dudley the conductress pushed her and she fell and fractured a wrist.

The defendants pleaded that Mrs. *Biggs*, disregarding a warning by the conductress that the bus was full, tried to force her way on board, slipped and fell."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/12/1944

"Mrs. Alice *Biggs*, of the WAGON AND HORSES HOTEL, Oldbury, who had been described as 'now virtually a one-handed woman,' was awarded £2,010 damages at Birmingham Assizes yesterday against the Midland Motor Omnibus Co in an action in which she alleged a conductress pushed her off the bus and that in falling she received permanent injury to her arm. The defence was a denial that the woman was pushed, and it was contended that while trying to board an already crowded bus she fell off."

*William Sambrook* – see also VILLAGE TAVERN.

Walsall Observer 11/7/1969

“The new manager at the PRESIDENT LINCOLN, Stafford Street, Walsall, is Mr. *Albert Grazier*, who was previously at the WAGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury.”

It was Grade II listed on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1979.

It closed in 1983.

The license was held by the brewery area managers during its closure.

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/8/1986 - Notice

“Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

Town and Country Planning Act, 1971.

Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Buildings in Conservation Areas) Regulations, 1977.

Proposed Works to the WAGGON AND HORSES Public House, 17a Church Street, Oldbury.

Notice is Hereby Given that application has been made to the Council by Messrs. *P. Rawson* and *D. Bohan* for listed building consent to proposed works to the WAGGON AND HORSES Public House, 17a Church Street, Oldbury, comprising the renovation of the rear toilets, the erection of a fire escape, external painting and internal decorations.....”

It was renovated and reopened in 1986.

Sandwell Evening Mail 25/6/1987 - Advert

“Barman/Cellarman required for the WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury.

31 hours per week. £2.25 per hour. Telephone for interview.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/10/1991

“Property agents almost despaired of ever finding a buyer for the WAGON AND HORSES in Oldbury town centre. Who would want a pub that had stood empty for about four years after being closed by the brewer-landlord because it wasn't paying its way?

*Peter Rawson* stepped in where others were unwilling to tread and his brave rescue act has been well rewarded. Today, he owns a busy thriving pub, fully restored to the social life of Oldbury's business and local community. ‘It's a Grade II listed building with many of its original features intact, and I liked the character of the place,’ said *Peter*, explaining why he took the plunge. ‘Besides which, the price was right.’

Having hitched his career hopes to a rickety-looking WAGON AND HORSES, *Peter* prescribed an entirely new trading policy based on a rich diet of cask ales from some of the country's best brewhouses and fine food to tickle up the taste buds. To a pub that could easily have disappeared without trace, he brought beers previously only sampled by Oldbury drinkers in bars on their away trips. The day I called, beers from Liverpool and Mansfield were being delivered. ‘We are always trying out different guest ales to give customers plenty of variety and choice,’ said the licensee, who has long championed one of the Black Country's favourite brews, Batham's Best Bitter. Given the free trader's rein that enables him to take the pick of the pints, *Peter's* cellar has been stocked with such diverse beers as Greene King's Abbot Ale, Pendle Witches Brew from Burnley, and Timothy Taylor's award-winning Landlord Bitter, Yorkshire's pride and joy.

There is nothing fussy about the pub's bars and eating areas. Yet that is clearly part of the appeal for businessmen who use *Peter's* well-preserved Victorian pub, which is next to the library and opposite the new Civic Centre. He has opened an upstairs dining room to meet extra demand. If office managers are still taking policy decisions in their lunchtime break at the WAGON AND HORSES, it is only to make their choice of beers or select one of the many homemade dishes served up by *Peter's* partner, Sue Burton. You don't find Frogs Legs and snails on many pub menus, but if they don't go with a lunchtime pint, there are always pies, steaks, omelettes, vegetarian melas, and other treats. I enjoyed a tasty hot beef sandwich.

Pick of the pints: Batham's, Marston's Pedigree, Draught Bass.

Food: Lunches throughout the week, and evening meals Monday-Saturday.

Upstairs room available for private functions.

Average price of a pint: Mild £1.08, Bitter £1.30.

Opening times: 12 noon to 2.30pm, Monday-Thursday; 12 noon to 3pm, Friday and Saturday; 5pm to 11pm Monday to Saturday; Sundays, 12 noon to 2.30pm, 7pm to 10.30pm.”

### Sandwell Evening Mail 14/5/1993

“*Pete Rawson* was sitting comfortably having a trim in a Black Country barber’s chair when he overheard a conversation by two locals to the effect that a pub taken over by a Brummie would never take off. Now, nearly 10 years and two pubs later, *Pete* has proved them wrong. It all started when *Pete* gave up his job as an insurance company life inspector. Born within striking distance of St. Andrew’s football ground – he still supports the Blues – and then living in Solihull, he moved to Lye, where he bought the SHOVEL in Pedmore Road. After about two years, he moved to Oldbury and bought the WAGGON AND HORSES in Church Street – the best move he ever made, he reckons. It’s pretty good for the Black Country too. For *Pete* pioneered the growing trend of free houses with a wide range of beers.....

Like many other pubs, it does its bit for charity and licensee *Pete* recently raised about £800 for a Rotary Club of Oldbury by running in the London marathon.

Price of a pint: Everard’s Old Original £1.59; Boddington’s £1.34; Marston’s Pedigree £1.40; Wadsworth’s 6X £1.44; Bass £1.43; Batham’s £1.40; Hanson’s mild £1.20; Guinness £1.60; Murphy’s £1.60.

Guest beers this week: Holden’s Special Brew, Farmer’s Glory and Bishop’s Finger, all at £1.58.....”

*Andrew Gale* was the pub’s manager until 2006, when he became the lessee.

See also WERNLEY.

[2013]

Closed [2015]

It reopened on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### Express & Star 31/7/2018

“Bottoms up! The winner of the *Express & Star*’s most popular pub of the year for Sandwell has been announced. The BRITISH QUEEN, Birmingham Road, Oldbury, won the award after fierce competition ..... runner-up pub the KNIGHTS QUEST on High Street, Rowley Regis.....

Michael Westwood, company owner of third placed WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street, Oldbury, said, ‘We’re really pleased honestly coming in the top three. A little bit gutted to be behind two places.

Obviously to say we’re a proper traditional pub, coming in third place is excellent. We’re extremely grateful for the customers to vote for us and it’s justification for all the hard work that’s being done.”

[2022]

## **WAGGON AND HORSES**

104, (7), (94), Dudley Road West (93+94, Tividale Road) / Groveland Road, TIVIDALE

### OWNERS

John Rolinson and Son Ltd. [1907]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

## LICENSEES

Benjamin Jewkes [1839] – [1862]  
Joseph Jenks [1862]  
James Jewkes [1864] – [1865]  
Hercules M Hazlehurst [1866] – **1869**);  
Harriet Hazlehurst (**1869 – 1871**);  
William Firkin (**1871 – [1873]**)  
Harriet Firkin [ ] – **1879**);  
Joseph Davies (**1879 – 1880**);  
Attwood Parsons (**1880 – [ ]**)  
Eleazor A Parson [1881]  
Pearson [1882]  
George Foster [1887]  
Joseph Reading [1891] – [1892]  
James Cheall [1896]  
Arthur Joseph Tomkyns [1900] – [1901]  
Henry ‘Harry’ Bowater [1904] – **1904**);  
Joseph Smith (**1904 – 1905**);  
William Smith (**1905 – 1906**);  
Mrs. Phoebe Smith (**1906**);  
Isaac Brayden (**1906 – [1912]**)  
Mrs. Hannah Brayden [1915] – [1916]  
Edward Stevens [ ] – **1919**);  
Alfred Lloyd (**1919 – 1922**);  
Richard Beddow (**1922 – 1932**);  
William George Whitehouse (**1932 – 1951**);  
Andrew McLennan (**1951 – 1953**);  
Doris Kate McLennan (**1953 – 1959**);  
June (McLennan) Taylor (**1959 – [1966]**)  
Michael ‘Mick’ Bradshaw (**1993 – [1994]**)

## NOTES

93+94, Tividale Road [1880]  
94, Dudley Road [1891], [1892], [1896], [1900], [1901], [1904]  
7, Dudley Road [1916], [1921], [1932], [1936], [1939], [1940]  
104, Dudley Road West [1993]

COACH AND HORSES [1882]

*Benjamin Jewkes* = Benjamin Jukes

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/8/1839

“Public Office, Wolverhampton. Friday, August 23.

At a Petty Sessions, at which were present H. Hill, Esq, S. S. Briscoe, G. T. Whitgreave, Esq, and W. Man-  
nix, Esq, public house licenses were granted to.....

*Benjamin Jewkes*, of Rowley.....

The time appointed for closing beer-shops was extended till eleven o’clock at night, to commence on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
of October; and the 11<sup>th</sup> of the same month was fixed for the first transfer day for licenses.”

1841 Census

Tividale

- [1] *Benjamin Jewkes* (40), fender maker;
- [2] Ann Jewkes (40);
- [3] Thomas Jewkes (18);
- [4] Henry Jewkes (16);
- [5] Mary Jewkes (15);
- [6] Sarah Jewkes (13);
- [7] Elizabeth Jewkes (12);
- [8] Matilda Jewkes (9);
- [9] Rebecah Jewkes (7);
- [10] Jane Jewkes (5);
- [11] James Jewkes (3);
- [12] Ebenezar Jewkes (1);

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1845

“Inquests before G. Hincliffe, Esq, Coroner.....

On Monday week, at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, near Rowley Regis, on Thomas Montgomery. The deceased was one of the unfortunate men who were burnt by the explosion in Messrs. Wagstaffe and Skidmore’s coal pit. After a long investigation, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 3/7/1847

“On Saturday last, an inquest was held at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Tividale, before George Hincliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of a boy named Samuel Pickering, eleven years of age, who came by his death under the following circumstances.

He was employed at a coal-pit at Tividale, belonging to Messrs. Bagnall. On Thursday last, there was an empty skip coming along a railway on the pit bank, and there being two railways diverging from the place where deceased was, he moved the ‘points,’ as he thought, in the right direction; but instead of this, they had been moved in such a way as to allow the skip to go towards the mouth of the pit. Seeing the mistake he had made, the deceased got before and attempted to stop it, with his back towards the pit; but he was forced before the moving skip until he was hanging over the shaft with nothing betwixt him and eternity but the help of a piece of iron encircling the skip, the sharp edges of which rendered it impossible for him to hold on long. This chance of being saved, however, was not even afforded him, for the iron gave way, and the unfortunate deceased fell to the bottom of the shaft, a depth of about seventy yards. A person who was at work a few feet from the bottom, ran immediately to see what had come down the shaft, and found the deceased a lifeless corpse.

Evidence was given to show that no blame was to be attributed to any person except the deceased himself, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

It was not explained, however, at the inquest, how a person who was on the pit bank at the moment, who saw the whole occurrence so as to describe it in the above minute way, and who must have been aware of the dangerous situation of the deceased, how that person could not afford any assistance, although at least two minutes must have elapsed during which the poor lad clung to the frail support which interposed between life and eternity.”

Birmingham Journal 6/11/1847

“On Monday, a decent looking man, named James Scholefield, appeared before the sitting Magistrates, to answer a charge of feloniously stealing from the person of a married woman, named Maria Bolton, a half-crown and a shilling, on the morning of Saturday last.

From the statement of the prosecutrix, it appears that she, in company with her husband and two men named John and William Bold, were on the morning in question at the house of Mr. *Benjamin Jewkes*, the WAGGON AND HORSES, Tividale, where they had something to eat and drink, and while there the prisoner, with others, challenged the prosecutrix’s party to fight. A row, as might have been anticipated, ensued, in which it appears the prosecutrix, by her statement, was knocked down, and while on the floor was robbed of the money in question by the prisoner. She deposed to feeling his hand in her pocket, and complained of her

loss before leaving the house.

There was another witness examined, but his evidence was not very material.

Mr. Johnson appeared on behalf of the prisoner, and after submitting the witnesses to a long cross-examination, produced several witnesses for the defence, among whom was Mr. *Jewkes*, the landlord of the WAGGON AND HORSES, and also his daughter, who proved that the prosecutrix never was knocked down, and that she did not complain of being robbed at all.

Mr. Johnson also called Superintendent Jewkes, to whom it appears the prosecutrix first made a complaint about the robbery, and who deposed to a conversation between them by which it seemed the prosecutrix could not say whether she had lost the money in or out of the house, or at least that she did not miss it till after she had left the house.

Upon this the Magistrates decided upon dismissing the charge.

There was a second charge of felony against the same prisoner, for robbing William Bold, one of the prosecutrix's party, of 5s, but which, for want of sufficient evidence, was also dismissed, and the prisoner was set at liberty, to the gratification of his friends."

### 1851 Census

Tividale

[1] *Benjamin Jukes* (51), innkeeper, born Dudley;

[2] *Ann Jukes* (53), wife, born Wednesbury;

[3] *Henry Jukes* (27), son, widower, iron puddler, born Dudley;

[4] *Matilda Jukes* (19), daughter, straw bonnet maker, born Dudley;

[5] *Elizabeth Jukes* (21), daughter, domestic, born Dudley;

[6] *Rebecca Jukes* (18), daughter, domestic, born Dudley;

[7] *James Jukes* (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[8] *Ebenezer Jukes* (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[9] *Joseph Jukes* (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

### St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Marriages

12 February 1854 - John Cassin Pritchard, bachelor, surgeon, Tividale - father, Thomas Pritchard, stationer.  
Rebecca Jewkes, spinster, Tividale - father, *Benjamin Jewkes*, publican.

### Worcestershire Chronicle 14/11/1855

"Between the hours of twelve and one o'clock on Friday morning, some house-breakers attempted to enter the residence of the Rev. E. F. Whitehouse of the Trindle. They forced open the gate by breaking the chain, and commenced operations on the back door with a centre-bit, by which they made two circles. Mr. Whitehouse being aroused by a dog, and showing a light, the rogues decamped. Between two and three o'clock the same morning, the house of Mr. *Benjamin Jewkes*, the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, was entered by two men, who sprang the bar of the front parlour window, and forced the shutters. There was carried away £2 in silver and 5s in coppers, a dozen silver tea spoons, a writing desk containing a few papers (which, however, was left broken open near to the house); an empty wine bottle and some cakes were also taken. During the time the burglars were in the house they disturbed a man who had been sleeping on a sofa, and whom they searched, taking his tobacco box. He endeavoured to secure them; but they escaped, leaving an iron 'jemmy' behind them."

### Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/10/1860

"On Tuesday an inquest was held before Edwin Hooper, Esq, coroner, at Mr. *B. Jukes*'s, WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, on the body of a married woman named Mary Pugh, 50 years of age, and mother of a family.

It appeared from the evidence that on the preceding morning about six o'clock deceased got up for the purpose of making some varnish or French polish, and, while thus engaged, by some inadvertence she let the liquid boil over. By this means she set her clothes on fire, causing her body, neck, arms, and face to be so fearfully burnt that, after lingering in great agony for some time, she died from the effects of the accident. Her son-in-law, who heard her screams, rushed to her assistance, as did also her husband and daughter, and

medical aid was procured and every care taken.  
The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### Birmingham Journal 1/9/1860 - Notice

“In the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley.

Whereas a Petition of *Benjamin Jewkes*, now and for three years and upwards last past residing at the WAGON AND HORSES Public House, Tividale, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, carrying on the trades or businesses of a Licensed Victualler, and Dealer in Spirits, Wines, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, and during a portion of the said time also carrying on the trade or business of a Grocer and Provision Dealer, at Tividale, aforesaid, 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 *Benjamin Jewkes*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Benjamin Jewkes* is hereby required to appear in such aforesaid Court, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1860, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, for his First Examination touching his Debts, Estates, 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 *Benjamin Jewkes*, or who have any of his Effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Thomas Walker, the Official Assignee, at his Office at the Court House, Priory Street, Dudley aforesaid.

Wm. Barns, Attorney.”

#### London Gazette 1/10/1860

“In the Matter of the Petition of *Benjamin Jewkes*, now and for three years and upwards last past residing at the WAGON AND HORSES Public-house, Tividale, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, carrying on the trades or businesses of a Licensed Victualler and Dealer in Spirits, Wines, Ale, Beer, and Tobacco, and during a portion of the said time also carrying on the trade or business of a Grocer and Provision Dealer, at Tividale aforesaid, an Insolvent Debtor.

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Worcestershire, at Dudley, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 16th day of October instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary.”

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 24/10/1860

“In the County Court, on Tuesday, before R. Kettle, Esq, judge, the following insolvents obtained their final order.....

*Benjamin Jewkes*, licensed victualler, Tividale, supported by Mr. Barns.”

#### 1861 Census

Dudley Road

[1] *Benjamin Jewkes* (60), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] Ann Jewkes (44), wife, born Aston, Shropshire;

[3] Joseph Jewkes (17), son, born Rowley Regis:

*James Jewkes* was also a corn dealer. [1864], [1865]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1865

“At the Dudley Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. T. Fereday and Mr. F. Smith, William Mander, a youth about sixteen years of age, was charged with having stolen a horse and cart, the property of George Stokes, cask maker, of Howe Street, Birmingham. The prosecutor stated that the prisoner had been some months employed by him, and that, on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult, he sent him in charge of a horse and cart and nine casks to Smethwick, telling him to leave the whole lot at Mr. Gordon's, of that place, and to walk back to Birmingham. Prisoner did not return; but on the following day he offered the horse and cart for sale to a man named Isaac Rollason, at the WAGON AND HORSES, Tividale, asking £2 for the lot. Rollason tendered him 25s for them, but the prisoner declined at first, yet afterwards agreed to accept the offer conditionally, that Rollason



should pay for half-a-gallon of ale. The bargain was then struck, the money was paid, and the prisoner gave a form of receipt for it, but did not sign it. Rollason, in giving evidence, stated that he was doubtful as to whether the prisoner had come by the property honestly, and closely questioned him about it. When the prisoner got the money he went on to Dudley Port, and got into a Wolverhampton train, and Rollason, not being quite satisfied, followed him, pulled him out of the carriage, and took him to the Dudley Police Station. The horse and cart were taken to the same place, and the prisoner was taken by Police-constable Minchin to the prosecutor's place, in Birmingham. When charged with the robbery at the Birmingham Police Station, prisoner said, 'I know I stole them, and I suppose I shall have to suffer.' He was committed for trial at the next Staffordshire Sessions."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/1/1866

"Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions.....

William Mander pleaded guilty to having, while in the service of George Stokes, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, stolen, at Rowley Regis, one mare and one wagon, the property of his master. The Assistant-Chairman said it appeared that prisoner had been drunk at the time of the offence, and therefore the sentence of the court would be that he be imprisoned for six calendar months."

*Hercules Hazlehurst* = Hercules Hazelhurst

Stourbridge Observer 27/10/1866

"On Wednesday last, at the Public Office, before F. W. G. Barrs and H. O. Firmstone, Esqrs, *Hercules Hazelhurst*, landlord of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, was charged by Superintendent Mills with having his house open for the sale of beer, on the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst.

Police-constable Hill proved visiting the house, and finding a number of men there drinking. There was a quart jug of ale and some rum on the table.

In answer to the Bench, Mr. Mills said the house was a great nuisance to the neighbourhood, and he had received several complaints.  
Fined 10s and costs."

County Advertiser 31/8/1867

"Annual Licensing Meeting.....

*Hercules Hazlehurst*, of the WAGGON AND HORSES, Tividale, and Francis Garbett, of the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, were censured for having been convicted of having their houses open on the Sunday."

Nottingham Journal 14/5/1868

"A meeting of puddlers, millmen, and others on strike in the iron trade, was held on Tuesday at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, the object being to maintain the present strike. The chairman was a Mr. Thomas Griffiths, a tinsmith worker, and after a speech, in which he advocated the claims of the men on strike upon the sympathy of other workmen, laid his head upon the table and died almost instantly, the perceptible struggle being a slight gurgling in the throat. Death is said to have resulted from apoplexy, and it is also stated that deceased was by no means of a strong constitution."

[This was reported nationally. The inquest took place at the VINE INN, Burnt Tree, Tipton.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/6/1868

"Mrs. Griffiths, widow of the late Thomas Griffiths, Dank Street, Tividale, requests us to acknowledge the receipt of £8 1s, which has been granted to her by the puddlers now on strike in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire. On the 12<sup>th</sup> May last her husband presided over a meeting of ironworkers, held at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, and after a few opening remarks he fell down and died."

County Express 27/3/1869

"Forester's Funeral.

The remains of Brother *Hercules Hazlehurst*, of Court Welcome Stranger (4736), WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, were consigned to the grave in Quarry Bank churchyard on Sunday afternoon last, in the

presence of a large number of spectators. The deceased brother held the important office of Court treasurer, and through his influence the order received a large acquisition of members. The poor and the suffering always found in him a friend, and his sudden death has cast a sad gloom over a large circle of friends and relatives.

*Kind was his end, but no sad pains opprest  
He passed from slumber to his heavenly rest.*

The mournful cortege left the Court house shortly after two o'clock, followed by a good muster of the brethren, suitably clad. The beautiful burial service was most impressively read by the officiating clergyman. When all was over several lingered to take a last look of the shell that contained the body and to read the inscription thereon.

*Hercules Hazlehurst, of Tividale, died March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1869, aged 32 years."*

#### County Advertiser 10/4/1869

"The following transfers of license were made.....

WAGGON AND HORSES, Tividale, from *Hercules Hazelhurst* to his widow, *Harriet Hazlehurst.*"

*Harriet Hazelhurst* married *William Firkin* on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1870.

*William Firkin* = William Ferkin

#### 1871 Census

Dudley Road

- [1] *William Ferkin* (28), licensed victualler, shingler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Harriet Ferkin* (30), wife, born Wolstanton, Staffordshire;
- [3] John M. Hazlehurst (9), son-in-law, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Edwin Hazlehurst (6), son-in-law, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Clara Hazlehurst (3), daughter-in-law, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Sarah Stevens (19), domestic servant, born Brierley Hill:

*William Firkin* died in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1875.

#### County Advertiser 12/2/1876

"William Higgs was charged with stealing 1½ yards of 'Devon' cloth, the property of Philip Rice, cloth hawker, on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst.

Prosecutor said that on the day in question he went to the WAGON INN, Tividale, and called for some ale. There were about nine or ten men in the room, and he asked them if they would buy anything from him. They requested him to let them see what he had, and he accordingly did so. The defendant was one of the men. Some of them took out of his bundle three pieces of cloth, one of which was the one produced, and refused to return them to him. The piece produced was 2s 9d in value. As they would not give him back the cloth he went to the police station for an officer, but could not find one. He then returned to the inn, and found that all the men were gone except three, one of whom was prisoner.

Police-constable Govan said in consequence of information which he had received he went to the house of a man named Woodall, at Kates Hill, Dudley, where he found the piece of cloth produced. Woodall stated that he had bought it from prisoner for 1s 3d and a quart of ale.

Prisoner admitted selling the cloth to Woodall, and said he found it on the seat after the packman (meaning prosecutor) had left to fetch the police. When prosecutor returned to the house he 'did not like' to tell him that he had found the cloth.

In answer to the Bench: Woodall pressed him to sell the cloth to him, or he should not have done so. The Bench committed him to goal for two months, with hard labour."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/1/1879

"Yesterday, at the Dudley County Court, *Harriet Firkin*, of the WAGON AND HORSES, Tividale, filed her petition. The liabilities are £700; assets not known. Mr. Stokes is the solicitor to the debtor."

London Gazette 24/1/1879

“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 *Harriet Firkin*, of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale in the parish of Tipton, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Widow.  
Notice is hereby given, that a General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Messrs. Stokes and Harper, on the 5th day of February, 1879 at three o’clock in the afternoon precisely.  
Dated this 20th day of January, 1879.  
Stokes and Harper, Dudley, Solicitors for the said Debtor.”

County Advertiser 15/2/1879

“Thomas Brown Tommas, the secretary of Court Welcome Stranger, No.4736 of the Ancient Order of Foresters, summoned *Harriet Firkin*, landlady of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, on a charge of unlawfully withholding and misapplying certain books and papers belonging to the society. The Court was formerly held at defendant’s house, and she as treasurer had possession of the books until about three months ago, when it was decided by the members to make a change. The defendant put her affairs into the hands of Mr. Bywater, of Tipton, and from him the Court received an order to obtain such books as belonged to them. They obtained all but two, and these the defendant said she knew nothing about. The case was ultimately adjourned for a week.”

Dudley Herald 22/2/1879 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1870. In the County Court of Worcestershire holden at Dudley.  
In the matter of a special resolution for liquidation by arrangement of the affairs of *Harriet Firkin*, of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, Tipton, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Widow. A general meeting of creditors of the above estate will be held at the Office of Messrs. Stokes and Harper, No.1, Priory Street, Dudley, in the County of Worcester, on Thursday, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March next, at three o’clock in the afternoon precisely, for the purpose of considering the propriety of sanctioning the acceptance by the trustee of a composition on the amount and in satisfaction of the debts due to the creditors of the above-named debtor and every of them respectively, together with the costs of and incidental to the receipt and distribution of such composition, upon condition that the proceedings in liquidation shall be annulled, and that the property of the debtor shall revert to her for all her estate and interest therein absolutely.  
Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 1879.  
Stokes and Harper, Priory Street, Dudley, Solicitors to Thomas Plant, Trustee of the Estate.”

Dudley Herald 26/4/1879 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley.  
In the matter of a special resolution for Liquidation by Arrangement of the Affairs of *Harriet Firkin*, of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, Tipton, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, and widow.  
Whereas the above-named *Harriet Firkin* presented to this Honorable Court, on the seventeenth day of January, 1879, a petition for the Liquidation of her Affairs by Arrangement or Composition with her Creditors, under the 125 and 126 Sections of the Bankruptcy Act, 1869. This is to give Notice that the said Liquidation proceedings were by order of this Court Annulled on the fourth day of April, 1879.  
Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1879.  
Thos. Walker, Registrar.”

Dudley Herald 2/8/1879 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Properties, situate at Watery Lane, Tipton, Dudley Port, and Tividale.  
To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Jabez Bywater, on Thursday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1879.....  
Lot 3. All that well and substantially-erected Old-licensed Public House and Premises, situate at and being at Tividale, near Dudley Port, on the main road between Oldbury and Dudley, in the occupation of Mrs. *Har-*

*riet Firkin*, and known by the Sign of the WAGON AND HORSES INN.

This Property consists of capital Smoke Room, Tap Room, well fitted-up Bar, large Kitchen, Three good Bedrooms and Club Room, Three Cellars, Brewhouse, also small Brewhouse, with Malt Room over, Two Pigsties, Stable, together with large Yard and Garden, all enclosed with wall and large Folding Doors. This Property is in good condition and surrounded by Ironworks and Collieries, and capable of doing a very extensive business. It is well supplied with Soft and Hard Water, and properly fitted up with gas throughout the house, and estimated to produce an annual rent of £45.

Also, a Double-fronted Grocer's Shop, adjoining the above Public-house, having Two Store-rooms, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Davis*, at the annual rent of £15 12s."

*Joseph Davies* = Joseph Davis

Birmingham Daily Post 22/3/1880 - Advert

"Piano (Cottage), Collard and Collard, second-hand; perfect order. Only £12.  
*Davies*, WAGON AND HORSES, Tividale, Tipton."

London Gazette 14/9/1880

"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 *Joseph Davies*, of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Nos.93 and 94, Tividale-road, Tipton, in the county of Stafford, Grocer and Licensed Victualler.

The creditors of the above-named *Joseph Davies* who have not already proved their debts are required, on or before the 22nd day of September, 1880, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts or claims, to me, the undersigned, Luke Jesson Sharp, of 47, Ann-street, Birmingham, Accountant, one of the Trustees under the liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.

Dated this 13th day of September, 1880.

George Edward Thompson, Luke Jesson Sharp, Trustees."

Dudley Herald 7/8/1880

"The Bench granted the following transfers of licenses ..... from *Joseph Davis*, licensed victualler, WAGON AND HORSES, Tividale, to *Attwood Parsons*, Tividale."

1881 Census

94, Dudley Road

[1] *Eleazor A. Parson* (53), married, iron worker and licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Eleazor A. Parson* (24), son, grocer, born Sedgley:

Dudley and District News 10/6/1882

"On Tuesday morning, the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, no little alarm was occasioned to the inhabitants who reside between the COACH AND HORSES and the WONDER INN, in the Tividale Road, when it appeared that the road between the above-mentioned houses had subsided and caved into some depth, through mining operations. The fountains of the deep seemed to have broken up, for the hollow formed by the subsidence was soon filled with water, owing to the bursting of a large main belonging to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, which flooded the road, and rendered it quite impassable to pedestrians and vehicles, the water lodging in the entries, and rising nearly to the doorsteps of the houses.

On Wednesday the stable and coach-house of the COACH AND HORSES fell in with a crash, suddenly and unexpectedly, one part falling into the road, and the other inside, causing a perfect wreck....."

Cradley Heath & Stourbridge Observer 23/9/1882

"Rowley Local Board.....

The surveyor said that the subsidence of the road near the WAGON AND HORSES, Tividale, still went on, the total subsidence now being more than 10 feet from the original level. A retaining wall had been built

to protect the houses, the total cost being £216 3s 2d. He had completed what was necessary to be done at present and hoped no further expenditure would be required for at least 12 months.

In consequence of there being no public lamps in that locality (Tividale), he had taken the precaution to whiten the ends of the walls, but notwithstanding that, some complaints had been made, and Mr. *Pearson*, landlord of the WAGON AND HORSES, had offered to put a lamp at the end of his wall if the Board would find the lamp. The matter was deferred.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 13/11/1885 - Advert

To Let, WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, Tipton; free, full licensed, incoming low.  
Apply on the Premises.”

County Advertiser 17/12/1887

“Henry Jackson, Abraham Clarke, Edward Jones, Tipton; and James Young, Tividale, were charged with being drunk upon the premises of Edward *Foster*, landlord of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst.

Police-constable Wingfield said he visited the house, and found the men there drunk, and making use of very bad language. He called the landlord’s attention to the matter, and then left the house. On a subsequent occasion he again visited the house and found all the defendants still there, except Young. Young on the former visit was whistling like a canary, and also whistled ‘God Save the Queen,’ which he said he could do until the devil fetched her. (Laughter.)

Jones: I was not drunk, and have never been before the magistrates in my ‘puff’ before. (Laughter.)

The first three defendants were each fined 5s and costs, and Young was fined 10s and costs.”

AND

Smethwick Telephone 17/12/1887

“Henry Jackson, Abraham Clarke, Edward Jones, and James Young, all of Tividale, Tipton, were charged with being drunk upon the licensed premises of *George Foster*, WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/12/1887

“*George Foster*, landlord of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, for supplying men with ale whilst in a drunken condition, was fined £10.”

AND

Dudley Mercury 24/12/1887

“*George Foster*, landlord of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst.

At a quarter to ten on the night in question, Police-constable Winfield found four men, who were drunk, in the defendant’s house; and the defendant was seen to supply one of them with beer. Three of the men were found in the house an hour later.

For the defence it was stated that the men went to the house in a drunken state, and refused to leave. Defendant was infirm and could not eject them.

The Bench thought it was a bad case, and fined defendant £10 and costs.”

1891 Census

94, Dudley Road – WAGGON AND HORSES INN

- [1] *Joseph Reading* (47), licensed victualler, born Tysoe, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Susan Reading* (48), wife, born Marston Green, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Samuel W. Reading* (21), son, stone quarry labourer, born Birmingham;
- [4] *John H. Reading* (18), son, fireman at colliery engine, born Birmingham;
- [5] *Bertha Reading* (16), daughter, domestic servant, born Birmingham;
- [6] *Lilly Reading* (11), daughter, scholar, born Birmingham;
- [7] *Frank Reading* (8), son, scholar, born Birmingham:

*Arthur Joseph Tomkyns* = Arthur Joseph Tompkins

### 1901 Census

94, Dudley Road – WAGON AND HORSES INN

[1] *Arthur J. Tomkyns* (32), licensed victualler, born Clifton, Bedfordshire;

[2] *Arabell C. Tomkyns* (31), wife, born Tividale;

[3] *Frederick J. Tomkyns* (10), son, born Tividale;

[4] *Arabella K. Tomkyns* (9), daughter, born Tividale;

[5] *Jacob Tomkyns* (3), son, born Tividale:

### County Advertiser 13/2/1904

“The annual licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday, at the Police Court.....

Superintendent Johnson had given notice to oppose the renewal of the licenses of ..... the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, kept by *Henry Bowater*, in order to secure the proper conduct of the business upon the premises.....

The Bench adjourned the renewal of the licenses of ..... the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, until the adjourned licensing sessions, pending the completion of alterations to the premises.”

### County Advertiser 12/3/1904

“On Wednesday, the adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held at the Police Court.....

The Justices then considered the objections to the houses on the black list....

Supt. Johnson explained that ..... With regard to the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale this license was adjourned for alterations to be carried out. These were well in hand, although not completed, and he asked to be allowed to withdraw the opposition. The licenses were accordingly renewed.”

### County Advertiser 2/4/1904

“*Harry Bowater*, landlord of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, was summoned for permitting gaming upon his premises on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst.

Mr. J. W. Clulow, who prosecuted, explained that on the night in question Police-constables Heatherley and Edwards visited defendant’s house, and in the club room they saw a number of men shooting at an air-gun target for beer, and also for who should pay the cost of the pellets. This took place in the presence of a man named Northwood, brother-in-law of the landlord, who also fetched the beer. The landlord also came into the room, and was interested in the competition.

Mr. R. A. Willcock, of Wolverhampton, who defended, put in a plea of guilty. He pointed out that although defendant had no knowledge of the innocent pastime being accompanied by gambling, he had accepted the full responsibility of the action of the man Northwood. Defendant had kept the house in a satisfactory manner for two years, and he urged the Bench to deal leniently with him.

He was fined £3 and costs, amounting in all to £5 10s 6d.”

### County Advertiser 11/2/1905

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Superintendent Johnson presented his annual report.....

During the twelve months ended January last, three licensed victuallers and two beerhouse keepers had been proceeded against and convicted for offences against the Licensing Acts. One beerhouse keeper had also been convicted for using obscene language in his own house. The whole of the licenses (except the one for using bad language) have since been transferred. Since the transfer each house has been conducted satisfactorily.....

The following is a list of the licenses objected to by Superintendent Johnson.....

*Joseph Smith*, WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, fined £3, and costs on the 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1904, for permitting gaming.....

The justices then proceeded to hear the objections to the renewal of the licenses on the ‘black list’. These were all granted, the chairman administering a caution to each applicant.”

[The offence relates to the previous licensee.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1906

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

The Chairman said in addition to the licenses mentioned by Superintendent Johnson, the magistrates had decided that notices of objection be served upon the holders of the licenses of.....

WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, on the ground of redundancy, and the objections would be dealt with at the adjourned licensing sessions.”

County Advertiser 10/3/1906

“The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

Mr. Bassano said the bench had under consideration the nine houses, five of which were objected to on the ground of conviction and four others on the ground of redundancy. It had raised a very large question, and the magistrates had before them the consideration of the parish as a whole. He threw out the suggestion to the trade and owners that the matter should be considered from their point of view during the next twelve months. The magistrates would be prepared to consider any counter proposition that might come from the brewers which could be laid before them next year. In order to simplify the proceedings that day the following licenses would be renewed.....

WAGON AND HORSES, Tividale.”

County Advertiser 12/5/1906

“Licensing Business.

Mr. Marshall applied for the transfer of the license of the WAGON AND HORSES, Tividale, from *Phoebe Smith* to *Isaac Brayden*, and also for the transfer of the PEAR TREE INN, Tividale, from *Isaac Brayden* to James Frisby.

He explained that at the general licensing sessions the WAGON AND HORSES INN was one of the houses scheduled to be considered on the ground of redundancy. It was deferred, in order that the owners might do something within the next twelve months. Mrs. *Smith*, the late licensee, succeeded her husband, who died twelve months ago, and though his clients, Messrs. Rolinson and Son, did not desire their houses to be kept by women, under the exceptional circumstances they agreed to allow her to remain in charge of the premises. She had since been conducting herself other than in the way his clients desired, and she had been persuaded to leave.

Under the circumstances he applied for the transfer of the WAGON AND HORSES INN to *Brayden*, and for the transfer of the PEAR TREE INN to *Brayden*'s step-son.

Frisby was placed in the witness box, and in reply to Superintendent Johnson admitted that he had been twice convicted for gambling at West Bromwich, and that on the last occasion he went to gaol in default of paying the fine.

Superintendent Johnson contended that a man who had been convicted twice for gambling, and who had been in gaol, was not a suitable person to hold a license.

Mr. Marshall said it was only expected to be of a temporary character, and his clients proposed to submit the PEAR TREE INN to the Bench on the ground of redundancy, instead of the WAGON AND HORSES INN. Ultimately the Bench granted the transfer of the WAGON AND HORSES INN to *Brayden*, but refused the other application.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench were content to allow *Brayden* to hold two licenses temporarily.”

County Advertiser 19/5/1906

“*Phoebe Smith*, licensee of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, was charged with, permitting drunkenness upon her licensed premises and also with supplying drunken persons on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Mr. J. W. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. Marshall, of Dudley, defended.

Mr. Clulow explained that on the afternoon of the date named Police-constables Heatherley and Walton visited the house. They went in at the back of the premises, and saw two men, named Abraham Corbett and Thomas Danks, drinking from a supply of ale on the table. Both men were in a drunken condition, and when Heatherley spoke to Mrs. *Smith* she said she had asked them to go. The same evening the officers paid another visit to the house, and then they found two other men, Joseph Tilley and James Young, in a drunken

state. Mrs. *Smith* was not upon the premises, which had been left in charge of her son, aged fourteen years. Subsequently Mrs. *Smith* arrived, and when witness spoke to her she expressed her regret and asked the officers to overlook it.

Mr. Marshall pleaded guilty, and explained that defendant was a widow with three young children. She was without a penny, and any fine imposed upon her would have to be paid by someone else.

Mr. Bassano said it was a bad case, and a fine of £5, including costs, was imposed.

Thomas Danks, Abraham Corbett, Joseph Tilley, and James Young, all residing at Tividale, were each fined 10s, including costs, for being drunk upon the licensed premises.”

#### County Advertiser 3/11/1906

“James Homer, of Park Lane, Tipton, was charged with torturing a cat on the 21<sup>st</sup> ult.

Inspector Argue, NSPCA, prosecuted, and the said the defendant with other men were drinking in the tap room of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale. The defendant had a ten weeks old kitten upon his knee, and was playing with it, when for some unaccountable reason defendant threw the kitten upon the fire. A man named Rushton pulled the kitten off the fire, burning his fingers in doing so. It was burnt so badly that it had to be destroyed.

A witness named Roberts said the defendant told him that he was trying to throw the kitten at Payton’s head for fun.

Mr. G. T. S. Plant (Dudley) who defended, said defendant did not throw the kitten on the fire wilfully. Fined 20s including costs.”

#### County Advertiser 26/1/1907

“George Prince, a miner, of High Street, Kates Hill, Dudley, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, kept by *Isaac Brayden*, and also with assaulting Joseph William Blakemore, chartermaster of the Tividale Hall Colliery, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. It was alleged that defendant neglected his work, and when spoken to by Blakemore he violently assaulted him. Defendant then went to the public house, and owing to his disorderly conduct was ordered to leave by the landlord. He refused to go, and the police were called in.

Defendant was fined 10s, including costs, for refusing to quit, and 10s and costs for the assault.”

#### County Advertiser 9/2/1907

“The annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday at the Police Court.....

Mr. Marshall applied for the renewal of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale, to *Isaac Brayden*. He pointed out that the police objection was against the previous tenant, and since *Brayden* went into the house it had been properly conducted. He also asked for permission to rebuild the house, and submitted plans for the proposed alterations.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench had decided to defer the renewal of the license and also the consideration of the proposed improvements until the adjourned licensing day.”

#### County Advertiser 9/3/1907

“The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday at the Police Court.....

The Bench renewed the license of the WAGON AND HORSES, Tividale, to *Isaac Brayden*.....

Mr. Marshall, of Dudley, applied for the permission of the Bench to rebuild the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Old Hill, and the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Tividale. He mentioned that at the annual sessions he submitted plans for the alteration of the houses, but the consideration of them was deferred until that day. Since his clients had put in amended plans which had received the approval of the police. The owners were Messrs. J. Rolinson and Son, of Netherton, and they proposed to rebuild upon the site of the old houses, and not to increase the drinking area. The alterations would afford better facilities for police supervision, provide improved sanitary accommodation, increase the rateable value, and also the amount to be contributed from the trade for compensation purposes. The PEAR TREE INN, Tividale, another of his client’s houses, was being dealt with on the ground of redundancy, and if the present applications to rebuild were favourably



considered they would offer no opposition to the non-renewal of the license of the PEAR TREE INN. Mr. Bassano said the plans were satisfactory, and subject to an agreement for the PEAR TREE INN to be sent for compensation they would be approved.”

*Isaac Brayden* issued tokens from here.

### 1911 Census

Dudley Road – WAGGON AND HORSES INN

- [1] *Isaac Brayden* (55), moulder iron foundry, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Hannah Brayden* (53), wife, married 11 years, housework, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Isaac Brayden* (18), son, carpenter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Thomas Frisby* (21), step-son, labourer iron works, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *William Frisby* (15), step-son, welder in tubes, born West Bromwich:

### Birmingham Daily Post 5/4/1915

“Information has been received by Mrs. *Bladen* [sic], of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, that her youngest son, Private W. Frisby, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry whilst serving at the front.

In a letter to Frisby, Captain F. Latham, of the Leicestershire Regiment, says, ‘I am very pleased to inform you that you have been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for your excellent and gallant deed in assisting to dress a wounded man at great risk to yourself whilst we were in the trenches which we took over from the 1<sup>st</sup> Gurkhas. The commanding officer and all of us congratulate you heartily upon the reward which has been granted to you. I hope you soon may be fit and able to rejoin the battalion. I am sure you will be pleased to hear that Lieutenant Moore, RAMC, whom you assisted, had been granted the DSO, and Captain N. A. Morgan the Military Cross.’

Frisby was seriously wounded, being shot through the neck, and is now confined to Netley Hospital, Southampton. He is eighteen years of age, being the youngest of four brothers, all of whom are serving at the front.”

### Birmingham Daily Post 10/7/1915

“Private William Frisby, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, a son of Mrs. *Brayden*, of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, who was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry at Neuve Chapelle, was given a public welcome on his return home from Netley Hospital yesterday afternoon. Addresses of congratulation were made by Councillor Barnett and the Vicar (the Rev. G. R. Wynn Griffiths). Private Frisby, who is partially paralysed as a result of his wounds, acknowledged the welcome given to him, and the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.”

### Sports Argus 5/8/1939 - Advert

“Staffordshire Bull Terriers, brindle. 7 weeks; 3 Dogs, 1 Bitch; only want seeing.  
*Whitehouse*, WAGGON AND HORSES, Tividale.”

### 1939 Register

7, Dudley Road

- [1] *William G. Whitehouse*, date of birth 9/4/1886, manage (public house), married;
- [2] *Selina A. Whitehouse*, dob 11/5/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Irene G. Whitehouse*, dob 8/9/1922, tracer in drawing office, single:

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/4/1939

“The County Licensing Confirmation Committee for Staffordshire, at their meeting at Stafford yesterday..... The following applications were granted.....

*William George Whitehouse*, removal of the full license of the WAGGON AND HORSES, Dudley Road, Tividale, to premises proposed to be erected on the opposite side of Dudley Road.”

*June McLennan* married a Mr. *Taylor* in September 1962.

On the formation of Warley County Borough on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1966, the license was transferred to West Bromwich.

The grant to remove the license to land opposite was confirmed at Stafford.

Demolished

It was rebuilt in the late 1970s.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1979

“Full marks to Banks’s and Hanson’s for their ‘pint ’n platter’ guide – not simply for listing 140 pubs where you can find food to accompany traditional draught beer, but for indicating that six of them have facilities for the disabled. Six out of 140 may not sound many – but at least it is a sign that somebody has not forgotten the less fortunate among us.

Certainly, it has pleased Mr. Tom Glasgow, of Marston Green, who is a consistent campaigner for the disabled and who tells me he is in touch with the British Tourist Authority, the United Nations and the World Health Organisation about their needs. For the record the helpful half dozen are.....

WAGGON AND HORSES, Tividale.

So far, so good. What we really need now is a comprehensive list, embracing not only breweries but theatres, night clubs and other places of entertainment which have been designed in an awareness of the wheelchair. Who is going to get it moving?”

*Michael Bradshaw* was married to Liz.

[2008]

Closed [2009]

It was converted into a supermarket. [2010]

Express & Star 23/10/2012

“The former WAGGON AND HORSES pub on the corner of Dudley Road West and Groveland Road in Tividale was converted into a Co-op supermarket two years ago. Pat Kiely, head of properties at Midcounties Co-op, said the building was the perfect site for a store. ‘There is plenty of car parking and it is on a main road in a busy community. As far as we are concerned it is a perfect site.’”

## WELLINGTON

10, Upper Chapel Street, TIVIDALE

## OWNERS

## LICENSEES

Thomas Shinton [1859] – [1864]

Joshua Harris [1871] – **1872**);

Samuel Paskin (**1872** – [1881]

John Harris [1891]

Alfred Charles Cox [ ] – **1901**)

Elizabeth Cox [1901]

George Bolter [ ]  
George Powell [ ] – 1906);  
Charles Glen (1906 – [1909]:

## NOTES

DUKE OF WELLINGTON [1859], [1872]

It had a beerhouse license.

*Thomas Shinton* = Thomas Shenton

### Birmingham Daily Post 23/9/1859

“Cricket. A match was played on Monday last between the Kates Hill club and the Britannia club, Tividale, on the ground of the Britannia, when, after five hours’ good play, it terminated in favour of the Kates Hill, in one innings. After the game the members of the two clubs went to the house of Mr. *Shenton*, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, Tividale, where they sat down to an old English dinner, which gave great credit to the host and hostess, and a happy evening was spent.”

*Thomas Shinton* was also a carpenter. [1861]

### 1861 Census

Chapel Street – WELLINGTON INN

- [1] *Thomas Shinton* (42), carpenter, born Claverley;
- [2] Charlotte Shinton (37), wife, born Newport, Shropshire;
- [3] M. A. Shinton (17), daughter, born Lilleshall;
- [4] Sarah Shinton (13), daughter, born Walsall;
- [5] Edward Shinton (10), son, born Birmingham;
- [6] Susannah Shinton (8), daughter, born Tipton;
- [7] William Shinton (4), son, born Tipton;
- [8] Thomas Shinton (2), son, born Rowley Regis:

Mary Anne Shenton married *Joshua Harris* on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1863.

*T. Shinton*, beer retailer, Chapel Street, Tividale. [1864]

### 1871 Census

Chaple Street

- [1] *Joshua Harris* (34), beerhouse keeper, born Wombourne;
- [2] Mary A. Harris (27), wife, born Lilleshall;
- [3] Sarah A. Harris (6), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Clara Harris (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Emley Harris (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Thomas E. Harris (4 months), son, born Rowley Regis:

*Samuel Paskin* = Samuel Paskins

*Samuel Paskin*, beer retailer, Tividale. [1872]

### County Advertiser 12/3/1881

“Henry Cook, Tividale, was charged with assaulting Samuel Spicer, of the same place, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Sharpe (Messrs. Jackson and Sharpe, Westbromwich) prosecuted, and Mr. Stokes defended.

In opening the case, Mr. Sharpe said that at the last Staffordshire Assizes defendant was indicted for assault and highway robbery. The complainant was a witness for the prosecution, and this appeared to have caused some ill-feeling between him and the defendant.

Complainant was called, and gave evidence that on the night in question he was at the DUKE OF WELLINGTON INN, Tividale. Defendant and a number of other men were also there. A dispute arose over some card playing, and defendant struck complainant two blows, one on the nose and the other on the shoulder, knocking him into a corner. Defendant said he would make him remember that Stafford job.

Cross-examined: Was perfectly sober. Did not charge Cook with stealing his watch. Cook was acquitted at Stafford.

A witness named Wall was called, and gave evidence that he saw defendant strike complainant.

Mr. Stokes said the dispute did not arise about card playing, but arose out of Spicer having charged Cook with stealing his watch, which Cook had previously handed over to some one, and had forgotten with whom he had left it.

Several witnesses were then called, and gave evidence that Spicer was drunk and had to be put out of the house.

The Bench considered the assault a brutal one, and fined defendant £5 and costs; in default of payment three months."

#### County Advertiser 19/3/1881

"*Samuel Paskin*, landlord of the WELLINGTON INN, Tividale, was charged with permitting gambling on his licensed premises on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. T. Cooksey (Old Hill) prosecuted, and Mr. Stokes (Messrs. Stokes and Harper, Dudley) defended.

Evidence was given by a witness named Samuel Spicer that he was at defendant's house on the night in question. There were eight or nine persons there, amongst them being three persons named Wall, Crochon, and Cook. Wall and Crochon were playing at cards – 'all fours' – for drink, and Cook was scoring. As witness went into the taproom Wall paid the defendant's son, who was sitting in the room at the time the card playing was going on, for a quart of ale that had been lost. Defendant's son was near the taproom door, and could see the card playing. Three more games were played after this.

Wall was called and stated that he played with Crochon for ale, and said that the card playing continued for more than half an hour.

Mr. Stokes said defendant had kept the house for twelve years without a complaint being made against him. He proceeded to call a number of witnesses to show that Spicer was drunk and had to be turned out of the public house.

A number of witnesses called said there was no card playing going on, and Samuel Crochon, on being called denied that that he was card playing with Wall as the witnesses for the prosecution had sworn.

The Bench retired, and on returning into Court, Mr. Bassano said they considered the case proved. They had decided not to endorse the license, but they should inflict a severe fine. Defendant was fined £5 and costs."

#### 1881 Census

10, Upper Chapel Street

- [1] *Samuel Paskin* (46), sheet iron roller, born Tipton;
- [2] Mary A. Paskin (42), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] William E. Paskin (17), son, iron work labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Samuel Paskin (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Joseph H. Paskin (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Mary A. Paskin (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Thomas A. Paskin (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] James Paskin (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Albert Paskin (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] Eliza Jane Paskin (6), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] Florence Paskin (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [12] Eliza Wall (15), general servant, born Tividale;

County Advertiser 3/9/1881

“The annual licensing session for the petty sessional division of Rowley Regis, were held on Wednesday last, at the Police Court.....

The following is the black list ..... Beer-house Keepers.....

*Samuel Paskins*, WELLINGTON INN, Tividale, permitting gambling, fined £5 and costs.....

The persons in the black list were called before the Bench, and had their licenses suspended till the adjourned licensing day.”

County Advertiser 1/10/1881

“Adjourned Licensing Session.....

Jane Stanley, JUNCTION INN, Tividale; Betsy Green, BLUE BALL INN, Tividale; James Frederick Homer, BULLS HEAD INN, Windmill End; *Samuel Paskin*, WELLINGTON, Tividale; Ellen Darby, BEECH TREE and, Benjamin Dando, Dog Lane, Blackheath, whose names were on the black list, and whose licenses had been adjourned from the annual licensing session, were called before the Bench. Their licenses were renewed after the holders had been duly cautioned.”

1891 Census

10, Upper Chapel Street – WELLINGTON INN

[1] *John Harris* (33), puddler in ironworks and licensed victualler, born Sedgley;

[2] Emily Harris (28), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] William T. Harris (3), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Josiah Scriven (26), boarder, coal miner, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Martha A. Williams (18), domestic servant, born Dudley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/10/1901

“Bankruptcy Proceedings. Examinations at Dudley.....

The statement of affairs of *John Harris*, of the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, formerly of the WELLINGTON INN, Tividale, showed liabilities £114 4s 8d, and a deficiency of £103 4s 8d. The examination was closed.”

1901 Census

10, Upper Chapel Street – WELLINGTON INN

[1] *Elizabeth Cox* (50), married, innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Lucy R. Cox (17), widow, born Halesowen:

County Express 13/12/1902

“*Alfred Charles Cox*, brewer, Cakemore, came up for his public examination on Monday, at the Court House, Stourbridge, before Mr. Registrar Collis. His liabilities were £335 9s, assets £139 15s, and deficiency £195 14s. The alleged causes of failure were want of capital, keen competition, and the heavy expenses necessary to work up a connection.

In reply to the Official Receiver (Mr. Jobson), debtor said he commenced business as a licensed victualler in 1899, and had a capital of £75, which he obtained in an action for wrongful dismissal. He first had the STATION INN at Great Bridge, and the landlords gave him the option to purchase their interest in the lease for £450. He subsequently purchased their interest for £450, and afterwards resold it, together with the lease of the WELLINGTON INN, Tividale, which he had also taken, for £1,375. After this sale in November, 1901, he was out of employment till March this year, when he began business as a brewer in Long Lane, Blackheath. If he could have had time, and sold the brewery as a going concern, he should have been able to pay everyone 20s in the pound.

The debtor was ordered to give up a key to the brewery he held.

The examination was adjourned to a day to be fixed.”

AND

County Advertiser 13/12/1902

“*Alfred Charles Cox* came up for his public examination.....

The STATION INN was paying badly when he went to it. Debtor just made a living by it. He lived at the

house, and during the time that he had it he took to another one, the WELLINGTON INN, Chapel Street, Tividale. He took to it because he thought that, the one being successful, the two combined would be more successful. His mother acted as manager at the WELLINGTON INN. He paid his mother £1 a week and expenses, and had all the takings.....”

#### County Advertiser 7/11/1903

“Mr. Wright, of Wolverhampton, made an application on behalf of *George Powell*, landlord of the WELLINGTON INN, Upper Chapel Street, Tividale, for a certified copy of the license of the house. He pointed out that the house was formerly kept by a man named *George Bolter*, for Mr. Ashforth, who held the lease, but *Bolter*, who had some kind of dispute with Mr. Ashworth, possessed the license, and refused to give it up. He submitted that the license was being wilfully withheld, and that applicant was entitled to a certified copy of it. The Bench granted the application.”

#### Staffordshire Advertiser 15/5/1909

“Notice is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1904, by the Compensation Authority for the County of Stafford, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at 10.30 o'clock am, on Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1909.

And Notice is Hereby also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing Act, 1904, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard..... WELLINGTON, Chapel Street, Tividale. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Charles Glen*.”

#### Staffordshire Advertiser 19/6/1909

“Staffordshire Licensing Compensation Authority.....

The local licensing justices had refused the renewal the licence of the WELLINGTON, Chapel Street, Tividale, an ante-1869 beerhouse, of which *Charles Glen* is the tenant. There was no opposition, and the authority formally confirmed the refusal.”

#### 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 11<sup>th</sup> June, and by adjournment on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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.....

WELLINGTON, Chapel Street, Tividale, Rowley Regis, £750.

.....the money has been apportioned amongst the interested parties.”

## **WERNLEY**

161, Wolverhampton Road / Albert Road, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.  
Sizzling Pub Co.

## LICENSEES

Eric Walter Wardroper (1933 – 1941);  
Frederick Robert ‘Fred’ Mountfield (1941 – 1960);  
Jack Robinson (1960 – [1962])  
David Jones [1987]  
John Garbett [1992] – [1993]  
Julie Colbourne [2004] – [2018] general manager  
Andrew Gale [2013] – [2016]

## NOTES

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1930

“After a hearing lasting the whole day, Oldbury licensing magistrates yesterday refused an application by Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers for the removal of the license of the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, to premises to be erected at the junction of Albert Road, and the new road at Warley.”

### Smethwick Telephone 7/3/1931

“Matters of great importance were under consideration with the application of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers for permission to erect a hotel on the Birmingham-Wolverhampton Road at a point near the Smethwick and Oldbury housing schemes.....

Mr. Hurst said he had the honour to apply to the Bench on behalf of Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, a fully licensed public house, to a site at Warley, on the new main Wolverhampton Road, at the corner of Albert Road ..... The application was in respect to a removal of a licence to a district which was a new centre of population and the house would be in a teeming and busy district.....

The Bench considered the matter in private for a long time. Eventually the Chairman said that the application would be granted subject to the surrender of two full licences in the centre of Oldbury – the BROWN LION, Birmingham Street, and the ENGINEERS ARMS, Stone Street – and also subject to certain minor alterations to the plans.”

### Smethwick Telephone 2/5/1931

“Worcester Licensing Committee on Monday confirmed the provisional order granted to Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers, sanctioning the removal of the publican’s licence from the CROSS KEYS, Tat Bank, Oldbury, to premises to be erected at the corner of the Wolverhampton-Birmingham arterial road and Albert Road at Warley, in the Oldbury division.

Mr. J. G. Hurst, KC, who appeared with Mr. M. Holdsworth to make the application said that since the construction of the arterial road there had been remarkable building development at the site of the proposed licence. In addition to closing the CROSS KEYS, his clients would surrender two more full licences in the district of Oldbury. It was mentioned that these licenses would be the BROWN LION in Birmingham Street, and the ENGINEERS ARMS in Stone Street. The estimated cost of the new building was stated to be £14,000, exclusive of the site.”

It opened on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1933, at 10am.

It was reputedly haunted.

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/7/1934

“First-round ties in the Birmingham Beer, Spirit and Wine Trade Association bowling handicap to be played on Tuesday next ..... E. P. Parsons, Brook Hill Hotel, Alum Rock (scr.) v *E. W. Wardroper*, the WERNLEY,

Quinton (rec. 4).”

WERNLEY Bowling Club was founded in 1936.

J. H. Cresswell was the President from 1936 – [1950]

The club was still in existence. [2008]

#### 1939 Register

Wolverhampton Road – WERNLEY

[1] *Eric W. Wardroper*, date of birth 4/6/1905, licensee (public house), married;

[2] Clara R. Wardroper, dob 13/12/1905, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[6] Clarice (Russell) Round, dob 15/9/1921, domestic servant (paid), single:

#### Birmingham Mail 21/3/1940 - Advert

“Good Situation for Man willing to learn bar and cellar work; good references required.  
The WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, Quinton.”

During World War Two, Holy Mass was held here.

#### Birmingham Mail 17/1/1941 - Notice

“War Charities Act, 1940.

Notice is hereby given that it is proposed to apply to the Oldbury Borough Council for the Registration under the above-mentioned Act of The Warley and District United Services Comforts Fund and Advisory Committee, the objects of which are shortly as follows: Provision of comforts for HM Forces and their dependants, and the Administrative Centre of which is situate at the WERNLEY HOTEL, Wolverhampton Road, Birmingham, 32.

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.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1941.”

#### Birmingham Mail 4/10/1941 - Advert

“The Falcon Hotel, Low Town, Bridgnorth.....

The Falcon Hotel is managed under the direction of Mitchells & Butlers by Mr. *Eric Wardroper*, late Manager of the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road.....”

#### Birmingham Mail 1/5/1943 - Advert

“Cleaners and Bar-Helps Reqd. at once.

Apply, Manager, the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, Quinton.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/11/1944

“Cycling Clubs’ Plans.....

C.T.C. Sections..... Easy Riders: Today, informal run; WERNLEY HOTEL, W.H. Road (2.45).”

#### Evening Despatch 13/11/1945

“Plans are well in hand for maintaining the comradeship of members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Worcestershire (Warley) Home Guard.....

Members of B Company have formed a committee to organise social evenings at the WERNLEY HOTEL, Wolverhampton Road, on the last Monday of each month. A souvenir brochure has also been prepared.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/2/1946 - Advert

“Bar Generals, two required, young, experience not essential; good home.

Apply, Manager, the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, Quinton.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/10/1949 - Advert



“Barman required; experience not essential; references.  
Apply, Manager, the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, Quinton.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/5/1951

“*Birmingham Gazette* Tennis Draw.....

R. *Mountfield*, the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, Quinton v W. C. Grantham, 5 Council House, Frankley, Birmingham.”

Sports Argus 9/6/1951

“Gala Day of Bowling.

No fewer than 214 level and crown green bowlers will take part in a Gala Day of Bowling under the Festival of Britain in Birmingham programme on Sunday, June 17, at Tally Ho! and the police sports ground, Edgbaston.....

The Festival Committee have presented a trophy for competition among the three associations. Last Monday, the Warwickshire and Worcestershire beat the Business Houses by eight shots. Next Monday the Parks play the Business Houses at Dunlop (Erdington) and Cannon Hill Park. The final will be at Kings Heath Park and the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, on Monday June 18.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/5/1952

“*Birmingham Gazette* Tennis: The Draw.....

J. Smith, 166, Quinton Road, West Quinton, Birmingham 32; CEN 2633 v J. M. *Mountfield*, the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, Quinton 32; WOO 2131.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/9/1952 - Advert

“Barmaid, full time, mornings, Man and Waiter; references.

Apply, Manager, the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, Quinton.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1955 - Advert

“Bar Helps and Cleaners required; also odd job man for mornings.

Apply, Manager, the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, Quinton.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/3/1956 - Advert

“Cleaners and Bar-Helps required.

Apply, Manager, the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, Quinton, B’ham, 32.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/8/1958

“While he was congratulating a bowls team on winning the Oldbury and District Charity Bowls Competition last night, Coun. William Hayes collapsed and died. Coun. Hayes, who was chairman of the Oldbury Baths and Public Halls Committee, had been invited to present the shield to the winners of the final between the GATE INN and the WERNLEY HOTEL, held at the PHEASANT INN, Warley. The GATE INN was successful. A few minutes before he died Coun. Hayes had been talking and joking with some of the 150 spectators. He was a Socialist and was first elected to Oldbury Council in 1945, representing the Broadwell Ward. In 1946 he was elected to the Worcestershire County Council. He was president of the Oldbury Civilian Disabled Association. He was a diesinker and lived in Vicarage Road, Langley. He leaves a widow.”

Plans were approved for alterations to the Assembly Room, New Smoke and Mixed Smoke Rooms on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1959.

Sports Argus 3/7/1965

“All competitors are reminded that the final stages of the W. and W. Individual Merit competition to be played at the WERNLEY HOTEL, tomorrow, will start at 1.30pm.”

[Bowls.]

Warley News Telephone 10/12/1970

“The WERNLEY Bowling Club’s most successful achievement of the season was winning the Jeffrey Annual Trophy. They won the award by beating the Three Horse Shoes, Sheldon. Both teams compete for the trophy annually and in recent years the Sheldon club have always won. But on Friday the cup was presented to the captain of the WERNLEY team, Mr. Jack Wright, at the club’s 35<sup>th</sup> annual dinner and prize distribution night at the WERNLEY HOTEL.

Club president, Mr. P. Goodby, said, ‘Now we have got the award the Three Horse Shoes are going to have a hard job getting it back.’ He added, ‘Last year they beat us handsomely when they ran us to 28 on our own green.....”

A team from here took part in the Smethwick and District Charity Darts League. [1986/7]

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/10/1987

“Drinkers at an Oldbury pub have spent the last year raising money for sick children. They have now presented £1,200 to the Birmingham Children’s Hospital. Licensee of the WERNLEY pub in Wolverhampton Road, Mr. *David Jones*, decided to hold raffles for the hospital after his daughter, Katie, aged seven, underwent an eye operation just over a year ago. Then barmaid Mrs. Lillian Aston started a sponsored slim to help boost proceeds. She lost a stone in just two months, reducing her weight to 11 stone. The raffles were held each fortnight, with prizes donated by Mr. *Jones* and his customers. ‘I was delighted by the way Katie was treated and the staff were very helpful as well, so I decided to raise money for the hospital,’ said Mr. *Jones*.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/12/1992

“Brewery transport workers Keith Boden and John Higgins will be making a special delivery this Christmas – to a refugee camp in war-torn Croatia. Instead of the barrel loads of beer they would normally have on board, their 17-ton Mitchells & Butlers wagon will be carrying emergency relief supplies on what could be a hazardous 1,300 mile journey .... Mr. Boden, a brewery drayman said, ‘I don’t mind giving up part of my Christmas for such a project. I have got my wife’s full backing.’ But he has got one well deserved surprise Christmas present. His married daughter, Louise Hays, turned up unexpectedly from America in time to see Keith and other workers collect the first batch of supplies from the WERNLEY pub, on Wolverhampton Road, Warley.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/5/1993

“Beer at the prices of 60 years ago will be on tap at a Warley pub on Monday. But before regulars can enjoy their bargain pints at the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, they’ll need the right money – in old pence. Landlord *John Garbett* who has organised entertainment for the celebrations throughout the day, said, ‘We’ll be selling a limited amount of beer at the sort of prices charged in 1933, the year the pub was built. It’s a special treat for my regulars. They’ll be offered mild ale at threepence a pint and bitter at fourpence. A number of customers say they are glad they kept some of the old money. It will be a good way to spend it.’ Mr. John York, an operations manager with M&B, said, ‘The WERNLEY remains a good community pub after 60 years and customers deserve something special as an anniversary treat.”

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.....

WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, Warley.”

It was redecorated in 2004.

### Halesowen News 14/11/2007

“A Halesowen band is set to rock until they drop in a mammoth fundraising event for Children in Need. Funky Wrench will be gigging at four pubs across Oldbury in one night, playing for 30 minutes before quickly packing up their instruments and equipment before dashing to the next venue. The band will be kicking off the event tomorrow (Friday) at the Amber Tavern, Hagley Road, at 7.30pm before moving onto the WERNLEY, Wolverhampton Road for 8.30pm. The third performance will be at the BEAR in Bearwood Road for 9.45pm before they finish at the ABBEY in Abbey Road at 11pm. Band member Andy Hill said, ‘We wanted to do something out of the ordinary for Children in Need which would make us stand out from the crowd and hopefully raise more money than just going round with buckets. It will be a real challenge, really hard work. It has taken quite a bit of organisation but we are all really excited although we are nervous because we are aware if one thing goes wrong it will have a knock-on effect for the whole night.’”

### Halesowen News 13/6/2012

“Pubgoers had a lucky escape when a car careered across the road, over the pavement and crashed into a bench. The incident happened just before 6pm last night (Tuesday) at the WERNLEY, Albert Road, Oldbury.

A spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service said, ‘The incident involved one car which had mounted the pavement, went over street furniture and landed on a bench outside the public house. One man was removed from the wreckage and taken to hospital, the incident has been left in the hands of the police.’”

*Andrew Gale* – see also WAGGON AND HORSES, Church Street.

### Halesowen News 26/6/2018

“A pub regular who has been attending his Warley watering hole for the past 60 years was asked to cut the ribbon as it reopened following extensive refurbishment. The WERNLEY, in Wolverhampton Road, honoured 92-year-old local man Joe Davies by making him guest of honour at a ceremonial ribbon cutting ceremony. Following a significant investment, which has seen five new jobs created, the pub recently reopened with its new look after a two-week refurbishment project.

General manager *Julie Colbourne* said, ‘We’re so pleased at how brilliant the WERNLEY looks following the refurbishment, and we were thrilled to have Joe here cut the ceremonial ribbon for us. At 92-years-young, Joe has been regularly visiting the WERNLEY for an incredible 60 years, making him our longest standing loyal guest. Joe is a well-respected pillar of the local community and a lifetime member of the WERNLEY Bowling Club, it’s fitting for him to be chosen as our Local Hero and here to officially reopen the pub as it begins a new phase in its history.’ The pub and its staff are already planning a host of fundraising events and activities as they look to support the local community throughout the year. *Julie* added, ‘We can’t wait to welcome back all our regulars and the people of the Oldbury to see what the new look WERNLEY is all about.’”

### Express & Star 16/4/2019

“A man was beaten up and his sister was dragged by her hair during a brawl at a Black Country pub. The man, aged in his 20s, was punched and kicked in the face during the fight at the WERNLEY in Oldbury and needed hospital treatment for his face and mouth. His sister, who tried to break up the violence, was dragged by her hair across the large pub on Wolverhampton Road. A group of three men are believed to have attacked the brother at around 10pm on Sunday. West Midlands Police is now investigating the incident and has urged anyone with information to get in touch.

Jacqui Thacker was in the pub when the violence broke out and called on the community to ‘flush out’ the men responsible in a widely-shared post on Facebook. She wrote, ‘Three ‘men’ in the WERNLEY tonight whilst spoiling for a fight decided to pick on the shortest lad they could find, who is placid and kind. Not only punched him but then decided when he was on the floor to kick him repeatedly in his head. As a community let’s flush them out – I’d be ashamed if they were my son/partner or ‘friend.’ They also felt it appropriate to swing his sister, who was trying to protect him, across the room by her hair. Those ‘men’ need to do time for this and to realise the gravitas of their deed.’”

[2021]

## WHEATSHEAF

49, (98), Tat Bank Road, (49, (98), Stone Street), OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Mary Ward

John Ward

Enoch Ward, Tat Bank Road, Oldbury

Isacke and Clarke, 82, New Street, Birmingham (acquired c.1920)

William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1946]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

### LICENSEES

Enoch Ward [1861] – [1878]

Mrs. Mary Ward [1880] – **1888**;

John Ward (**1888 – 1915**);

Robert Rigby (**1915 – 1919**);

Albert Roberts (**1919 – 1921**);

John Henry Keenan (**1921 – 1956**);

Frederick Ward [1921] ?

Caroline Keenan (**1956 – 1957**);

James Edward Williams (**1957 – 1959**);

Frederick Jesse Payne (**1959 – 1960**);

James Reaney (**1960 – 1961**);

George Theodore Jordan (**1961 – [1962]**)

### NOTES

98, Tat Bank Road [1873], [1880]

98, Stone Street [1881]

49, Stone Street [1891], [1893]

49, Tat Bank Road [1892], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939], [1957]

### 1861 Census

Tat Bank Road – WHEAT SHEAF

[1] *Enoch Ward* (50), beerhouse keeper and shopkeeper, born Tipton;

[2] *Mary Ward* (49), wife, born Tipton;

[3] Richard Ward (25), son, iron puddler, born Tipton;

[4] *John Ward* (22), son, iron puddler, born Rowley;

[5] Enoch Ward (20), son, iron puddler, born Rowley;

[6] Ellen Ward (18), daughter, born Rowley;

[7] Mary Ann Ward (15), daughter, born Rowley;

[8] Kezar Ward (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[9] Elijah Ward (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury:

*Enoch Ward*, retailer of beer, Tat Bank Road. [1862]

He was described as a beer retailer and shopkeeper, Tat Bank. [1864], [1865]

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1866

“Mr. Ralph Docker, District Coroner, opened an inquest on Saturday afternoon, at the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Tat Bank, respecting the death of the unfortunate man, Shakespeare, who was killed by a fall at the Blue Fly colliery on Thursday morning. After the Jury had been sworn in, Mr. Docker said he did not propose to offer any evidence. It was important that Mr. Baker, the Inspector of Mines for the district, should be in attendance. The inquest was then formally adjourned till Saturday next, at the TALBOT INN.”

County Express 23/11/1867 - Advert

“To be Sold by Private Contract, a whole Set of Handbells, 58 in number.  
Apply to Mr. *Enoch Ward*, WHEAT SHEAF INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

1871 Census

Stone Street – WHEAT SHEAF INN

- [1] *Enoch Ward* (59), licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Ward* (59), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Hezekiah Ward (20), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Elijah Dutton (8), grand-son, born Oldbury:

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Marriages

2<sup>nd</sup> November 1874 - William Liggitt (23), bachelor, iron worker, Langley - father, Samuel Liggitt, miner.  
Kezia Ward (23), spinster, Tat Bank - father, *Enoch Ward*, publican.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1878 - Died

“On the 10<sup>th</sup> inst, at the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Tat Bank, aged 67 years, *Enoch Ward*; deeply and deservedly regretted by a large circle of friends.”

1881 Census

98, Stone Street – WHEAT SHEAF INN

- [1] *Mary Ward* (69), widow, publican, born Tipton;
- [2] Annie M. Healey (21), domestic servant, born Roscommon, Ireland:

West Bromwich Weekly News 16/7/1881

“Tat Bank, Oldbury. To Let, with Immediate Possession, that well-known, Old-Licensed House, the WHEATSHEAF INN.  
Apply to Mrs. *Ward*, on the premises.”

Evening Express 10/10/1881

“On Saturday, an inquest was held at the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury, before R. Docker, Esq, coroner, upon the body of Ellen Shaw (41), who formerly resided at 75, Tat Bank Road, and who died suddenly. The deceased had been ailing for some time, because she had been deprived of the necessaries of life, her husband being out of work. On Tuesday last she was found in her home lying on the floor, with her head against the grate, in an unconscious state, and she died the same day. On Tuesday previous deceased went to the relieving officer, Mr. Wattis, respecting the remission of school fees for her children, when Mr. Wattis noticing her famished appearance, asked her if she was in want, and without any application from the deceased gave her five loaves and some grocery goods. The food of the deceased and children had for some time been supplied principally by the neighbours. The Coroner said the case certainly had the appearance that death was hastened from want of proper nourishment; but from the evidence adduced he did not think they could blame anyone except the husband in not trying to get his family food.”

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/2/1884 - Advert

“Wanted, strong Girl for Public-house. Good character. No Family.  
WHEATSHEAF INN, Tat Bank, Oldbury.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 10/9/1887 - Advert

“Wanted, a Servant Girl, character required.  
Apply WHEATSHEAF INN, Tat Bank.”

*Mary Ward* died in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1888.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/4/1888

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, an application was made by Mr. S. H. Forrest for the transfer of the license attached to the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Tat Bank, from *Mary Ward* to *Richard Ward*.

Police-sergeant Stanton objected to the transfer being granted on the ground that the applicant had been twice summoned to appear before the Court – on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 1881, for threats, when he was ordered to pay the costs; and on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 1887, for a breach of the peace, on which occasion he was ordered to find sureties and pay the costs.

Mr. Forrest produced a character for the applicant, extending over a period of twenty-five years.

The magistrates’ clerk said he did not think the charges mentioned by the police were sufficient to justify the Bench in refusing to transfer the license.

The application was granted.”

Smethwick Telephone 14/4/1888 - Advert

“The WHEAT SHEAF INN, Stone Street, Tat Bank, Oldbury.

Mr. W. H. Pass is favoured with instructions from the representatives of the late *Mary Ward*, deceased, to Sell by Auction upon the above premises, on Friday Next, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1888, the whole of the Neat and Genteel Household Furniture and Effects, comprising Sets of Iron Bedsteads, Feather and Mixed Beds, Dressing Tables, Swing Glasses, Chests of Drawers, Cane-seated and Windsor Chairs, Easy Chair in hair, Hair-seated Sofa, Kitchen Items, and other effects.

Sale to commence at 11am prompt.

Auctioneer’s Office, 50, Church Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1890

“At the Police Court, yesterday, Joseph Peele, Parsonage Street, Tat Bank, and Thomas Winspear, Spring Street, Langley, were charged with committing a breach of the peace by fighting on the 5<sup>th</sup> inst.

Police-constable Bayliss stated that he saw the defendants stripped and fighting in Stone Street, Tat Bank, and they had three or four rounds in his presence.

Peele was further charged with refusing to quit the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Tat Bank, on the same date.

Defendants were bound over to keep the peace for three months, and pay the costs; and Peele was fined 18s, or fourteen days’ imprisonment, for refusing to quit.”

1891 Census

49, Stone Street

[1] *John Ward* (52), born Rowley;

[2] Sarah Ward (46), wife, born Leicester;

[3] John Ward (20), son, printer’s apprentice, born Oldbury;

[4] Enoch Ward (18), son, printer’s apprentice, born Oldbury;

[5] Emma Ward (15), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Harry Ward (13), son, born Oldbury;

[7] Frank Ward (10), son, born Oldbury;

Birmingham Daily Post 19/1/1893 - Advert

“Printers. Stereotyper and Machinist Wants Situation.  
John Ward, 49, Stone Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/3/1895 - Advert

“Wanted, Horse, 15.2; must be sound and good worker; trial required.  
*John Ward*, WHEAT SHEAF INN, Oldbury.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 14/7/1900 - Advert

“Youth wanted, 16 or 17, live in or out.  
Apply WHEATSHEAF, Tat Bank.”

1901 Census

49, Tat Bank Road

- [1] *John Ward* (62), licensed victualler, born Whiteheath;
- [2] *Mary Ward* (64), wife, born Coventry;
- [3] *Frank Ward* (20), son, barman, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Mary A. Jones* (15), domestic servant, born Tipton:

1911 Census

49, Tat Bank Road – WHEAT SHEAF INN

- [1] *John Ward* (72), licensed victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] *Mary Ward* (73), wife, married 14 years, born Brinklow, Warwickshire;
- [3] *Sarah Collins* (24), domestic servant, born Tipton:

*John Ward* was also a brewer. [1912]

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1914

“Queen Mary’s Appeal ..... help our men who are in the fighting line.....  
We have pleasure today in acknowledging the receipt of blankets from the WHEATSHEAF, the ROYAL EXCHANGE, and Nelson Street, Tat Bank, Oldbury.....”

Smethwick Telephone 24/4/1915

“Police-constable *Robert Rigby* has retired from the Borough Force on permanent pension, owing to prolonged sickness. He joined the Staffordshire Constabulary in August, 1896, and most of his service has been in Smethwick.”

*Robert Rigby* was also a brewer. [1916]

Smethwick Telephone 12/2/1916 - Advert

“WHEAT SHEAF, Tat Bank, Oldbury. Manager, *Robert Rigby* (Late of Smethwick Police Force).  
F. Ward’s Noted Home-Brewed Ales. Finest Quality.  
4½ Gals XX 6/- XXX 7/3 Nett.  
9 Gals XX 12/- XXX 14/6 Nett.  
Under New Act, Remittance with Order.  
Irish Whiskey, Rum and Brandy, 3/6 per bottle, Gin, 3/- per bottle.”  
[Frederick Ward brewed here.]

Smethwick Telephone 16/9/1916 - Advert

“Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Home-Brewing Licensed House and Freehold Residential and Dwelling House Properties, situate in Langley Green, and Oldbury.  
By Messrs. Jones, Son, & Vernon (FAI) at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday Next, September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm prompt (subject to conditions of sale to be then produced and read).

Re *Enoch Ward*, Deceased.

Lot 1. The Free, Freehold, Fully-Licensed, Home-Brewing House and Premises, known as the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, together with the Five Freehold Dwelling Houses & Premises adjoining.

This is a Home-Brewing House, situate in Tat Bank Road aforesaid, a densely-populated district near the large Government factory and other large works.

The Licensed Premises comprise: Front Bar, Front Tap Room, Back Smoke Room, Back Living Room, Three Bedrooms, Club Room, large Cellar, Outside Brewhouse (used as Brewery), Stable, urinal and w.c., together with good Yard, etc.

The Assessments are as follows:

Schedule 'A' for Licensed-house, and 5 houses adjoining £50 8s 0d.

The Rateable Value of the Licensed House is £20 15s 0d.

Ditto for 5 houses adjoining £28 0s 0d.

Average Brewers' License (over 4 years) £4 0s 0d.

The Dwelling Houses are numbered 51, back of No.51, 47, back of No.47, and 45, Tat Bank Road, and are situated on either side of the Licensed Property.

The rents are 3s 3d, 3s 3d, 3s 3d, 3s 3d, and 4s 3d weekly. Landlord paying rates and taxes.

This Licensed House has maintained and increased trade (which is a very profitable one) under the regime of level measure and restricted hours....."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 22/9/1916

"Mr. Frank H. Jones (Messrs. Jones, Son, and Vernon) has sold the following properties.....

Licensed premises, known as the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, with five freehold dwelling houses and premises adjoining, £1,850."

*Frederick Ward* was also a brewer. [1921]

#### Smethwick Telephone 4/2/1922

"At Oldbury Superintendent Milsom reported that he had served notices of objection to the renewal of the following licenses on the ground of redundancy.....

WHEAT SHEAF, Tat Bank."

#### 1939 Register

49, Tat Bank Road

[1] *John H. Keenan*, date of birth 15/7/1881, hotel manager, married;

[2] *Caroline Keenan*, dob 23/5/1883, unpaid domestic duties, married:

#### Probate Notice 1957

"*John Henry Keenan* of 49, Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, Worcestershire, died 19 September 1956.

Administration Birmingham 6 February to *Caroline Keenan*, widow. Effects £189 18s 2d."

*George Theodore Jordan* – see also WHITE HORSE, Church Street.

#### Smethwick Telephone 16/7/1970

"15 years old Oldbury boy who noticed a hole in the storage shed of a public house put his hand in and took four bottles of lemonade magistrates at a juvenile court at Oldbury heard on Monday.

The boy admitted entering the store shed of the WHEATSHEAF INN, Tat Bank Road, Oldbury as a trespasser and stealing four bottles of lemonade worth 7s 4d. He was given a conditional discharge for two years.

He was also in breach of a conditional discharge imposed in December. On this he was ordered to pay £2....."



## WHIMSEY

83, (38), Halesowen Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Charles Roberts

Walter Showell and Sons, Langley, Oldbury (later Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.) [1901]

Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired in 1936)

### LICENSEES

Joshua Perry [1828]

Samuel Holland [1828] – [1830]

William Pendlebury [1841] – **1844**)

Joseph Plant [1845]

William Clift [1850]

Thomas Whitehouse [1850] – [1854]

Jacob Griffiths (**1853** – [1855])

James Griffiths [1855] – [1857]

Thomas Timmins [1861] – **1863**);

John Worley (**1863** – [1865])

John Rowley Ballard [ ] – **1868**);

Rebecca Plant (**1868** – **1869**);

John Ballard [1870]

John Wood Jnr. [1870]

George Wood (**1869** – [1870])

John Atkins [1871]

William Gardner [1872] – [1874]

Isaiah Short [1880] – [1884]

John G Dexter [1883]

Charles Roberts [1884]

Joseph Chadwick [1886] – **1889**);

Thomas Sands (**1889** – **1892**);

Mrs. Sarah Sands (**1892** – **1893**);

Walter Showell and Co. Ltd. (**1893** – **1894**);

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. (**1894** – **1906**);

Joseph Baugh [1896] manager?

W H Blackford [1900] manager?

Harriet Benson [1900] manager?

Isaiah Baker [1901] manager

Thomas Joshua Doverson (**1906**);

Daniel Westwood (**1906** – **1908**);

David Willetts (**1908** – **1910**);

Owen McAdam (**1910** – **1911**);

William Swancott (**1911**);

William Middleton (**1911** – **1914**);

Harry Webster (**1914** – **1921**);

Benjamin James Garner (**1921** – **1922**);

William George Hawkes (**1922** – **1924**);

John Myers (**1924** – **1932**);

Edward Steatham (1932 – 1936);  
Emanuel Love (1936 – 1950);  
Leonard Faulkner (1950 – 1953);  
George Alfred Hughes (1953 – 1954);  
Dennis Lewis (1954 – 1957);  
Albert Victor Smart (1957):

## NOTES

38, Halesowen Street [1871], [1881]  
83, Halesowen Street [1891], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1939]

NEW WHIMSEY [1863]  
NEW WHYMSEY [1884], [1938]

It had a bowling green.

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/4/1828

“On Monday evening an officer of the Court of Requests at Oldbury, named John Horton, was stabbed by William Stevenson, a collier, against whom he had an execution. It is stated that the parties met at the WHIMSEY public house at Oldbury, and that without provocation, except of giving him notice of the execution, Stevenson suddenly rose, and striking deceased with his left hand, with his right plunged a concealed weapon into his body. On raising the unfortunate man from the ground, the injury he had received was fully ascertained, and he was conveyed home, where he died on Wednesday. Stevenson made his escape from the house during the confusion of the moment. An inquest has been held upon the body, and a verdict of Wilful Murder returned against Stevenson, for whose apprehension a reward of £30 is offered.”

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/4/1828 - Advert

“Thirty Guineas Reward.

Whereas William Steventon, alias William Stevenson, alias William Stevens, commonly called Billy Sugar, stands charged upon the Coroner's Inquest with the Wilful Murder of John Horton, at Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, on Monday night the 31<sup>st</sup> of March last. He is a native of Oldbury, and is by trade a Collier, but has occasionally worked as a Brickmaker and Boatman; about thirty years of age, five feet ten inches high, rather splay-footed, has a crooked nose, large front teeth, hazel eyes, and long neck.

Whoever will apprehend and deliver him to me, shall forthwith receive the above reward.  
Samuel Marsh, Constable of Oldbury.”

### Smethwick Telephone 13/11/1953

'Murder At The Whimsey Inn, Oldbury' by W. Ellery Jephcott

“On the evening of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1828, the inhabitants of the township of Oldbury, which then had a population of about 5,000, were startled by the news that a Sergeant of the Court of Requests had been stabbed at the WHIMSEY INN in Halesowen Street. His assailant had made his escape. A few hours later the injured man died and a hue-and-cry was raised for his murderer. It was not until Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> that he was apprehended at a village near Pontypool in Monmouthshire, then conveyed to Oldbury and committed to Salop County Gaol on the Coroner's warrant for wilful murder.

..... the Court of Requests was the predecessor of the County Courts and used for the recovery of all debts not exceeding £5. A local Court was established at Oldbury in 1807 ..... and this functioned until it was superseded by a County Court under an Act of 1846. The accused man was committed to Salop Gaol because at that period Oldbury formed part of the parish of Halesowen, which was in Shropshire.

An account of the circumstances of the murder, which appeared in *Bell's Life In London and Sporting Chronicle* on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 1828, said that a collier named William Steventon, known by the nickname

of 'Billy Sugar', had against him several executions for debt issued by the Court of Requests. He was described as 'a large powerful man of a ferocious disposition', and it was generally known that he carried about with him a knife . . . . Therefore, said the paper, a great reluctance to take him was evinced by the officers of the Court. On the day of the tragedy, however, one of them, named John Horton, 'who was somewhat inebriated', hearing that Steventon was at the WHIMSEY public house, proceeded thither. He found him drinking among a large company in the kitchen. Horton told him he must consider himself his prisoner. To this Steventon offered no resistance, but asked to be allowed to go home before being taken to prison. They were proceeding there together when a woman they met advised Horton not to go, and he returned to the public house. In a short time Steventon made his appearance, and after sitting in the kitchen a few minutes, suddenly arose. With his left hand he struck the unsuspecting officer, who was standing with his back towards the fireplace, and with his other hand 'plunged the concealed weapon into his body.' Horton fell immediately, but the company, considering it merely the effect of the blow, allowed Steventon to make his escape. Upon picking Horton up, he said he had been stabbed, and was put to bed, where he died a few hours later. A reward of £30 was offered for the arrest of Steventon . . . . It was stated Horton left a wife and five children, and that Steventon had a wife and six children. . . ."

#### Smethwick Telephone 20/11/1953

#### 'Oldbury Man's Public Execution' by W. Ellery Jephcott

"The scene was set at Shrewsbury Assizes, before Mr. Justice Gazelee, where William Steventon (31) . . . . stood in the dock on August 1<sup>st</sup> 1828 indicted for the wilful murder of John Horton. *Samuel Holland*, the licensee of the WHIMSEY INN told the Court how on reaching home on the night of March 31<sup>st</sup> he found several persons sitting in the kitchen . . . . Among them were the prisoner and John Horton . . . . The latter appeared to be intoxicated, but Steventon was perfectly sober. The two men were talking quite amicably . . . . Steventon returned about 15 minutes later and in the interval his demeanour had undergone a change. Entering the kitchen again, he pulled from under his coat a weapon about 20 inches long, apparently an old broken sword, keen and bright, and with an oath he asserted that 'the first man who interfered with him should have it.' The landlord advised him to put the weapon away. . . .

There was a club supper in the house that night and the landlord then went into the parlour to serve the meat for the members. Soon after he heard a noise in the passage, and running out found Horton being supported by his wife and a man named Parish. . . .

The Judge having summed up, the jury, without hesitation, returned a verdict of guilty. In passing sentence of death, Mr. Justice Gazelee told Steventon he had been convicted of wilful and deliberate murder . . . . he was executed on the following Monday in the presence of a crowd estimated at 5,000. . . ."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/11/1830 - Advert

"To be Sold, the Good-will, License, and Possession of that capital Public House, known by the sign of the WHIMSEY, now in the occupation of Mr. *Samuel Holland*, at Oldbury, in the parish of Hales Owen, county of Salop.

The house is pleasantly situated upon the bank of the Canal, commanding an extensive business among the colliers, navigators, and iron-manufacturers, has several clubs attached to it, and on the whole is a very superior situation for the business.

The stock and fixtures will not exceed £250.

For particulars apply to the present Occupier; or to Mr. Jesse Wright Auctioneer, Dudley, who has on sale—An excellent Public House at Netherton.

One ditto at Brierley Hill.

Three others in the central parts of Dudley.

Coming in from £100 to £400."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 20/12/1830 - Advert

"To Publicans and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on Wednesday, December 29, 1830, all the Brewing Vessels, Casks, Tubs, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Samuel Holland*, of the WHIMSEY Public House, Oldbury, who is going to decline the business.

The Casks are nearly new, and contain from 50 to 300 gallons each.”

Birmingham Journal 26/11/1831

“Birmingham Insolvent Debtors’ Court.....

*Samuel Holland*, formerly of Dudley, in the county of Worcester, publican, afterwards of Oldbury, in the county of Salop, publican, and late of Oldbury, aforesaid, butcher, was opposed by Mr. Collis, solicitor, of Wolverhampton, on behalf of W. and C. Collis, spirit-dealers, for a debt of upwards of £11. The insolvent was served with a copy of a writ, and put in a plea to the action. The trial came on at the last Worcester Assizes, but was undefended. The ground of opposition was the insolvent’s having put the plaintiffs to the expense of £32 in law; when he had no real defence to the action. The insolvent admitted that the debt was just and due, and attributed the prosecution of the defence to his attorney. The commissioner held that in order to prove a vexatious defence to the action, the record ought to have been produced. The insolvent was remanded for two months from the filing of his petition.”

London Gazette 31/7/1840

“Job Winkless, heretofore of the Earl Grey Retail Brewery, Dudley-street, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, Retail Brewer and Shopkeeper, part of the time an Attorney’s Clerk, after-wards of Church-hill, in Wednesbury, Attorney’s Clerk, afterwards of Oak-road, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, Attorney’s Clerk, and late lodging at the WHIMSEY Public- house, in Hales Owen-street, Oldbury, Salop, out of employ.”

1841 Census

Halesowen Street

[1] *William Pendlebury* (35), publican;

[2] *Hariot Pendlebury* (30);

[3] *Louisa Winkless* (12);

[4] *Elizabeth Morris* (15), fs;

[5] *Benjamin Millon* (40), ms:

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 15/7/1844 - Advert

“Sale at the WHIMSEY INN, at Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, on the premises, on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July inst, at eleven o’clock, by direction of the Proprietor, Mr. *Pendlebury*, who has removed to the CART AND HORSES INN at Oldbury; consisting of part of the Household Furniture, four-pull ale machine, glassware and measures, two large buffets, screens and benches, tables, chairs, and public house fixtures; also the excellent hogshead and smaller barrels, iron and copper furnaces, mash tub, coolers, brewing vessels, and other effects.

Catalogues may be had on Friday next in Oldbury and of John Roderick, Auctioneer. Offices, 54, New Street, Birmingham.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 17/10/1849

“At the Halesowen Petty Sessions, last week, there were heard no fewer than ten informations against brickmakers of that locality for wholesale evasion of the excise duties. Dr. Bateman, the excise solicitor, appeared in support of the informations, and Mr. Thomas Harding, of Birmingham, was specially engaged to defend each case.....

Mr. *Thomas Whitehouse*, of Oldfield [sic], was fined £150, and condemnation of 84,782 bricks.....

It appeared that the whole of the parties had been detected through the vigilance of Mr. Coomber, Supervisor of Excise, Wednesbury. Mr. Harding urged in each of the cases different mitigatory circumstances, and the penalties, which were more than £3,000, were ultimately reduced to about £300. We are informed that the large brickmakers of Birmingham and other towns have for some time past found it impossible to compete with those of this neighbourhood, and the above proceedings may possibly afford an explanation of the principal cause of this fact, as it has really for some time past been suspected to be.”

*Thomas Whitehouse*, jun, WHIMSEY and brickmaker, Halesowen Street. [1850]

Worcestershire Chronicle 8/5/1850

“Captain Bennitt, of the Dudley Troop of Yeomanry, having just taken to the blast furnaces and collieries which for a number of years have been carried on under the firm of John Dawes and Sons, visited the works on Monday week, and left a sum of money sufficient for every man and boy who were employed at the furnaces and in the collieries to enjoy a supply of roast beef and ale at his expense. On the same evening the men who work at No.4 colliery availed themselves of the kindness of their worthy employer, at the house of Mr. *William Clift*, the WHIMSEY, Oldbury, where an excellent supper was provided by the host and hostess of the inn. After the cloth was drawn, Charles Crossley proposed the health of Captain Bennitt, his lady, and their family, and expressed a hope, in which all joined, that the present undertaking would prove beneficial, and that Captain Bennitt would long live to enjoy the fruits of his enterprise and capital. The toast was drunk with much applause, and the rest of the evening was spent in great harmony.”

1851 Census

Halesowen Street

- [1] *Thomas Whitehouse* (28), brickmaker, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Ann Whitehouse* (23), wife, born Beech Lane;
- [3] *Mary Ann Whitehouse* (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Mary Jane Whitehouse* (4 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Mary Wright* (13), house servant, born Acton upon Team, Shropshire;
- [6] *Ellen Nock* (11), house servant, born Oldbury;

*Thomas Whitehouse* issued tokens bearing WHIMSEY – blue brick and tile manufacturer.

Worcestershire Chronicle 10/11/1852

“On Wednesday last an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Thomas Whitehouse*, the WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury, before Ralph Docker, Esq, coroner, on a boy named Thomas Castles, residing at Oldbury Green, who met with his death on the previous Monday in the following distressing manner. Whilst playing alone upon a boat loaded with coal, and lying under the wooden bridge upon the canal which runs through this place, another boat laden with iron came up, and in passing accidentally came in contact with the first-mentioned boat, when the force of the collision overbalanced the deceased, and he fell from the stern, where he was standing at the moment, into the water. A woman who was passing at the time screamed out to a man in the second boat to help the poor boy, but the inhuman fellow, although he had a shaft in his hand and was within two yards of the place where the unfortunate lad was struggling, made no effort to save him; and when, after the lapse of about a quarter of an hour, the deceased was recovered, he was quite dead. A verdict in accordance with the evidence was returned.”

Birmingham Journal 8/10/1853 - Advert

“Sale at the WHIMSEY INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury. By Samuel Rodway.

To be Sold by Auction, upon the above Premises, on Monday Next, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October.

A variety of Household Furniture, several well-seasoned hogshead and half hogshead Casks, Brewing Utensils, useful Brown Gelding, double-bodied Phaeton, light Spring Cart, Gig Harness, Thiller Tackle, Deal open Canal Boat, and other Effects, the property of Mr. *Griffiths*, who has taken the above Inn, and has no further use for them.

Sale to commence punctually at Eleven o'clock in the morning.”

Edinburgh Gazette 22/7/1862

“*Jacob Griffiths*, of Halesowen-street, in the township of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Pit Manager, formerly of Langley-green, near Oldbury aforesaid, out of business, and previously thereto of Halesowen-street, Oldbury aforesaid, Licensed Victualler and Pit Manager, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, on the 17th day of July, 1862, is hereby required to surrender himself to George Steward Watson, Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 30th day of July instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon precisely, at his Chambers, High-street, West-Bromwich, Stafford-

shire. Joseph Heapy Watson and George Steward Watson, Gentlemen, of Oldbury, are the Official Assignees, and Henry Jackson, of Westbromwich, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1855

“On Thursday evening, the 25<sup>th</sup> instant, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *James Griffiths*, the WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury, before R. Docker, Esq, coroner, on the body of a youth eighteen years old, named George Parrish, who died on Wednesday evening of injuries sustained at Mr. Page’s Ironworks, a few hours previously. It would appear that the deceased was employed as an under-hand puddler, and that just before eight o’clock on Wednesday night he was endeavouring to procure a quantity of the refuse grease from the boxes underneath the rolls, which he intended to use in greasing the wheels of the wagon with which he conveyed away the cinder from the furnace. While doing this it is supposed a portion of his shirt got entangled in one of the bands attached to the rolls, and his body was then drawn between the boxes and the pinions several times. A fellow workman, named Mason, first saw the deceased in this position, and raising an alarm, the engine was quickly stopped. The deceased was then found lying upon the plates adjoining the rolls; he was in a state of insensibility, but on the way home (whither he was conveyed on a chair), he recovered his consciousness, but he died in three hours afterwards. He was attended by Mr. Beatty, surgeon. One of his thighs was broken, as were also several of his ribs. He had also sustained a large gash in the forehead. It was thought by the jury that the occurrence was purely accidental, and a verdict to that effect was returned.”

#### Birmingham Journal 28/2/1857 - Advert

“Important and Unreserved Sale. To Coal and Iron Masters, Butty Colliers, and Others.  
To be Sold by Auction, by J. S. Parkes, on Monday Next, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, at the Tiger Wharf, Whimsey Bridge, near the WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury.  
All the valuable Colliery Tools and other Implements, belonging to Messrs. C. and J. Griffiths, who are leaving the Tiger Colliery, Newbury Lane, near Portway, Oldbury; consisting of ninety-eight Skips, with Bows; about twenty-five tons of Skip Rings; ten pairs of Skip Tacklers, ten dozen of Pit Picks, twelve Corn Bins; with a quantity of iron Rakes, Crow Bars, Wedges, a set of Smiths’ Tools; together with Ten excellent, young, and powerful Waggon Horses, in excellent working condition.  
Particulars will appear in catalogues, which may be had at the Auctioneer’s; and of Mr. *James Griffiths*, WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury.  
Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock am.”

#### 1861 Census

Halesowen Street – WHIMSEY INN

- [1] *Thomas Timmins* (38), boat loader, born Tipton;
- [2] *Mary Timmins* (36), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Ellen Timmins* (8), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Thomas Timmins* (7), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Sarah Jane Timmins* (5), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Hannah Maria Timmins* (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Ann Raybold* (12), domestic servant, born West Bromwich;
- [8] *William Timmins* (40), brother, boat loader, born Tipton;
- [9] *James Whale* (68), father-in-law, widower, formerly collier, born Tipton:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 30/5/1862 - Advert

“Old Licensed House.  
To be Let, the WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury, with immediate possession. No stock to be taken to. Apply on the Premises.”

#### Birmingham Journal 14/6/1862 - Advert

“WHYMSEY INN, Oldbury.  
By Edward Cox, on Monday Next, June 16<sup>th</sup> inst, at half-past Ten (under a Bill of Sale).

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above-named Inn, together with the Household Furniture, Trade Utensils, Brewing Plant, and Effects, consisting of Bedsteads and Bedding, Chairs and Tables, Carpets, mahogany and oak Tables, Chest of Drawers, Sofa and Couch, Chimney Glass, Oil Paintings, Five-pull Beer Machine, with taps and piping, Measures, Glasses, Partitioning, Screens, Crusher, 150-gallon wrought-iron Boiler, two cast-iron Boilers, twenty-strike Mash Tub, Vats and lead Pipe, hogshead and half-hogshead Barrels, and other Effects.

Auctioneer's Office, Michael Street, West Bromwich."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/11/1862 - Notice

"Notice is hereby given, that an Order of Discharge was, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1862, granted by the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, at Birmingham, to *Thomas Timmins*, of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, lately carrying on business as a Licensed Victualler, and formerly carrying on business as a Coalmaster, in co-partnership with James Griffiths, at Oldbury aforesaid.

James and Knight, Solicitors, Birmingham; Agents for Edward Caddick, Solicitor, West Bromwich."

*John Rowley Ballard* – see also FRENCH HORN and RED COW.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 27/2/1869 - Advert

"WHIMSEY INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury; Old-licensed House; spacious Yard, and large Woodshed, well adapted for the Corn or Coal Trade; side entrance to the Canal, and every convenience for doing a large business. In-coming about £70. Only for Disposal on account of the Landlady retiring, having acquired a competency.

Apply, A. Atree, Auctioneer, Oldbury."

*John Wood Jnr.* was fined £3 and costs for permitting disorderly conduct in July 1870.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/7/1870

"*George Wood*, licensed victualler, of the WIMSEY [sic] INN, Hales Owen Street, was charged with unlawfully permitting drunkenness in his house on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. Police-constables Cartwright and Bevon deposed to calling at defendant's house three times on the night in question, and seeing a number of persons drinking, fighting, and making a great noise. They complained to the landlord, but he made no effort to eject them. It appeared that complaints had been made against him on several occasions, but he had not been summoned. Defendant was fined £3 and costs, making £4 10s."

*George Wood* issued tokens from here.

1871 Census

38, Halesowen Street – WHIMSEY INN

[1] *John Atkins* (27), innkeeper, born Willenhall;

[2] *Matilda Atkins* (20), wife, born Darlaston:

Birmingham Daily Post 21/9/1872 - Advert

"To Soda Water and Ginger Beer Manufacturers and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by John G. Wright, on Monday Next, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, upon the premises, back of the WHIMSEY INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, belonging to Mr. *William Gardner*, Ginger Beer Manufacturer (who is declining that branch of his business).

All the excellent Working Plant, comprising a well-constructed modern Ginger Beer Machine, by Boulding and Sons, London, capable of making 60 dozen per hour; lead Gas Generator, Gas Holder, Washing Troughs and Cisterns, Syrup Vats and Taps, Bottling Bench and Rack, 2 useful Horses, about 15 hands; 2 well-built Spring Carts, 2 sets of excellent strong-made Harness, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock in the morning."

Eddowes's Journal 19/8/1874 - 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.....

Agents for Shropshire ..... Mr. *W. Gardner*, WHIMSEY INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury.”

#### Worcester Journal 10/2/1877

“Isaac Downston, Benjamin Edwards, and David Carless, were charged with stealing £27, the property of Joseph Sheldon, in the WHIMSEY INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult.

The prosecutor stated that on the night mentioned he was in the WHIMSEY INN, about ten o’clock, and a dispute arose between him and a man named Moore in reference to a betting transaction on a dog race. Prosecutor pulled off his coat to fight, and handed it to Downston, along with his watch. The landlord interposed, to prevent a breach of the peace, and Moore was ejected. The prosecutor then received back his coat from the prisoner, but obtained his watch with difficulty. On feeling in the side pocket of his coat for his money, he missed the £27.

A witness proved having seen the prosecutor with a handful of gold, and other witnesses proved that they had heard Carless say that he knew who had had the money, and they were going to divide it, and to receive £7 each, and have a supper.

On being apprehended, the prisoners denied the charge, and Carless said he should not have made the statement attributed to him if he had not been drunk.

The prisoners were committed for trial.”

[At Worcestershire Adjourned Epiphany Sessions the court ruled there was no case against Edwards, and the jury acquitted the other two prisoners.]

#### 1881 Census

38, Hales Owen Street – WHIMSEY INN

[1] *Isaiah Short* (46), coal miner and innkeeper, born Dudley Port;

[2] Sarah Short (44), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] Albert Edward Short (16), son, born Oldbury;

[4] Sarah Ann Short (14), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] Florence Louisa Short (1), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Mary Jane Downes (16), domestic servant, born Sedgley:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 20/4/1881

“To Publicans, Music Hall Proprietors, and Others.

Clearing-out Sale at the WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hawkins and Son, on Friday Next, April 22.

The whole of the Public House Fixtures, Spirit Shop, Counter; Shelving, with plate-glass back; seven-pull lever Beer Machine, Piping and Taps, Ale and Spirit Measures, Funnels, Jugs, Cups, and Glasses; large handsome Case of Stuffed Birds; powerful toned self-acting Organ, playing 40 tunes, with mechanical Chinese figures, in handsome rosewood case; Partitioning and Doors, rail-back and other Forms, Bagatelle Board, with pockets; Drinking Tables, cast and wrought iron Boilers, 16-bushel Mashing Tub, pair of wood Vats and Frame, Gathering Tubs and Coolers, Sieve; Spring Trap, Dog Trap, three broad-wheel Carts, Pony Trap and Harness, Pony Phaeton, set of Silver-mounted Harness; Materials in slated sheds, Malt Crusher, Hop Press, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Isaiah Short*, who is disposing of the same on account of a Brewer having purchased the freehold, who is going to make alterations.

Descriptive catalogues may be obtained at the place of Sale, or from the Auctioneers, 26, Temple Street, Birmingham.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 29/5/1883 - Advert

“Youth (strong, willing) Wanted, about 17; from country preferred.

Apply, *John G. Dexter*, WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury.”



Birmingham Daily Post 28/1/1885

“An inquest was held yesterday, before Mr. R. Docker, at the WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury, respecting the death of Samuel Cooksey (28), boatman, of Canal Side, Hales Owen Street, who died suddenly on Saturday. The evidence was to the effect that on Saturday evening deceased, whilst in conversation with some companions, exclaimed, ‘Oh, strike,’ and fell down and expired immediately. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned by the jury.”

Smethwick Telephone 21/8/1886

“At a special Court on Wednesday morning, before W. E. Chance, Esq, Samuel Sillitoe (16), barman, of Perrott Street, Oldbury, was charged under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, with criminally assaulting Mary Sirtter (13), residing with her parents in Green Street, Oldbury, on July 28. Mr. S. H. Forrest appeared for the defence.

Prosecutrix stated that she lived in Green Street. At about 2.30 on Wednesday, July 28, she went into the WHIMSEY INN, near the Whimsey Bridge, to fetch a pair of trousers belonging to the landlord of the house for her mother to wash. There was only the prisoner in charge of the premises. He asked her to go into the smoke room, and there committed the assault, which he repeated several times. He then left her in the room, telling her to stop there. She could have followed him out if she desired to do so. She stayed till six o’clock. No one came into the smoke room with her but the prisoner. When she left he told her to call on Thursday night, but she accidentally met him on Wednesday evening, when he gave her four-pence, and she also saw him on the following Sunday, when he gave her two-pence.

In reply to Mr. Forrest, prosecutor stated that her father went about to the horse markets to drive cattle. Her father and mother had been before the magistrates the previous Tuesday, and her mother had been sent to prison. When the prisoner assaulted her she did not try to prevent him. She only screamed a little. She did not willingly consent. She thought she did not do what was right. Prisoner left the bar door open, and she could have gone out, but she did not want to do so. She went to meet the prisoner the next night because he told her to go, and would have gone every night had he asked her to do so.

Dr. Cunningham, who examined the girl six days after the occurrence, could give no positive evidence, but considered the appearances inconsistent with the girl’s story of this being the first time she had been interfered with. It was possible it might be correct, but most improbable.

The mother of the prosecutrix stated that she noticed her daughter was ill on Sunday. She looked pale and could not eat. Upon questioning her as to the cause she informed her of what had occurred. She then went to see the prisoner, in company with a neighbour, who said he knew nothing whatever about the matter. He admitted having given the girl 4d and 2d to buy some cherries.

In reply to Mr. Forrest, witness stated that she had, in company with her husband and a neighbour, visited the prisoner’s parents with a view to settling the case.

Mr. Forrest: And was anything said about settling? – Yes, sir.

Mr. Forrest: And if he had given you money the warrant would not have been issued? – Witness: No, sir, I did not want to hurt the young man if he would come to terms.

Mr. Forrest: What do you mean about term. Is this an attempt to get money out of Sillitoe’s pocket? – Witness hesitated.

Mr. Chance: You must answer the question, yes or no. – Witness (hesitatingly): It is sir.

A woman named Hemmings, living next door to the prosecutrix, also gave evidence. She stated that the prosecutrix’s parents asked to go down and see the prisoner’s parents and ascertain if they would settle the case, and the girl’s father stated that he should not take less than £5.

Police-sergeant Stanton proved arresting the prisoner.

Mr. S. H. Forrest then addressed the Bench in defence, urging the incredibility of the girl’s story, and that the evidence given for the prosecution was inconsistent with the facts in the doctor’s evidence, and, further, that the mother of the girl herself admitted that the case was an attempt to extort money from the prisoner’s parents.

Mr. Chance said he had carefully considered the evidence, and was of the distinct opinion that the prisoner ought to be discharged, the evidence not being strong enough for his committal.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/9/1889 - Advert

“Lost, spotted Dalmatian Carriage Dog, the name of Joe. Reward given.  
Mrs. *Sands*, WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/8/1890

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the WHIMSEY INN, Halesowen Street, concerning the death of Samuel James (5), son of Sarah James, a widow, residing in Halesowen Street, who was drowned in the Birmingham canal on Tuesday last.

Arthur Brant, a boy, said he saw deceased fall into the canal, but he did not tell anyone immediately, because he was afraid they would say he had pushed deceased into the water. He, however, told some other boys, who raised an alarm, and William Durrant, who happened to be near, recovered the body with a boat shaft. In reply to a juror, Durrant said the canal at the place where deceased fell in was altogether unprotected, and he thought it ought to be fenced for the safety of the public.

Police-sergeant Hill said large numbers of children were in the habit of playing in that locality, which was a yard in close proximity to the canal.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned, and recommended the coroner to communicate with the owners of the property in question, calling their attention to the necessity of fencing off the road adjoining the canal.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 3/3/1891 - Advert

“Re James T. Millership, Coal and Iron Merchant (Under a Deed of Assignment for the benefit of Creditors), Tomorrow (Wednesday), March 4, at 11 o’clock, at Sands Dock (WHIMSEY INN), Whimsey Bridge, Oldbury (close to G. W. Railway Station).

Sale of Nine Valuable Cabin Canal Boats, the majority of which are in good sound condition.

Hughes and Fleetwood are instructed to Sell by Auction, as above.

Catalogues in due course, from the Trustee, Sidney H. Hossell, Esq, Chartered Accountant, County Chambers, Corporation Street; Messrs. Sharpe and Wilkinson, Solicitors, Corporation Street; and of the Auctioneers, 19, Bennetts Hill, all of Birmingham.

NB. On application to Mr. *Sands*, at the WHIMSEY INN, the Boats will be shown.”

#### 1891 Census

83, Halesowen Street

[1] *Thomas Sands* (51), boatman, born Shropshire;

[2] *Sarah Sands* (51), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Thomas Sands* (26), son, boatman, born Oldbury;

[4] *Sarah Sands* (20), daughter, born Oldbury;

[5] *John Sands* (17), son, boatman, born Oldbury;

[6] *Jim Sands* (14), son, born Oldbury;

[7] *Polly Sands* (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

#### 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. H. Blackford*, WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury, 160.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 18/8/1900

“Joseph Jenkins of Tabernacle Street, Oldbury, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the WHIMSEY INN, Halesowen Street, on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst, and also with assaulting *Harriet Benson*, the landlady. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared to prosecute, and explained that defendant visited the house named about 5 o’clock on the day in question, and he was then under the influence of drink.

Mrs. *Benson*’s attention was called to the defendant on account of the bad language he was using. She requested him to leave the house, but he refused to go. Complainant then put her hand on the defendant’s shoulder, whereupon the latter struck her several blows upon the face, knocking her down, and he afterwards

kicked her in a brutal manner. Her face was badly bruised and discoloured, and defendant was prevented from repeating the assault by a man named Robert Turner. Complainant and her husband corroborated this statement.

Defendant, who pleaded that complainant scratched his face, was fined 14s 6d, including costs for the assault, the other charge being dismissed.”

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd were fined 40s and costs, on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1900, for permitting drunkenness.

#### 1901 Census

83, Halesowen Street – WHIMSEY INN

[1] *Isaiah Baker* (25), public house manager, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mary J. Baker* (27), wife, born Rotherham;

[3] *Miriam F. Baker* (3), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] *Rachael Hipkiss* (16), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Smethwick Weekly News 31/8/1901

“The usual notice of objection to the renewal of this license had been served upon Messrs. Showells Brewery Co. Limited, the owners of the house, in consequence of a conviction against the occupier for permitting drunkenness.

Superintendent Sheriff in this case also urged that there was no necessity for the existence of the license, as there were three other houses within a radius of 100 yards, two of which were almost opposite.

In reply to Mr. J. S. Sharpe, who represented the owners of the house, Superintendent Sheriff said he understood that the WHIMSEY had been licensed about 70 years, and the conviction referred to was the only black mark against it.”

[The license was renewed.]

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Air Gun Shooting League. [1903]

#### Birmingham Mail 19/8/1905

“The many air rifle competitions which have been held during the recent holidays in connection with the numerous athletic sports and flower shows have proved beyond doubt the intense interest which is taken in the pastime by both sexes.....

At Droitwich Horticultural Show the Central Club (Birmingham) team won the challenge cup and medals, the WHIMSEY INN (Oldbury) being second.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/7/1907

“For refusing to quit the licensed premises of the WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury, on June 29, Benjamin Wilcox, a boatman, of Canal Side, was fined 5s and costs, at Oldbury yesterday, and in addition sentenced to fourteen days’ imprisonment for assaulting the police.”

*David Willetts* – check also ROYAL OAK, and VILLAGE TAVERN.

#### 1911 Census

83, Halesowen Street

[1] *William Swancott* (68), publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Sarah Ann Swancott* (65), wife, married 24 years, assists in business, born Stourbridge;

[3] *Emily Perks* (22), servant, assists in business, born Oldbury:

*William Swancott* – see also FOUNTAIN, Langley.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 15/9/1915

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday, Thomas Morris, High Park Road, Smethwick, and William Brown, Bridge Street, Smethwick, were summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises of the WHYMSEY

INN, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury. Morris was ordered to pay £2, or in default thirteen days' imprisonment, and Brown £1 or nine days.

Brown was further charged with assaulting Benjamin Darby, a boatman, Portway Road, Oldbury, on September 4. Prosecutor said he was passing the WHYMSEY INN about 9.30pm when he saw the licensee with whom he was acquainted. The latter said he was going for the police because two men had refused to leave his premises. Brown came upon the scene, and witness advised him to go home or there would be trouble. Brown struck him a blow in the face which knocked him to the ground. He was again knocked down upon attempting to rise. Brown, who denied the charge, was fined 10s."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/7/1917 - Advert

"Oldbury Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund Sports will be held on the Oldbury Town Football Ground.

On Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 1917. £35 in Prizes. Open Events, &c.

Entry forms from C. J. Banks, OLD BOAT INN, Park Lane, and *H. Webster*, WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury."

*Harry Webster* – check also CROSS KEYS.

*William George Hawkes* – see also TALBOT.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/4/1927

"Benefits under the *Gazette* plan of free insurance continue to bring help to readers when accidents overtake them.....

Mr. *J. Myers*, WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury. Accident to reader's child."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1936

"Oldbury justices yesterday refused application for.....

The removal of the licence of the NEW WHIMSEY INN, Halesowen Street, to premises at 52, Vicarage Road, Langley Green."

An application was made on behalf of Messrs. Showells Brewery Ltd for the removal of the NEW WHYMSEY INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, to premises proposed to be erected on land known as Coopers Farm, Perry Hill, Oldbury, in January 1938.

1939 Register

83, Halesowen Street (3 of 4)

[1] *Emanuel Love*, date of birth 28/2/1868, public house manager, married;

[2] Rebecca Love, dob 4/3/1885, household duties, married;

[3] Elsie Love, dob 28/10/1904, kitchen maid, café, single;

Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1955

"Mr. *Emanuel Love*, who at his retirement six years ago was Oldbury's oldest and longest serving licensee, died yesterday aged 87. He started as a brewery office boy at the age of 11, and was manager of the BIRD IN HAND INN and later the WHIMSEY INN, Oldbury, for a total of nearly 50 years. He was a noted bagatelle player and his inns were among the last in the Black Country to have the once popular bagatelle tables. A service at Oldbury Parish Church on Tuesday will precede interment at Oldbury Cemetery."

*Emmanuel Love* – see also BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street.

Lichfield Mercury 1/9/1950

"Although it is often said that a 'policeman's lot is not a happy one,' Police Sergeant *L. Faulkner*, of Whittington, who retired this week after 27 years' service, has no regrets about his long service. When he becomes Mine Host of the WHIMSEY INN, Halesowen Street, Oldbury, he will take with him a large collection of sporting trophies which he has won whilst representing Staffordshire Police at various sports.

Sgt. *Faulkner* joined the force in 1923 and served at Tipton Green, Wednesbury, Aldridge, Moxley and

Phasey Estate, before coming to Whittington on promotion to Sgt. in 1946. Throughout his service he has been keenly interested in athletics. He played football for the Wednesbury police division for 13 years. He also took up boxing and in 1925 represented Staffs. Police, reaching the semi-final of the Midland Police Championship as a middleweight. This was a prelude to many such successes and in 1926 he was runner-up in the Staffs. County Police Championship. In 1930 he won the Staffs. County Police mile walk title. In another interest – rifle shooting – he has been captain and secretary of the Lichfield Police Rifle Club for the past three seasons. To round off his sporting prowess he has played cricket for Lichfield and Whittington and is a member of the Whittington Committee.

In recent years Sgt. Faulkner has been connected with the Youth Club movement and is a member of the Whittington Parochial Church Camp.”

*Dennis Lewis* – see also NEW MARKET TAVERN and ALBION.

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1956.

The licensed premises closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1957.

## **WHITE HORSE**

22, (5), (11), Church Street, OLDBURY

## **OWNERS**

Ann Parkes, Holly Bush, Smethwick

George Thompson, maltster

J. A. and A. Thompson, maltsters, Oldbury [1899], [1901]

John Squires, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham (acquired c.1911)

Isacke and Clark, 82, New Street, Birmingham (acquired c.1916)

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired c.1946)

## **LICENSEES**

Joseph Brettell [1829]

John Fowler [1839]

Thomas Holland Fowler [1841] – [1865]

William Kay\* [1866]

William Key\* [1870]

Abraham Grayer [1870] – [1875]

Mabel Grayer [1876]

William Ashton [1881] manager

John Beasley [1880] – **1882**);

Richard Hammond (**1882 – 1888**);

John Beasley (**1888 – 1897**);

William Rushton (**1897 – 1899**);

J. A. and A. Thompson (**1899 – 1911**);

Clement Wise (**1911 – 1915**);

Mrs. Kate Wise (**1915 – 1921**);

John Richard Phillips Stanger (**1921 – 1922**);

Annie Wise (**1922 – 1935**);

Thomas Pardoe (1935 – 1940);  
James Harvey Suckling (1940 – 1945);  
Frederick Stuckey (1945 – 1954);  
Thomas Morgan Hodges (1954);  
John Cooper (1954);  
Thomas Morgan Hodges (1954);  
Herbert Marson (1954 – 1955);  
Thomas Morgan Hodges (1955);  
Ronald James Reaney (1955 – 1956);  
George Theodore Jordan (1956 – 1961):

## NOTES

11, Church Street [1871], [1873], [1880], [1881], [1884], [1888]  
5, Church Street [1892], [1896]  
22, Church Street [1891], [1896], [1916], [1921], [1939]

It sold Oliver's Pale Ale.

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 30/12/1839 - Advert

"To be Let, with immediate possession, the old-established House, the WHITE HORSE, in Oldbury. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken at a valuation, but the amount of in-coming will be moderate. For particulars apply to Mr. *John Fowler*, the present occupier."

### 1841 Census

Church Street

- [1] *Thomas Fowler* (25), victualler;
- [2] *Hannah Fowler* (25);
- [3] *Selina Fowler* (6);
- [4] *Henry Fowler* (20), iron roller;
- [5] *Joseph Fowler* (20), iron roller;
- [6] *Susan Bold* (20) f.s.;
- [7] *Ann Burnish* (20), ind, born Scotland;
- [8] *Elizabeth Burnish* (3), born Scotland;
- [9] *Thomas Hunts* (75), farmer:

### Worcester Herald 12/4/1845

"Worcestershire Easter Quarter Sessions.....

Friendly Societies. The rules and regulations of the following Societies, as allowed by Mr. Tidd Pratt, were entered.....

Widows Friendly Society, WHITE HORSE, Oldbury."

### Birmingham Journal 4/7/1846

"The anniversary of the Friendly Britons Lodge, MU, was celebrated on Monday week by a sumptuous dinner at Mrs. Pendlebury's, CART AND HORSES.....

We are informed that on the above day there was also a feast at the house of Hostess Cartwright, SPRING COTTAGE; also a Friendly Club Meeting celebrated their anniversary at Host *Fowler's*, of the WHITE HORSE INN; and at Host Hadley's, of the BIRD IN HAND, Rounds Green. We have not received particulars of these celebrations, which passed off to the satisfaction of all who took part in them."

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 6/11/1848 - Advert

"Freehold House and Building Land, in Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November inst, at six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Fowler*, WHITE HORSE INN, opposite the Court House, Oldbury.....”

#### 1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] *Thomas Fowler* (39), victualler, born Coseley;
- [2] *Hannah Fowler* (35), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Selina Fowler* (15), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Merria Hatfield* (19), general servant, born Oldbury:

#### Worcester Herald 11/4/1857

“Worcestershire Easter Quarter Sessions.....

William Tonks was convicted of having, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1856, at Oldbury, feloniously stolen 3s 6d and a piece of leather, the property of John Wallett. Mr. Byrne prosecuted.

Prosecutor, an elderly man, on the afternoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> August went into the WHITE HORSE INN, Oldbury, where he remained drinking about three-quarters of an hour. He afterwards left the inn, and, having to wait for his brother, sat down on the step of an adjoining public house, the UNION, where he went to sleep.

Whilst asleep, the articles named in the indictment were taken from his pocket.

Mrs. Ball, landlady of the UNION, and a young man named Wise, who was there at the time, both deposed to having seen prisoner put his hand into prosecutor's pocket, and Wise observed him take the money out. He remarked to him upon the impropriety of his conduct.

The same night prisoner was given into custody, and committed for trial at the October sessions. Prosecutor, however, was absent when the case was called on at the sessions, and his recognisances were estreated. Prisoner was admitted to bail to appear at the Epiphany sessions, but did not attend, and hence the lengthened term between the committal and trial of the accused. He had previously been convicted of felony. Eighteen months' hard labour.”

#### Birmingham Journal 28/11/1857

“Oldbury. The Street Market Question. On Wednesday evening, a meeting of shopkeepers and others was held at Mr. *Fowler's*, the WHITE HORSE.....”

#### 1861 Census

Church Street – WHITE HORSE

- [1] *Thomas Fowler* (54), publican, born Coseley;
- [2] *Hannah Fowler* (45), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Sarah Jane Parkes* (19), house servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 20/8/1863

“Oldbury Wake and Races will take place on the New Race Course, near the Railway Station, Bromford Lane, on Monday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, and Tuesday, September 1.

Application for Booths, &c, to be made at the WHITE HORSE INN, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/8/1865 - Advert

“To Grocers and Others.

To be Let, a Shop and Premises, with Stable, Coach-house, and Store Room, in Church Street, Oldbury. Apply to Mr. *Fowler*, WHITE HORSE INN.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 15/8/1874 - Died

“On the 7<sup>th</sup> inst, after a long and painful illness, *Hannah*, the dearly-beloved wife of *Thomas Fowler*, of Church Street, Oldbury, late of the WHITE HORSE INN, Oldbury.”

*Thomas Holland Fowler* died on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1876.

\*probably the same person

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/7/1866 - Advert

“A Vote for the County. Rounds Green, Oldbury.

Freehold Dwelling House and Premises, together with 194 square yards of Front Building Land, adjoining the same.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. A. Altree, on Wednesday Next, August the 1<sup>st</sup>, at the house of Mr. *William Kay*, WHITE HORSE INN, Church Street, Oldbury.....”

*William Key* issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Journal 25/7/1868 - Advert

“To Publicans, Museum Proprietors, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. A. Altree, on Monday Next, July 27, at the WHITE HORSE INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

All the valuable Fixtures and Fittings, Brewing Plant, Copper Boilers, well-seasoned Ale Barrels, two Bagatelle Boards; also, two handsome and costly Cases of Preserved Birds, in finest condition; together with several Parlour and other Grates, Doors and Cases, Sash Windows and Frames, &c, &c, which will appear in catalogues, to be had of the Auctioneer, Church Square, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/11/1868 - Advert

“To Museum Proprietors, Publicans, and Others.

For Sale, Two large Cases of elegant and costly Preserved Birds. To be seen at the WHITE HORSE INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

For particulars apply, A. Allett, Church Square, Oldbury.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 19/2/1870

“Wilkinson's Rose of Oldbury and Green's Quick of Rounds Green are matched to run 200 yards, for £10 a side, Quick to have two yards and a half start. £5 a side, and a further deposit to be made on Monday to the stakeholder, Mr. *Gray* [sic], of the WHITE HORSE INN, Oldbury; to run on February 28.”

[Rose won by a yard and a half.]

1871 Census

11, Church Street

[1] *Abraham Grayer* (28), publican, born Oldbury;

[2] *Mabel Grayer* (28), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Nelly Grayer* (3), daughter, born Greets Green;

[4] *Samuel Joseph Grayer* (6 weeks), son, born Oldbury;

[5] *Jane Goodbye* (26), general servant;

[6] *Emma Wilkis* (19), general servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1873

“James Ruddy (23), labourer, and Thomas Dugan (25), labourer, both of Oldbury, were charged with stealing a silver watch, value £1, from John Judge, stocktaker, of Oldbury. Prosecutor was at the WHITE HORSE, Church Street, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of last month, and when showing his watch to prisoners, they took it from him, and afterwards pledged it at a pawnbroker's shop in the locality. Prisoners, who were arrested by Police-constable Lampitt, were committed to the Sessions for trial.”

Worcester Journal 18/10/1873

“Worcestershire Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.....

James Ruddy, 23, striker, and Thomas Duggan, 26, labourer, were charged with stealing a silver watch, at Oldbury, the property of John Judge, stocktaker. Mr. Cooke prosecuted; Mr. Self appeared for Duggan.

The prosecutor said he was at the WHITE HORSE beerhouse on the day in question, and the prisoners were



present. He had occasion to look at his watch, and Ruddy asked him to allow him to see it. He held it out for Ruddy to inspect, and the prisoner snatched it out of his hand, and said he was going to pawn it. A short time afterwards the prisoners returned to the house, and told the prosecutor they had pawned it, and sent the pawn ticket to his lodgings, where he afterwards found it.

In cross-examination the prosecutor admitted that he was in the habit of drinking with the prisoners.

The vice-chairman said that he did not think there was a case of felony made out, and that the prisoners perpetrated a practical joke.

The jury acquitted the prisoners.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/2/1874 - Advert

“Good Mangle for Sale (J. Pickering’s Patent); a bargain.

Apply, WHITE HORSE INN, Church Street, Oldbury.”

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 ..... All midday letters to be addressed to Mr. *Grayer*, WHITE HORSE, Oldbury. Any one requiring cards must send a directed envelope and one stamp. Stamps taken as cash. Betting and gambling strictly prohibited. No one allowed to run unless in proper costume.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1874 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted; also a Nurse Girl; one who will make herself generally useful.

Apply, WHITE HORSE INN, Oldbury.”

Dudley Guardian 13/2/1875 - Advert

“Endowed Schools, Rowley Regis.

An Evening Concert (Under Distinguished Patronage) will be given in the above Schools, on Tuesday Evening, Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 1875, under the direction of Mr. R. Lansmere, Organist and Choirmaster of St. John’s Church, Dudley; late of the St. James’s, St. George’s, and Exeter Hall, and principal London Concerts.

The proceeds will be devoted to the Fund now being raised for the Widows and Orphans of the Sufferers in the late Accident at the Titford Long Meadow Colliery.

Reserved Seats, 2s; Unreserved Seats, 1s. Tickets may be obtained of Mr. W. Hackett, GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath; Mr. Enoch Hadley, High Street, Blackheath; Mr. Robinson, Whiteheath Gate; Mr. *Abraham Grayer*, WHITE HORSE INN, Oldbury; Mr. Jos. Plant, near the Cross, Old Hill; Mr. William Blakeway, Oldbury Road, Blackheath; and Mr. Jos. Stokes, WARD ARMS HOTEL, Rowley.”

Sporting Life 6/3/1875

“Trotting and Galloping. Alexandra Grounds, Rood End, near Oldbury.

Mr. Bradley (proprietor) will give £10 for an all-England galloping handicap, for ponies not exceeding 13½ hands, distance one mile, on Mondays, March 15 and 22. Entries, 7s 6d. No acceptance.

He will also give £40 to be competed for in a two-mile all-England trotting handicap on Easter Monday and Tuesday, March 29 and 30; first prize, £30; second, £7; third, £3. Entries, £1 each, to be made at ..... *A.*

*Grayer*’s, WHITE HORSE, Oldbury .....not later than March 20. The name, colour, and height to be stated at the time of entry, also the owner’s name, and late owner (if changed hands during last six months). Competitors to be ridden. First heat at half-past two each day.”

Worcester Journal 11/12/1875 - Deaths

“December 5, aged 32, *Abraham Grayer*, the WHITE HORSE INN, Oldbury.”

London Gazette 8/12/1876

“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 *Mabel Grayer*, of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, 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. Henry Jackson, Lombard-street, West Bromwich, in the county of Stafford, Solicitor, on the 19th day of December, 1876, at half-past ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 4th day of December, 1876.

Henry Jackson, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/1/1877 - Notice

“In the Matter of *Abraham Grayer*, Deceased.

Pursuant to an Order of the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, in a suit of Thompson against Thompson and Sturgess, the Creditors, and other persons having any Claim upon or Interest in the distribution of the Estate of *Abraham Grayer*, late of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler, who died on the Fifth day of December, 1875, will, on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February next send by post (prepaid) to Mr. George Steward Watson, the Registrar of the said Court, at his Office, at Oldbury aforesaid, their Christian and Surnames, Addresses, and Descriptions, the full Particulars of their Claims or Interest, a Statement of their Accounts, and the nature of the Securities (if any) held by them, or, in default thereof, they will be peremptorily excluded from the benefit of the said Order.

Every Creditor holding any Security is to produce the same before the said George Steward Watson, at the said Court at Oldbury, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February next, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon, being the time appointed for adjudication on the Claims.

Dated the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1877.

George S. Watson, Registrar.

William Shakespeare, Oldbury, Solicitor for the above-named Plaintiff.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1877 - Advert

“In Liquidation.

The WHITE HORSE INN, Church Street, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Tender, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above Old-licensed Inn, and also the Furniture, Fixtures, and Fittings on the Premises.

Tenders must be sent to G. S. Watson, Esq, Registrar, County Court, Oldbury, not later than Tuesday next, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1877. The person whose Tender may be accepted will be required to take to the Stock-in-Trade at a valuation.

For further information and permission to view apply to Mr. William Shakespeare, Solicitor, Oldbury.”

1881 Census

11, Church Street – WHITE HORSE

[1] *William Ashton* (74), manager of public house, born Oldbury;

[2] *Sarah Ashton* (72), wife, assists above, born Tividale;

[3] *Sarah Ashton* (15), grand-daughter, domestic servant, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Annie Beasley* (17), grand-daughter, domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

Sporting Life 10/11/1883 - Advert

“Alexandra Running and Shooting Grounds, Rood End, Oldbury.

Mr. W. E. Sankey's All England £6 10s 200 Yards Dog Handicap, on Mondays, November 19 and 26, at the above grounds.

Final heats of the 440 yards handicap this day (Saturday, November 10).

Mr. W. E. Sankey intends reviving the above grounds with all its old sports, and will commence by giv-

ing £6 10s, all-England 200 yards dog handicap, to be run on Mondays, November 19 and 26, 1883 – first prize £5; second £1; third 7s; fourth 3s. Entrance 6d each (closes on Wednesday next, November 14), to be made to W. Sankey, BELL INN, Rood End; W. Perkins, 8, Court, Lombard Street; W. Rickerby, Old Plough, Suffolk Street; H. Ellis, New Inn, Essex Street; E. Lambeth, Castle Inn, Moseley Street; W. Bates, BLACK BOY, Birmingham Street, Oldbury; *J. Beasley*, WHITE HORSE, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### Sporting Life 27/8/1885

“W. Aston, of Oldbury, is quite surprised at such a flyer as Iddins, of West Bromwich, wanting to run him again after giving him eight yards in 113 and beating him so easily at Vauxhall Grounds, Oldbury, but rather than disappoint him, and as Aston is getting into the ‘sore and yellow leaf,’ and anxious to leave the cinder-path, W. A. will run Iddins and take eight yards inside 100 or ten yards inside 120, for from £10 to £25 a side. Man and money ready any night this week at Mr. *John Beasley*’s, WHITE HORSE, Church Street, Oldbury.”

AND

“W. Lines, of Oldbury, hearing that Iddins, of West Bromwich, is in want of a match, Lines will run him 100 or 120 yards level, for £10 or £25 a side. Business only meant. A match can be made any night at Mr. *John Beasley*’s WHITE HORSE, Church Street, Oldbury.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 13/11/1886

“A meeting of the members of Oldbury Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held, on Wednesday afternoon, at WHITE HORSE INN, Church Street, Oldbury, Mr. William Smith presiding. The Chairman remarked that the committee intended to issue a circular to all the publicans in the district inviting them to join the association, and it was thought this would be the means of increasing the membership considerably. The Secretary (Mr. G. Dexter) reported that twelve new members would be admitted shortly, and he believed at the close of the present quarter there would be at least sixty members in the association.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/9/1888 - Advert

“Lost, Saturday last, black Retriever Dog, near Market Hall, Birmingham; answers to the name of Roger. Whoever returns the same to WHITE HORSE, Church Street, Oldbury, will be rewarded.”

#### 1891 Census

22, Church Street – WHITE HORSE

- [1] *John Beasley* (53), licensed victualler, born Warwick;
- [2] Sarah Beasley (47), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Sophia Beasley (19), daughter, barmaid, born West Bromwich;
- [4] Clara Beasley (13), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Agnes Beasley (11), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Maud Beasley (8), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [7] Rachel Foster (15), domestic servant, born West Bromwich:

*John Beasley* was also a colliery proprietor (Sycamore Colliery, West Bromwich Street, Oldbury). [1896]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1899

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Oldbury Division were held at the Court House, Oldbury yesterday.....

Superintendent Chare submitted his annual report ..... He had given notice to the following persons of his intention to oppose the renewal of their licenses on various grounds.....

Messrs. J. A. and A. Thompson, WHITE HORSE INN, Church Street, Oldbury, for having made a communication from licensed premises with unlicensed premises, and for having made alterations without first submitting a plan and obtaining the consent of the magistrates to the same, also on the ground that the house is quite unnecessary, the wants of the neighbourhood being fully supplied by other houses.....

Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared for Messrs. Thompson, who submitted plans of the alterations at the WHITE HORSE INN, which were necessary on sanitary grounds. There was no intention to extend the licensed

area; the communication was made for the use of the workpeople, but it had since been blocked up..... Several other applications for alteration of premises were made .... the whole of the applications for approval of alterations were postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, to enable the magistrates to inspect the houses.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1899

“Yesterday, the adjourned licensing sessions for the Oldbury Division were held at the Court House, the magistrates present being Messrs. G. Heaton, A. M. Chance, T. Lavender, and H. Heaton. A long time was occupied in the consideration of applications for sanction to make alterations in licensed premises.....

Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared on behalf of Messrs. J. A. and A. Thompson, the owners and licensees of the WHITE HORSE INN and the MALT SHOVEL INN, and explained that the alterations in progress were absolutely necessary on sanitary grounds and for the convenience of the inmates.

Mr. G. Heaton (chairman) pointed out that many alterations were being made, and he wished to know whether any sanction had been applied for and obtained for the alterations which were now going on.

Mr. Sharpe: The application is now before you.

Mr. Heaton: But the alterations are now in progress. That, he added, was what Superintendent Chare complained of, and to prove this he read extracts from the superintendent’s annual report. Mr. Sharpe said a doorway communicating with other premises, of which Mr. Chare complained, was necessary for the convenience of workmen employed on the premises.

Mr. A. Thompson, one of the licensees of the house, admitted, in reply to Mr. Heaton, that the result of the alteration would be to more than double the licensed area, but the primary object was to improve the sanitary arrangements of the house.....

After deliberating in private, Mr. Heaton said the license of the WHITE HORSE would be granted, but only to the premises previously licensed, and not for the additions. There must be no communication with Orchard Street, and the Bench wished it to be understood that in future alterations of licensed premises should not be made without plans being submitted and proper sanction of the justices being obtained.”

An application to make alterations was refused in August 1900.

#### 1901 Census

22, Church Street

- [1] *Clement Wise* (69), haulier, born Knowle, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Kate Wise* (61), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Kate E. Wise* (22), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Leah A. Wise* (20), daughter, school teacher, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Annie E. Wise* (18), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Celia M. Gibbs* (22), housemaid, born Oldbury;

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/9/1901

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The following licence holders presented plans for alterations to their premises.....

Messrs. J. A. and A. Thompson, WHITE HORSE HOTEL, Church Street.....

The magistrates examined the plans, and Mr. Wilson stated that several of them had personally examined the premises.....

The application of Messrs. Thompson would be granted subject to a memorandum entered upon the plans.”

#### 1911 Census

22, Church Street – WHITE HORSE HOTEL

- [1] *Clement Wise* (79), no occupation, late general haulier, born Warwickshire;
- [2] *Kate Wise* (70), wife, married 48 years, born Worcestershire;
- [3] *Gertrude May Wise* (30), daughter, elementary school teacher, born Worcestershire;
- [4] *Kate Ellen Wise* (28), daughter, no occupation, born Worcestershire;
- [5] *Leah Nora Wise* (26), daughter, elementary school teacher, born Worcestershire;

[6] *Annie Ethel Wise* (24), daughter, inn manager's assistant, born Worcestershire;  
[7] *Kate Littleton* (18), domestic servant, born Worcestershire:

*Clement Wise* died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 1915.

Plans were approved to take in the adjoining shop, on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1936.

Sports Argus 12/6/1937

“Oldbury and District Junior Football League invite applications from clubs of average age 19 years. All interested please attend meeting at WHITE HORSE, Church Street, Oldbury, on 15 June, at 7.30pm. F. H. Long, convenor.”

Sports Argus 19/6/1937

“Dog Show Notices.....

At the new show, WHITE HORSE, Oldbury, Saturday 7.30, Sunday 12. Cup every class.”

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Central Darts League. [1939]

1939 Register

22, Church Street

[1] *Thomas Pardoe*, date of birth 26/8/1893, innkeeper, married;

[2] *Lizzie Pardoe*, dob 13/10/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Mildred J. Pardoe*, dob 28/3/1920, paid domestic duties, single:

*George Theodore Jordan* – see also WHEATSHEAF.

The premises closed at 10pm on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1961, and the license was surrendered.

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 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.”

**WHITE HORSE**

50, (11), Newbury Lane, Portway, OLDBURY

OWNERS

Rev. W. Auden, Braughton Dice (?), Derby

William Harding, Derby

William Sadler, Coseley Vicarage

Samuel Growcott [1897]

City Brewery Co. Ltd., Birmingham

Holdings Brewery Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired c.1920)  
Enterprise Inns [1990s]

## LICENSEES

John Portman [1839] – [1841]  
Benjamin Law [1845] – **1856**);  
William Turvey (**1856** – [1865]  
William Bridge [1867] – [1873]  
John Bridge [1880] – [1884]  
John Hinds Jones [1883] – **1884**);  
Thomas Rawlins (**1884** – **1895**);  
Samuel Cooper Jnr. (**1895** – **1901**);  
Herbert Hadley (**1901** – **1930**);  
J Northall [1912] ?  
Josiah Bannister (**1930** – **1931**);  
William Northall (**1931** – **1942**);  
Julia Hannah Northall (**1942** – [1962])

## NOTES

11, Newbury Lane [1871], [1873], [1881], [1884]  
50, Newbury Lane [1892], [1896], [1916], [1921]

### Aris's Birmingham Chronicle 16/9/1839

“At the Petty Sessions held at Hales Owen on Monday last, Victuallers' Licenses were granted to the following parties residing in the township of Oldbury.....

*John Portman*, Newbury Lane.”

### 1841 Census

Newbury Lane

- [1] *John Portman* (45), licensed victualler;
- [2] Ann Portman (35);
- [3] Hannah Portman (10);
- [4] Mary Steventon (18), f.s.:

### Worcestershire Chronicle 26/12/1849 - Married

“Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, at the parish church of Rowley Regis, Mr. John Broadfield, of Dudley, to Miss Hannah Portman, only daughter of the late Mr. *John Portman*, of the WHITE HORSE INN, Newbury Lane, near Rowley.”

### 1851 Census

Newberry Lane

- [1] *Benjamin Law* (35), victualler and boat loader, born Tipton;
- [2] Ann Law (34), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Thirza Law (14), daughter, assists in victualler's house, born Tipton;
- [4] Mahalah Law (12), daughter, assists in victualler's house, born Oldbury;
- [5] Eli Law (10), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Herbert Law (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Sarah Law (6), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Benjamin Law (3), son, born Oldbury;
- [9] Samuel Law (1), son, born Oldbury;

[10] Sarah Smith (14), visitor, born Tipton;

[11] Mary Sharp (23), servant, born Cothall Mills Fintrye Scotch:

*Benjamin Law* – see also ROYAL OAK, Dingle Street.

#### 1861 Census

Newberry Lane – WHITE HORSE INN

[1] Mary Ann Constable (20), niece, barmaid to victualler, born Old Hill;

[2] Ann Keating (12), general servant, born Bromsgrove:

[The following crossed out – slept at Ombersley]

*William Turvey* (47), horse dealer and victualler;

Mary Turvey (48), wife;

William Ballingor, nephew:

*W. Turvey* issued tokens from here.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1862

“On Monday evening, at the WHITE HORSE INN, Newberry Lane, an inquest was held upon the body of Frederick Griffiths, aged 15, who died on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst, from injuries received on the previous day by a fall of earth in a clay pit in Mr. Farley’s bricks yard

#### Birmingham Daily Post 15/5/1865 - Advert

“Strayed, from a field belonging to Mr. *William Turvey*, WHITE HORSE, Portway, near Oldbury, a Horse, 16 hands high.

Any one returning the same to the above address will be rewarded.”

#### Birmingham Journal 19/10/1867 - Advert

“WHITE HORSE INN, Portway Road, Oldbury, near Rowley, Staffordshire.

Mr. Cotton respectfully begs to make known that he has received instructions from Mr. Richard Mason, of Oldbury, to Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, October 21, at the house of Mr. *William Bridge*, known as the WHITE HORSE INN, Portway Road, Oldbury, near Rowley, Staffordshire, the following valuable surplus Cow Stock; comprising

11 Superior In-calf Short-horned Cows and Heifers,

1 Fat Bullock, and

19 Fine Rearing Calves.

Sale to commence at Twelve o’clock in the morning.

Catalogues may be had at the Inns throughout the neighbourhood; Place of Sale; or by post (free), from the Auctioneer, Bromsgrove.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/4/1870

“Yesterday an inquest was held by Mr. Docker at the WHITE HORSE, Newbury Lane, on the body of William Snow, who worked at Rowley’s brickyard as a getter of clay. The inquest was an adjourned one, and the evidence given at the two inquiries showed that on Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst, the deceased and three men, named Gallier, Pearsall, and Parkes (labourers) had been drinking considerably at the HOPE AND ANCHOR, a public house kept by Joseph Rowley. Just before leaving they asked him to pay for a quart of ale, but they had to leave the house without him doing so. They went home along the canal side, and when near the Jim Crow bridge, over the canal at Titford, Cooper, alias Gallier, stated that he heard a splash in the water, and Pearsall said, ‘He is in the cut. For God’s sake let us get him out.’ Parkes took no notice, but walked on. The other men tried to get Snow out, but could not, and went to an old man, who lives near, for a rope, but they could not reach him with this, though they ultimately succeeded in getting the body out with a boat shaft.

William Wood, miner, Whiteheath, said he saw the four men going along the canal side on the Sunday, and heard Parkes say, ‘Go on, old —; we will pretty well have you into it when we get you there.’ The men

appeared under the influence of drink, and were going down towards the place where the man was drowned. About 20 minutes afterwards he went to the spot, hearing that a man had been got out of the canal. He saw two men there – Gallier and Pearsall – the man Parkes having left. He asked them where the other man was, and they said, ‘Oh! He is gone.’ He then said to the men, ‘Chaps, I am sadly afraid you will get in for this job,’ and he also alluded to the remarks which he had heard Parkes make. When he got to the place he found the body of deceased on the canal bank.

Mr. W. H. Hayward, surgeon, stated that he had examined the body, but there were no marks of violence upon it.

The Coroner said the case was a grave one against Parkes, but he thought that as the evidence was so conflicting, it would not be wise to return a verdict of manslaughter.

The public retired, and, after a few minutes’ consideration, the jury returned a verdict that deceased was Found Drowned, but there was not sufficient evidence to show how he came by his death. Several of the jurymen said they considered the case one of grave suspicion, and one of them remarked that the three men with whom deceased had last been seen were ‘three beautiful ones.’”

#### 1871 Census

11, Newbury Lane

[1] *William Bridge* (53), publican, born Rowley;

[2] *Elizabeth Bridge* (55), wife, born Rowley;

[3] *John Bridge* (22), son, butcher, born Rounds Green;

[4] *Elizabeth Bridge* (14), daughter, scholar, born Rounds Green;

[5] *Mary Hall* (12), general servant, born Rounds Green:

#### Dudley Guardian 17/1/1874

“The annual dinner in connection with the Oldbury Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held on Wednesday evening at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. About 50 persons sat down to an excellent dinner which was served in first-class style by the worthy host, Mr. Allsopp.....

The Chairman called on Mr. *W. Bridge* for a song. Mr. *Bridge* said he would sing them a very nice song, he would like to know if any member of the Local Board of Health ever went up Newberry Lane, if so, they must have noticed that it was ankle deep in mud (laughter). The speaker was here interrupted by a number of gentlemen, who called out ‘order,’ and observed that that was not a public meeting. Mr. *Bridge* then left the room. A gentleman said it was bad taste in introducing parochial affairs with their gathering, when the Chairman interposed, and said that Mr. *Bridge* only said it in fun instead of singing a song (laughter).....”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1876

“At the Oldbury Police Court, yesterday, before Messrs. J. Cartland, J. H. Nettlefold, J. T. Chance, and F. Adkins, a miner, named David Morgan, was charged with maliciously wounding George Wilden, saddler and harness maker, of Rounds Green.

On Friday night Wilden, whilst returning from Rowley, where he had been at work, went into the WHITE HORSE public house, Newbury Lane, on the way to Oldbury. The prisoner was in the house, and commenced to quarrel with the complainant. They ultimately began to fight, but the fight was stopped by the landlord. The complainant left the house soon afterwards, and he had only gone a few yards when the prisoner rushed from behind some old buildings, and before the complainant could defend himself struck him on the head with a stone bottle, and knocked him down. While he was on the ground complainant felt something like the blade of a knife pierce his neck. He lost a good deal of blood, and had subsequently been under medical treatment.

Dr. Pemberton stated that the wound in the neck could not have been caused by the blow from the bottle, as it was a clear incised cut. The wounds were dangerous from their position.

The prisoner was committed for trial to the Assizes.”

#### Worcestershire Chronicle 18/3/1876

“Worcestershire Lent Assizes.....

David Morgan (36), miner, was charged with maliciously wounding George Wilden, at Oldbury, on the 4<sup>th</sup>



February. He pleaded not guilty. Mr. Godson prosecuted, prisoner being undefended.

The two men had been in the WHITE HORSE INN, Oldbury, on the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> February, when a dispute arose regarding their lads. Prosecutor left to go home after this, but had only walked 300 yards from the public house when prisoner came up, struck him with a bottle, knocked him to the ground, jumped on him, and stabbed him in the neck with something, at the same time remarking 'I have done for you now,' and then ran away. When apprehended, prisoner denied having seen prosecutor after he left the public house on the previous night. This was also his defence to the Jury, who, after hearing His Lordship's summing up, returned a verdict of guilty, with a recommendation to mercy on account of the provocation he had received in the public house. A sentence of 18 months' hard labour was passed upon prisoner."

#### Aris Birmingham Gazette 12/5/1877 - Advert

"Important Sale of Valuable Colliery Plant, Twenty Horses, Six Bullocks, Gig, Cart, and other Effects, at the WHITE HORSE INN, Newbury Lane, Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Charles Round, on Monday Next, May 4<sup>th</sup> – all the valuable Effects, belonging to Mr. Samuel Groucutt, of the Rounds Green Colliery, removed to the above Inn for convenience of Sale, a Sale not being allowed on the Colliery; all the very Valuable Colliery Implements, comprising a large quantity of Pit Tubs, in good condition; Rakes, Baskets, Pikes, Shovels, Crowbars, Anvil, Smiths' Bellows, Blacksmiths' Tools, Corn and Water Tubs, Scuffler, cast and wrought-iron Tools, Implements, and Effects, also six Hereford Bullocks, twenty Valuable Horses....."

#### County Advertiser 27/9/1879

"Mr. R. Docker, coroner, held an inquest on Thursday, at the WHITE HORSE, Newbury Lane, near Oldbury, on the body of Noah Whitehead, son of Mr. Richard Whitehead, coalmaster, of Rowley.

A witness named Job Bown said he saw deceased coming up Portway Road, on horseback, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. The horse was galloping, but seemed to be under the control of the rider, until a stirrup strap became detached from the saddle, when deceased fell under the hoofs of the horse and was very badly hurt, blood running from his ears and mouth. Witness stopped the horse, and deceased, who was conscious but not able to get up, said, 'Oh, my poor head.' Deceased was then conveyed home.

Richard Whitehead stated that his brother did not live more than five minutes after being brought in. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

#### 1881 Census

11, Newbury Lane – WHITE HORSE

[1] Sarah Rose (28), domestic housekeeper, born Smethwick;

[2] *John Bridge* (32), brother, butcher, born Oldbury;

[3] Phoebe Millership (19), general servant, born Oldbury:

*John Bridge* was also a butcher. [1884]

#### Birmingham Mail 27/8/1883

"The annual licensing session for the Oldbury division was held this afternoon at the Police Court.....

Police Superintendent Hardman presented his report.....

Since the last meeting 12 licensed persons had been summoned and convicted for offences against their licenses ..... *John Hinds Jones*.....

The Bench decided that all the applications for renewals made by those prisoners who had been convicted during the year should be postponed until the adjourned licensing meeting, with the exception of two whose conviction took place on licensing day last year and who were then called up and cautioned. The persons whose renewals were refused would be required to attend and show reasons why their licenses should be renewed."

#### Birmingham Mail 24/9/1883

"Today the adjourned Licensing Session for the Oldbury Division was held at the Court House.....

The persons whose names were included in the 'black list' presented by the superintendent of police at the

annual meeting, and whose applications for renewals were consequently postponed, were called before the Bench to show cause why their licenses should be renewed.....

The license held by ..... *John Hinds Jones*, WHITE HORSE INN, Newbury Lane ..... were all renewed, the applicants being cautioned by the presiding magistrate as to their future conduct.”

*John Hinds Jones* – see also BIRD IN HAND, Simpson Street.

#### 1891 Census

Newbury Lane – WHITE HORSE

[1] *Thomas Rawlins* (52), licensed victualler, born Meriden, Warwickshire;

[2] *Phillis Rawlins* (45), wife, born Halesowen:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1894

“The adjourned licensing session for the Oldbury Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday, at the Court-house.....

The following cases, in which Superintendent Chare objected to the renewals, were also considered.....

*Thomas Rawlins*, WHITE HORSE INN, Newbury Lane.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/2/1895

“*Thomas Rawlins*, landlord of the WHITE HORSE INN, Newbury lane, was charged at the Police Court yesterday – before Messrs. A. M. Chance and E. Danks – with being drunk on his own licensed premises, with permitting drunkenness, also with selling drink to a drunken person on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January; and *Thomas Brookes* was charged with being drunk upon the premises. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Ward (Dudley) defended.

After hearing evidence, the magistrates imposed fines upon *Rawlins* in each case, amounting with the costs to £7 18s. *Brookes* was fined 15s 6d, including costs.”

*Thomas Rawlins* – see also HEARTS OF OAK.

#### Smethwick Telephone 13/11/1897 - Advert

“Mr. Samuel Jones has received instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. Samuel Growcott to arrange and to prepare for Sale By Auction at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on a date in December to be named in future advertisements.....

All that Important and Valuable Freehold Full-Licensed House and Premises known as the WHITE HORSE INN, Newbury Lane, Oldbury.....”

#### Smethwick Telephone 2/7/1898 - Advert

“Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1898.

Sale of a Valuable and Important Freehold Full-Licensed House and Premises, known as the WHITE HORSE INN, Newbury Lane, Oldbury; Freehold Building Land, Portway Road and Newbury Lane, Oldbury; Freehold Cottage, Newbury Lane; and Field of Land, back of the WHITE HORSE INN, Newbury Lane, Oldbury.

Mr. Samuel Jones has received instructions from the trustees of the late Samuel Growcott, Esq, to Offer for Sale by Auction.....

Lot 3. All that Substantially-built, Well-situated, Freehold, Full-Licensed House and Premises, known as the WHITE HORSE INN, Newbury Lane, Oldbury.

The House contains capital Front Smoke Room, large front Tap Room, Bar, Sitting Room, Back Kitchen, Cellar, three good Bedrooms, Spirit Room, etc. In the Yard, which is approached by a carriage way from the main road, are Brewhouse, good Stabling, Coach-house, Coalhouse, Piggeries, and usual Outbuildings, and is let on a lease for ten years from the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 1895.

This Property is well worth the attention of Brewers, Maltsters, and Capitalists, being surrounded by most of the largest works of the district, and entirely free from opposition, and is well known to be doing a capital business.

Lot 4. All that Piece or Parcel of Land, situate at the back of Lot 3, and known as Grains Meadow, and containing an area of 1a 0r 11p or thereabouts. This Land is let to the tenant of Lot 3, at an annual rent of £10. The whole of the above Properties are Freehold, and are sold with the Mines and Minerals thereunder, and are well worth the attention of Investors, Capitalists, and Others.”

#### 1901 Census

Newbury Lane – WHITE HORSE INN

- [1] *Samuel Cooper* (30), publican, born Smethwick;
- [2] Sarah Cooper (30), wife, born Smethwick;
- [3] Ethel Cooper (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Betsy Cooper (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Emily Cooper (4 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Annie Lyttleton (20), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/1/1905

“‘Truth does not always lie at the bottom of a well, but sometimes at the bottom of a very muddy pond,’ was the significant remark with which Judge Roberts prefaced his judgement in a case at West Bromwich County Court yesterday.

It arose out of a horse deal. William Brookes, of Queen Street, West Bromwich, a horse dealer, had a mare which he allowed to be taken to Oldbury by Joseph Baugh and Benjamin Bowers, two horse dealers of that town, as they said they could sell it. Brookes stipulated that the animal should be returned within a certain time, and as this was not done, went to obtain it. He then met Bowers leading the animal in the direction of West Bromwich, and gave him two shillings for his trouble telling him where to put the mare.

On arriving home he was surprised to find that the mare was not there, and the following day discovered it in the possession of *Herbert Hadley*, licensee of the WHITE HORSE INN, Newbury Lane, Oldbury. Brookes now sought to recover the mare or its value – £15– from *Hadley* and Baugh

The defence was that the animal did not belong to Brookes at all. Baugh denied that he was responsible for it, and *Hadley* urged the transaction with Bowers was bona fide.

His Honour gave judgement for Baugh, but deprived him of costs, and made an order against *Hadley* for the delivery of the animal or £8 2s 9d, its value, with costs on the higher scale.”

#### 1911 Census

Newbury Lane – WHITE HORSE INN

- [1] *Herbert Hadley* (45), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Hadley (40), wife, married 6 years, assisting in the business, born Rowley;
- [3] Lily Hadley (21), daughter, dressmaker at home, born Rowley;
- [4] Elizabeth Hadley (20), daughter, milliner at home, born Rowley;
- [5] Mary Hadley (5), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] George Hadley (3), son, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/3/1913

“A claim for damages arising out of a fracas in a public house came before Judge Smith and a jury at West Bromwich County Court yesterday, when John Barnsley, a boat unloader, of Rounds Green, Oldbury, claimed £50 damages from *Herbert Hadley*, licensee of the WHITE HORSE INN, Newbury Lane, Oldbury, for personal injury. Mr. Waldron (Brierley Hill) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. F. Dawes defended.

The plaintiff’s case, as outlined by Mr. Waldron, was that on Sunday, 22 December, the plaintiff, with two friends, one of whom was named Willis, went to the defendant’s public house. They had six pints of beer, for which the plaintiff paid, he being the only one of the party who had any money. Willis began ‘coddling’ Barnsley about who was going to pay for the next pint, and Barnsley told him to sit down and be quiet. The men were apparently quite friendly, and it was curious to understand why Willis should have acted as he did, but what happened was that he struck Barnsley on the nose, and the latter retaliated by hitting Willis in the eye.

The landlord then put Willis out of the house, and returned just as Barnsley was going towards the door.

Without any justification the defendant seized Barnsley at the back of the neck, and in trying to throw him out of the house knocked his head through a glass panel in the door. Plaintiff sustained a serious wound on the top of the head, and was a patient at the West Bromwich District Hospital for about five weeks. For the defence it was contended that the landlord only ordered Barnsley out of the house, and the latter went through the door, but then turned and said he should come back. He was struggling to get back into the house, and in doing so pushed his head through the glass in the door. The landlord was not touching him when that happened. After hearing evidence in support of both sides, the jury found for the defendant, and added an expression that they considered there should be nothing against the landlord for the way he acted on that occasion. Judgement was given for the defendant with costs.”

Permission was given in 1914 “to remove the present staircase on the left of the vestibule and place it between the kitchen and tap room and to make a door leading out of the tap room into the kitchen” by Oldbury Licensing Justices.

### 1939 Register

Newbury Lane – WHITE HORSE INN

- [1] *William Northall*, date of birth 13/6/1885, manager public house, married;
- [2] *Julia (Hannah) Northall*, dob 7/4/1885, domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Elsie (M.) Northall*, dob 21/2/1912, seals assembler, single;
- [4] *William Northall*, dob 21/8/1915, steel tube tester, single;
- [5] *Ivy (Johnson) Emms*, dob 25/7/1914, edge tool belter, single:

It was demolished in 1974. (?)

Rebuilt

Semi-finalists in the M&B Trophy for darts in 1976.

### The Stage 7/12/1989

“This is to give notice of an intention to apply to the Secretary of State for Employment for a licence to carry on an employment agency and an employment business; which would trade under the name of Stageworld Entertainments Agency at the WHITE HORSE, Newbury Lane, Oldbury.....

Dated: 7th December, 1989.

Signed: P. J. Finch.”

### Sandwell Evening Mail 5/5/1990

“Police have launched a murder investigation following the death of a West Bromwich man in a closing-time brawl. The man, who has not been identified, was stabbed during a fight outside the WHITE HORSE in Newbury Lane last night. Doctors at Sandwell District General Hospital certified him dead. Acting Det. Insp. Sid Stansfield said a man was in custody and was helping with inquiries.”

Closed

It became an Italian restaurant. [1996]

Demolished [2009]

## **WHITE LION**

52, (23), Birmingham Street, Oldbury Green, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

John Grigg Taylor  
William Smith [1890]  
Atkinsons Ltd. [1898]  
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

## LICENSEES

Joseph Simpson [1829] – [1840]  
William Weston [1843]  
Mrs. Susannah Cox [1845]  
Alfred Taylor [1850] – [1873]  
John Grigg Taylor [1878] – **1885**;  
William Taylor [1884] ?  
William Smith (**1885 – 1888**);  
John George Dexter (**1888**);  
John Grigg Taylor (**1888 – 1889**);  
Thomas Keogh (**1889 – 1891**);  
John George Dexter [1891]  
William Smith (**1891 – 1894**);  
Harry Robert Clarke (**1894**);  
James Dick (**1894 – 1895**);  
Frederick Robert White (**1895**);  
John Clark Astbury (**1895 – 1898**);  
Atkinsons Ltd. (**1898 – 1908**);  
Albert B Slowe [1901] manager  
S Reynolds [1906] manager ?  
Thomas Andrew Withers (**1908 – 1909**);  
John Myers (**1909 – 1910**);  
Benjamin Birch (**1910 – 1914**);  
Mary Jane Jones (**1914 – 1915**);  
William Joseph Moore (**1915 – 1925**);  
James Freer (**1925 – 1933**);  
John Henry Toy (**1933 – 1939**);  
Richard Wright Cheatle (**1939 – 1940**);  
Violet Ethel Cheatle (**1940 – 1941**);  
Jonathan Thomas Fathers (**1941 – 1945**);  
Ernest James Hampton (**1945 – 1948**);  
Edward Joseph Hayes (**1948 – 1951**);  
Dennis East (**1951**);  
Arthur Edward Hatton (**1951**);  
Ernest James Hampton (**1951 – 1957**);  
Thomas Bertram Davis (**1957 – 1960**);

## NOTES

Oldbury Green [1845]  
23, Birmingham Street [1871], [1873], [1881], [1884]  
52, Birmingham Street [1891], [1892], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939]

## WHITE LION SPIRIT VAULTS [1911]

[1822]

*Joseph Simpson* = Joseph Simson

### Birmingham Journal 13/4/1839 - Marriages

“On the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, at St. Martin’s Church, in this town, Mr. J. Hadley, of Smethwick, to Emma, youngest daughter of Mr. *J. Simpson*, of the WHITE LION, Oldbury.”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 8/6/1840 - Advert

“Excellent Opportunity.

To be disposed of, the Goodwill, Licence, and Possession of that old-established Public House, the WHITE LION, at Oldbury Green. Few opportunities like the present offer themselves.

The Stabling and Bedding are constantly occupied on account of its approximation to the canal.

The Proprietor, Mr. *Simson*, is determined to decline on account of the death of Mrs. *Simson*, he having accumulated an independency upon the premises.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Jesse Wright, Auctioneer, Dudley.”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 20/11/1843 - Advert

“Freeholds at Oldbury and Blackheath.

To be Sold by Auction, by Septimus Davis, at the TALBOT INN, in Oldbury, in the county of Salop, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, between the hours of four and six in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then produced – the under-mentioned Freehold Property, in the following or such other lots as may be determined at the time of sale.

Lot 1. A commodious and well-accustomed Public House, known as the WHITE LION, situate at the Green, in the township of Oldbury, possessing extensive cellaring, large club-room on the ground floor, with lofty room over it, good kitchen, bar, and other suitable apartments, brewhouse, Stable, and other necessary Out-offices, a large Yard, and productive Garden.

These premises have frontages to the Dudley and Birmingham Turnpike Road and the Birmingham Canal, and are now in the occupation of *William Weston*.

Lot 2. Two Dwelling Houses and Premises, with Garden Ground in the front, adjoining that last lot, now in the occupation of James Bridge and the Widow Brecknell.

These premises have a considerable frontage to the Dudley and Turnpike Road, and a side entry to the back of each house.....”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 20/9/1852 - Advert

“Seven Freehold Houses and Land, Oldbury Green, Oldbury, Worcestershire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hammond and Oldfield (by direction of the Trustee), on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October next, at the house of Mr. *Alfred Taylor*, WHITE LION, Oldbury, at six o’clock in the afternoon.....”

*Alfred Taylor* was a member of Oldbury’s first Local Board of Health in 1855.

### Birmingham Journal 13/10/1860 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, in the Township of Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Hipkins, on Tuesday Next, October the 16<sup>th</sup>, at the house of Mr. *Alfred Taylor*, the WHITE LION INN, Oldbury Green, at Six o’clock in the evening.....”

### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 17/8/1867 - Advert

“WHITE LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury. Centrally situated in close proximity to Mills and other large Works. Changed hands only once in twenty years. Desirable opportunity. In-coming £24.

Apply to A. Alltree, Church Square.”

Dudley Herald 9/11/1867

“Birmingham Street, Oldbury. To be let, the WHITE LION beerhouse and dining rooms. Incoming £18. Enquire on the premises. Great thoroughfare.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/9/1870 - Advert

“Oldbury. To be Let, the WHITE LION, Birmingham Street. Cash from £12 to £15 per week taken over the counter.

Apply on the Premises; or at 20, High Street, Brierley Hill.

Books and vouchers to show this to be a paying concern.”

1871 Census

23, Birmingham Street

- [1] *John Taylor* (28), wine merchant, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Elizabeth Taylor* (30), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Annie Taylor* (5), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Harriett Taylor* (4), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Alice Taylor* (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Hannah Brant* (18), general servant, born Wincote, Warwickshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/8/1878 - Notice

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

In the Matter of *John Grigg Taylor*, of the WHITE LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Licensed Victualler.

The Creditors of the above-named *John Grigg Taylor* who have not already proved their Debts are required, on or before the 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, to Send their Names and Addresses, and the Particulars of their Debts or Claims to me, the undersigned *William Lewis Clifton Browne*, of 3, 4, and 5, Queen Street, in the City of London, the Trustee under the Liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.

Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 1878.

*W. L. Clifton Browne*, Trustee.”

1881 Census

23, Birmingham Street

- [1] *John G. Taylor* (38), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Ellen Taylor* (28), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Annie Taylor* (16), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Harriett Taylor* (15), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Alice Taylor* (12), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Helen Mary Taylor* (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Ann Hayward* (21), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Smethwick Telephone 13/11/1884

“Oldbury Police Court. *Elizabeth Hipkiss* (45), charwoman, Newbury Lane, was charged with stealing one and a half pints of sherry, half a pint of whisky and a number of glasses and bottles, the property of *William Taylor*, of the WHITE LION INN, Birmingham Street, where the defendant was employed as a charwoman.”  
[She was fined 10s and costs or 14 days hard labour.]

Birmingham Mail 16/12/1884

“At the Oldbury Police Court today, before Messrs. *H. Chance* and *H. Heaton*, magistrates, *John Grigg Taylor*, licensed victualler, of Birmingham Street, Oldbury, and *Clinton Hill Bailey*, traveller, Smethwick, were charged with being on licensed premises of *George Bonser*, of the BRIDGE INN, Stone Street, on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst; and *George Bonser* was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours, and permitting

gambling on his licensed premises on the same date. Mr. Wm Shakespeare was for the defendant. Police-constable Rivers stated that on the night named he and Police-constable Peart were on duty near the BRIDGE INN, and they heard a conversation going on inside and saw the defendants and a man named Hadley through a glass door 'toss' for beer and cigars. When he went into the house Bonser said, 'Come in and have a glass of beer. I know you are all right, and will not say anything about this,' and Mrs. Bonser asked her husband to give him one of the cigars they had been tossing for.

Mr. Shakespeare urged for the defendant that Bailey was a representative of a firm of brewers who supplied the house with beer, and that he and *Taylor* were there for the purpose of taking stock, as Bonser had only recently taken to the premises. Bonser was fined 38s 6d, and the other defendants were fined 13s each."

#### Smethwick Telephone 26/9/1885

"Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The renewal of the license of the GEORGE INN, situate in Brades Village, of the WHITE LION INN, in Birmingham Street, and also of a beerhouse in Queen Street, was granted."

*William Smith* – see also ODDFELLOWS ARMS and CROSSWELLS.

#### The Era 23/3/1889 - Advert

"Proprietors in search of the Greatest Novelty of the Age should secure Parker, the Champion Back and Trick Jumper of the World.

The following are a few of the Marvellous Feats performed by this Wonderful Artist:

Parker will Jump 48ft in Four Rising Jumps;

Parker will Jump 9ft Backwards;

Parker will Jump Over Three Chairs in One Rising Jump Forward;

Parker will Jump over Six Chairs Sideways, Two each time, without stopping;

Parker will Jump Two Chairs 9ft from Three Chairs, and over them, without stopping;

Parker will Jump over One Chair 9ft from Four Chairs, and will do so without stopping;

Parker will Jump over Five Chairs forward;

Parker will Jump over Two Chairs 15ft apart;

Parker will Jump over a Pony 12 hands high;

Parker will Jump over Two Chairs Twelve Feet from Two more;

Parker will Jump off a Brick, endways up, over a Chair Seven Feet away without knocking down the brick;

Parker will Jump over Six Chairs forward;

Parker will Jump off a Brick, end up, over Four Chairs without knocking down the Brick;

Parker will Jump off a Brick, end ways up, over Two Chairs, one on top of the other, without knocking down the Brick;

Parker will Jump on to a Boy's Head and off without hurting him, while seated on a Chair;

Parker will Jump on to a Boy's face and off without hurting him, while lying across Two Chairs;

Parker will Jump off a Brick, endways up, over Two Chairs on to a Boy's Head and off again without hurting him, and without knocking down the Brick;

Parker will Jump off a Brick, end ways up, on to a Boy's Face while lying across two Chairs and off without hurting him or knocking down the Brick;

And numerous others, which will appear in a future Advertisement.

Sole Agent for England, Ireland, Scotland, and the Continent, Mr. *Tom Keogh*, WHITE LION HOTEL, Oldbury, near Birmingham."

#### Smethwick Telephone 29/6/1889 - Advert

"Oldbury Town Football Ground, Birmingham Road, Oldbury.

A Grand Fete, Gala and Sports will be held on the above Ground on Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1889.

The following Artistes and Special Attractions have been engaged at Great Expense, and it is intended to make this Fete the most attractive ever held in Oldbury.....

Spaces to let for Tea Tents, Shows, Roundabouts, Shooting Galleries, Swings, Cocoa Nut Sheets, &c. Apply to *T. Keogh*, WHITE LION HOTEL, Oldbury, for all information and entrance to sports."



### Smethwick Telephone 6/7/1889

“Last Monday Oldbury was en fete in earnest, judging from the multitude that flocked to the Oldbury Town Football Ground where most attractive sports ever held in the town were witnessed. No expense had been spared to obtain the best possible talent, the Committee also making every accommodation for the expected crowd of visitors, who came in their thousands. The programme provided was given in admirable style, the whole of it being entrusted to the care of Mr. *T. Keogh*, of the WHITE LION HOTEL, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, this gentleman working well in the superintendence of the arrangements. Mr. White, of the BROWN LION HOTEL, Oldbury, also rendered valuable assistance.

Amongst those engaged were Jose Parker (the champion back and trick jumper of the world), who did some marvellous feats. It transpired that one of Darby’s novices was on the ground in company with an ex-prize-fighter, who was attired in the ante-deluvian order of dress. This individual disputed the distance of one of Parker’s jumps, and he was challenged to measure it himself. After doing so, Parker repeated the jump, and cleared five inches over the line. The ex-prizefighter was humiliated by admitting that he was in the wrong. He was further compelled to praise Parker, and pat him on the back for accomplishing the feat a second time for his benefit.

Nimrod, the Royal Court entertainer, was a brilliant success in all his performances.

Henrich, the king of negro comedians and patterers, was very good, and some of his jokes were very witty, though he rather over-did it.

The Brothers Vorandos in their trapeze and aerobatic feats were very clever indeed, and received much applause.

The 120 yards flat-race did not bring in so many entries as was expected, but some good contests took place, Lines, of the Oldbury Town Football Club, obtaining the gold medal for first prize, and Danks the silver medal for second.

The donkey race was rather hampered, as there appeared to be a great number of asses on the field who were not eligible to enter this race, having only two legs instead of four, and who impeded the progress of the four-legged mokes, causing a little dissatisfaction.

Balloons were sent up at intervals; dancing was commenced quite early in the evening, and kept up well until the close.

A grand display of fireworks by Messrs. W. and J. Wilder, of Birmingham, was really an exhibition of skill in architecture, some of the designs being as follows: the jewelled tree, the forest of jets and fiery fountains, the double scrolls, the changeable star, finishing up with a grand representation of the Eiffel Tower.

The whole of the proceedings were a decided success. The ground was studded here and there with stalls of different kinds; the other attractions including shooting galleries, cocoanut throwing, aunt sally, and ‘kicking the lost-ball down Sambo’s throat.’ Three bands were in attendance. The greatest credit is due to Mr. *Keogh* and the Committee for the great success they have made in their first attempt in this direction.”

### County Advertiser 19/7/1890 - Advert

“To Brewers, Spirit Merchants, Publicans, and Others.

Highly Important Sale of Valuable Freehold and Leasehold Public Houses and Land, situated at Langley and Oldbury, in the County of Worcester.

Bill and Son have been favoured with instructions from Mr. *William Smith* (the owner) to Sell by Auction, at the CROSSWELLS INN, Langley, on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1890, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale, incorporating the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society..... Lot. 2. All that Noted Freehold Fully-Licensed Public House, the WHITE LION, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, for upwards of forty years in the occupation of Mr. *Taylor* (who amassed a large fortune), but now in the occupation of the owner. This House occupies an important position in the centre of Oldbury, and is on the main road to Birmingham.

The Premises consist of Liquor Vaults, Two Smoke Rooms, Club Room, Four Bed Rooms, W.C., Scullery, Kitchen, Retired Yard, and all necessary Outbuildings.

Immediate Possession can be had. Valuation will amount to about £200.....

A large portion of the Purchase Money of any of these Lots could remain on Mortgage.

As opportunities of purchasing Freehold Licensed Properties are daily becoming rarer, the Auctioneers beg

to call special attention to this Sale.

For plans and further particulars, apply to William Shakespeare, Esq, Solicitor, Oldbury; or to the Auctioneers, Grenville Buildings, Cherry Street, Birmingham.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1890

“At Oldbury Police Court, yesterday, *Thomas Keogh*, landlord of the WHITE LION INN, Birmingham Street, was charged with stealing pork, of the value of 5s, the property of William Herbert Perrott, of the TALBOT HOTEL, on the 20<sup>th</sup> inst.

When the case was called on, prosecutor intimated that he wished to withdraw the charge, as the affair turned out to be a practical joke. At the request of the Bench, prosecutor narrated the facts of the case, and explained that the leg of pork was hanging on a rod in his premises on the day in question, and during the evening it was taken away. Afterwards he visited the defendant’s house, thinking perhaps it might be the result of practical joking, and that he should find it. When he saw the defendant he asked him to bring the pork back, and added, ‘Is it a joke?’ to which the defendant replied in the affirmative, and said he should have sent it back on the following morning. The next day defendant saw him concerning the matter, and apologised.

The Clerk: Is this the first thing defendant has taken? – Witness: Yes.

The Clerk: What about the hare? – Witness: He did not take it; it was between him and another gentleman.

Mr. Chance (magistrate): It seems, then, that you considered it a practical joke all through? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Chance: Then you were rather in a hurry to take out the summons.

The defendant was discharged.”

*Thomas Keough* – check also BOAT.

#### 1891 Census

52, Birmingham Street

[1] *John George Dexter* (35), publican, born Great Bowden, Leicestershire;

[2] Ann Dexter (27), wife, born Wolverhampton;

[3] George Fred Dexter (7), son, born Oldbury;

[4] Charles William Dexter (5), son, born Langley;

[5] Ethel Maud Dexter (3), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Frank Dexter (7 months), son, born Oldbury:

*John George Dexter* – see also CRYSTAL PALACE, STORES and BLACK BOY, all Birmingham Street.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 9/1/1895

“*London Gazette*, January 8. The Bankruptcy Acts 1883 and 1891. Receiving Orders.....

*James Dick*, WHITE LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, licensed victualler.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1895

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *James Dick*, Oldbury.

The first meeting of creditors of the above-named debtor, who formerly resided and carried on business at the WHITE LION INN, Birmingham Street, Oldbury, as a licensed victualler, was held yesterday, at the West Bromwich County Court, before Mr. C. Woollett (assistant official receiver).

The statements of affairs showed liabilities £715 16s 7d (£532 10s 1d unsecured). The insolvency was attributed to paying too much for the lease and effects of the WHITE LION. The Official Receiver was constituted trustee of the estate.

Subsequently the debtor appeared before Mr. Registrar Watson, at the same court, for his public examination, but this was adjourned until the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst to enable him to file certain accounts required by the Official Receiver.”

Atkinsons Ltd. were fined £3 and £2 18s 0d costs, on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1898, for permitting drunkenness.

### 1901 Census

52, Birmingham Street – WHITE LION INN

- [1] *Albert B. Slowe* (52), public house manager, born Sheffield;
- [2] Florence Slowe (24), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] May P. Slowe (1 month), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] May E. Skinley (19), visitor, dressmaker, born Sheffield;
- [5] Annie Jarvis (18), domestic servant:

### Pearsons Weekly 4/10/1906

“The M. M. Hard at Work.

According to his weekly letter, the Mysterious Millionaire and his assistants will be in the following towns between September 28<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>.....

Over and above these towns, the M.M. and his assistants will pay surprise visits to as many towns and villages as possible. There is no knowing where they may appear, therefore keeping your *Pearsons Weekly* in your hand, or prominently displayed in your window.

Copies Bought for Cash.....

Mr. *S. Reynolds*, WHITE LION, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.”

### 1911 Census

52, Birmingham Street – WHITE LION INN

- [1] *Beningham Birch* (33), public house manager, born Oldbury;
- [2] Mary Birch (33), wife, married 3 years, assisting in business, born Brownhills;
- [3] Gerty Birch (1), daughter, born Brierley Hill;
- [4] May Birch (1 month), daughter, born Oldbury:

### 1939 Register

52, Birmingham Street

- [1] *Richard W. Cheatle*, date of birth 14/5/1913, publican, married;
- [2] *Violet E. Cheatle*, dob 2/10/1913, unpaid domestic duties, married:

It closed on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1960.

## **WHITE SWAN**

26, (13), Church Street, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Rev. Edward Palmer

Benjamin Thomas Sadler

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd (acquired in 1896)

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

[Admiral Taverns \[2023\]](#)

### LICENSEES

John Dudley [1829] – [1851]

John Duffield [1851] – [1855]

Joseph Hamblett [1860]  
Caroline Hamblett [1861]  
George Wood [1862] – 1863);  
George Wood Jnr. (1863 – 1864);  
Mrs. Ann Dudley (1864 – [1866]  
Benjamin Thomas Sadler [1870] – 1896);  
North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (1896 – 1906);  
John William Haines [ ] ?  
Thomas Madeley [1901] manager?  
Thomas ‘Tom’ Pritchard (1906 – 1907);  
James Tyrer (1907 – 1910);  
Edwin Evans (1910 – 1911); manager  
James Swallow (1911 – 1912);  
Walter Udall (1912 – 1915);  
Alfred Macefield (1915 – 1916);  
Thomas Edmund Morris (1916 – 1919);  
Douglas George Young (1919 – 1920);  
Joseph Atkins (1920 – 1921);  
Lizzie Baugh (1921);  
Kate Wise (1921 – 1922);  
Henry Mansell Machin (1922 – 1923);  
Thomas Jones (1923 – 1925);  
Frederick Ralph Sturgess (1925 – 1926);  
William Henry Hammond (1926 – 1936);  
Ruth Hammond (1936);  
Joshua Gill (1936 – 1938);  
Ada Gill (1938);  
Herbert Leslie Bishop (1938);  
Sydney Jones (1938 – 1939);  
Albert Victor Sims (1939 – 1946);  
Leslie John Tew (1946 – 1948);  
Ivy Marjory Grahah (1948 – 1949);  
Enoch Fones (1949 – 1952);  
Arthur William Harold Morgan (1952 – 1953);  
Leonard George Parkes (1953 – 1954);  
William Holmes (1954 – 1956);  
William Andrews (1956 – 1957);  
George Henry Chapman (1957 – [1962]  
Stan Redfern (1972 – [1976]  
Chris Williams (1991 – [1994]  
Wayne Fisher (1998 – [1999]  
Maggie Hulse [2001] manager  
Miss Juliette Levy (2000 – [2017]  
Adam Riese [2023]

## NOTES

13, Church Street [1871], [1873], [1881]

26, Church Street [1891], [1896], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1939]

The original pub was on the opposite side of Church Street, almost opposite the County Court. [1873]

OLD WHITE SWAN [1862], [1864], [1865], [1870], [1916], [1921]

#### 1841 Census

Church Street

- [1] *John Dudley* (45), victualler;
- [2] *Sarah Dudley* (45);
- [3] *Edwin Dudley* (15);
- [4] *Mary Anne Dudley* (20);
- [5] *James Dudley* (13);
- [6] *Harriett Dudley* (6):

#### Birmingham Journal 24/10/1846

“On Friday last, an accident of a very dreadful nature occurred in the coal mine of Messrs. Phillips Williams and Co, situated between West Bromwich and Oldbury, near the Union Furnaces, which instantaneously hurried four persons into eternity, and narrowly periled the lives of several others.

In the pit, busily engaged at work, were four men named John Harvey, Thomas Harpwood, Benjamin Cashmore, and Daniel Moss, the two former residing at Oldbury, and the two latter at West Bromwich. The men were laughing and joking with John Pearson, another of the miners, who had charge of a horse which drew the skip, when filled, to the bottom of the shaft. He happened to leave them for a moment to alter the ‘tongue’ of the railway, leaving the horse standing beside them. It being about one o’clock, they were about sitting down to dinner, when in a moment, Pearson heard a great noise and a fearful shriek, and turning round, observed the place where the four men stood an instant before, filled by an immense mass of solid coal . . . . Moss was but partly covered by the huge mass; and in about a quarter of an hour, after incessant labour, was relieved of the superincumbent pressure. He exhibited some slight signs of life and was conveyed to his residence in Oldbury but he never rallied; he was fortunately quite unconscious of his sufferings, and the faint flickerings of life he exhibited when found soon after ceased. In about three hours the other three men were dug from the bed in which they had been entombed. They were fearfully mutilated, mangled, and crushed, and must have died instantaneously. Their bodies, which presented a most fearful and shocking spectacle, were conveyed to their respective residences. The poor horse was crushed almost to atoms.

The place where the mass fell was about fourteen feet high, and had been worked for about two months.

The accident well illustrates the dangerous, uncertain, and precarious nature of a miner’s employment, as not the slightest indication had been given, by flaw or crack in the roof, of the impending and fatal occurrence; on the contrary, it was considered one of the safest parts of the pit. . . .

Inquests were held on the bodies before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the SWAN INN, Oldbury; the UNION CROSS INN, and the CROSS KEYS, West Bromwich, on Saturday and Monday last; when it appearing that the pits were most carefully worked, and that the occurrence was purely the result of an accident which no human foresight could have foreseen or prevented, a verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.”

#### 1851 Census

Church Street

- [1] *John Dudley* (59), widower, victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Williams* (32), daughter, widow, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Edward Dudley* (23), son, roll turner, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Harriet Dudley* (16), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Bridget Kenning* (18), general servant, born Ireland:

#### Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 25/7/1853 - Advert

“Valuable Dwelling Houses and Shops, Offices, Public House, and Malthouse; also, Important Building and Wharf Land, in the centre of the town of Oldbury, near Birmingham.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins, on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August next, at four o’clock in the afternoon, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury (by order of Trustees for Sale under the Will of the late Rev. Edward Palmer), and subject to conditions to be then produced.

A very important and valuable Property, situated in the town of Oldbury, on the main line of throughfare

called Church Street, leading from the Bromford Station of the Stour Valley Railway, into the centre of town, and towards Rowley; consisting of Dwelling Houses, including the House known as the 'Big House;' the Public House called the WHITE SWAN, and other Houses and front Retail Shops, Malthouse, and other Buildings, and Building and Wharf Land on the banks of the Canal, in lots suitable for the variety of purpose for which they are now occupied, and other purposes, for which the great improvement of the town suggests that they are respectively adapted.

Further particulars will appear in future papers; and plans and particulars may shortly be obtained, by applying to Messrs. J. W. and G. Whateley, Solicitors; Mr. Dugdale Houghton, Land Agent; or of E. and C. Robins, Surveyors and Auctioneers, all of Birmingham."

AND

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/8/1853 - Advert

"Lot 11. The old-established licensed and commodious Public House and Premises, called the WHITE SWAN, adjoining the last lot, occupied by Mr. *Duffield*, together with the Dwelling House thereto adjoining, occupied by Mr. Mansfield, fronting in the whole 16yds 2ft to Church Street, nearly opposite the Court House, and extending back to an intended new Road, containing 533 square yards."

*John Duffield*, victualler, OLD SWAN, Church Street. [1855]

Worcester Journal 10/2/1855

"Oldbury Petty Sessions.....

A banksman, named John Pearsall, was charged with having stolen two German silver tea spoons, the property of Mr. *John Duffield*, of the SWAN INN, about six weeks ago.

The prisoner and another man went there, and had some rum and water, and after they had departed the two spoons they had been using were missing. The servant had seen the prisoner put them in his pocket. Pearsall was not apprehended until the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult, when PC Smith took him in custody, the prosecutor saying that he did not know his name.

In defence Pearsall said he saw the prosecutor many times, and he never said anything about the missing spoons until one night when he went into *Duffield's* house in company with his brother, and *Duffield* having quarrelled with the latter, immediately sent for a policeman and gave him into custody on the above charge. Complainant also owed him for half a day's work, which he had asked to be paid.

The Magistrates having elicited from the complainant that he was actuated by the improper motives ascribed to him by defendant, indignantly dismissed the case, ordering *Duffield* to pay the costs."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/3/1855

"Mr. William Johnson Sanders, collector of assessed taxes for Oldbury, appeared before Captain Bennett, at the police office, on Monday last, to support a summons issued against *John Duffield*, a publican, of that town, for threatening him whilst in the execution of his duty. It appeared from the statement of the complainant that about a month ago he went to the defendant's house and demanded his income and property tax. The defendant paid the latter, but requested the complainant to allow the former, 12s 6d, to stand over. He did so, and in about a month afterwards went again and demanded payment of it, when defendant said, 'You are always coming for money here,' and took up the poker from the grate and lifted it up to him, saying that he would buy a pistol and shoot him (complainant). The defendant's conduct was very violent. The defendant, in answer to the complaint, said the complainant had threatened to put the bailiffs into his house, and take everything he had for a person named Wilkes's taxes. This the complainant denied, saying he demanded the defendant's taxes only. The Magistrates ordered the defendant to find one surety in £20, and enter into his own recognizance in a similar amount to keep the peace, in default twenty-one days' imprisonment."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/10/1855

"From *London Gazette* of Friday, September 28 ..... Bankrupts.....

*John Duffield*, Oldbury, publican."

London Gazette 21/12/1855

“John Balguy, Esq., one of Her Majesty’s Commissioners authorised to act under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, bearing date the 24th day of September, 1855, and filed in Her Majesty’s District Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, by *John Duffield*, of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Publican, did, on the 13th day of December instant, allow the said *John Duffield* a Certificate of the second class; and that such Certificate will be delivered to the said bankrupt, unless an appeal be duly entered against the judgment of such Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court.”

London Gazette 21/10/1856

“John Balguy, Esq., one of Her Majesty’s Commissioners authorised to act under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, bearing date the 24th day of September, 1856, and filed by *John Duffield*, of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Publican, will sit on the 14th of November next, at half past eleven in the forenoon precisely, at the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy, at Birmingham, to Audit the Accounts of the Assignees of the estate and effects of the said bankrupt under the said Petition, pursuant to the Acts of Parliament made and now in force relating to bankrupts.”

*Joseph Hamblett* = Joseph Hamblet

*Joseph Hamblett* – see also NEW INN, Rounds Green.

1861 Census

Church Street – OLD WHITE SWAN INN

[1] Joseph Hamblet (42), brick master employing 80 men, born Corn Hill, Worcestershire;

[2] *Caroline Hamblet* (42), wife, publican, born Netherton;

[3] Walter Brant (23), son-in-law, brickmaker’s clerk, born Kings Norton;

[4] Sarah Brant (20), daughter, born Dudley;

[5] John Jones (11), nephew, worker in brickyard, born London;

[6] Sarah Welsh (18), house servant, born Ireland:

*George Wood* issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/1/1866 - Advert

“Wanted, a Saddler; a good Workman, and used to jobbing.

Apply to Mrs. *Dudley*, WHITE SWAN INN, Oldbury.”

*Ann Dudley* issued tokens.

*Ann Dudley* – see also BLACK HORSE, Freeth Street.

Birmingham Journal 1/6/1867 - Advert

“Clear-Out Sale at the OLD WHITE SWAN Liquor Vaults and Tavern, Church Street, Oldbury, in consequence of the Premises coming down.

By Roderick and Son. To be Sold by Auction, on the Premises, on Monday, June 17, 1867, commencing at Eleven.

The whole of the excellent Public House Furniture, Trade Fixtures, Timber, and Erection of Smoke Room, with slated roof; Brewing Plant and Utensils, remaining Stock-in-Trade, and other Effects; comprising a capital 11-feet Billiard Bagatelle Table, Settees, with cushions, panelled Signs, half-glazed folding Doors, metal-top panelled Counter, Beer Engine, Ranges of Shelves, and Bar Fittings, with plate-glass at back, modern Smoke Room Furniture, eighteen Smoking Chairs, three mahogany massive Drinking Tables, Gaseliers, the whole of the substantial Erection of Smoke Room, with slated roof, flooring, stone mantelpiece, ornamental grate, glazed folding doors, &c, complete; the large Shed in yard, iron Pump, Brewing Plant, wrought and cast-iron Furnaces, 18-bushel Mash Tub, oblong Coolers, wort and water Pipings, 500-gallon Store Cask, hogshead and half-hogshead Barrels, puncheons, half-puncheons, barrels, and quarter Casks, Brewing and Cellar Utensils, and the remaining Stock of Beer, Porters, and Hops, catalogues of which may be had, seven

days prior to the sale, of the Auctioneers, 35, Cherry Street, Birmingham.”

Smethwick Telephone 18 & 25/12/1953

‘Smethwick and Round About’ by W. Ellery Jephcott

“*Benjamin Thomas Sadler* became the licensee of the WINDSOR CASTLE INN. Here he formed a collection of stuffed beasts and birds which included curiosities and freaks, such as cats with eight legs and lambs with two heads.....

The fact seems to be that *Benjamin Thomas Sadler* purchased the SWAN and the adjoining building which he converted into a concert hall. In this he displayed his remarkable collection, removed from the WINDSOR CASTLE INN. This is borne out by the fact that in 1892 the latter house was described as ‘formerly BIRD SHOW’ ..... He took a deep interest in the charitable institutions of the locality and was a prominent figure in the Friendly Society movement. For a short time he served on the Local Board of Health. He was a leading member of the Licensed Victuallers’ Association for about 25 years, during much of which time he acted as its treasurer. In 1896 he sold the ‘Bird Show’ to a brewery company and went to live in retirement in Warley, where he died in April 1897 at the age of 66.”

County Advertiser 14/8/1869

“On Wednesday evening an important meeting of miners was held at the public house known as the BIRD SHOW, in Church Street, Oldbury, for the purpose of considering the miners’ grievances, their cause and cure. Mr. Breakwell presided, and there was a large attendance of miners and their wives.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/11/1869

“Yesterday a Miners’ Conference was held at the BIRD SHOW, Church Street, Oldbury. Mr. Breakwell was appointed president, Mr. Hickman vice-president, and Mr. Watts, secretary. The subjects appointed for discussion were: 1. The necessity of lessening the hours of labour in the mines. 2. The pernicious evils now existing among the miners. 3. The necessity of the miners’ children being educated. 4. The utility of an universal amalgamation of miners in Great Britain. All miners, whether unionists or otherwise, were invited, and the attendance was numerous. There were delegates present from most of the collieries in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire.....”

AND

London Evening Standard 16/11/1869

“Yesterday an adjourned conference of miners of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire was held at the SWAN Museum, Oldbury, near Dudley.....”

1871 Census

13, Church Street

- [1] *Benjamin Sadler* (40), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Anne Sadler* (38), wife, born Rounds Green;
- [3] *Henrietta Sadler* (18), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Thomas Sadler* (16), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Nathaniel Sadler* (14), son, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *Benjamin Sadler* (12), son, born Rounds Green;
- [7] *William Sadler* (10), son, born Rounds Green;
- [8] *Elizabeth Alice Sadler* (8), daughter, born Rounds Green;
- [9] *Sarah Sadler* (6), daughter, born Rounds Green;
- [10] *Mary Anne Sadler* (4), daughter, born Rounds Green;
- [11] *Samuel Sadler* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [12] *Eliza Bailey* (17), general servant, born Rounds Green;
- [13] *Eliza Larkin* (16), general servant, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Post 30/1/1872

“Yesterday evening a meeting of colliers was held at the BIRD SHOW, Church Street, Oldbury, in furtherance of the agitation on behalf of pikemen for a reduction of the hours of labour.



The Chairman said pikemen wished to begin work at seven o'clock in the morning, and to leave at five in the evening. The bandsmen had succeeded in getting a reduction in their hours, and he hoped they would stand by the pikemen, and support them until they had also gained their demands.. They asked for a fair reduction of their 'stint,' and believed that they were entitled to that reduction.

Mr. Griffiths, the miners' agent, spoke in favour of unity with the Amalgamated Association of Miners. He had heard that day that some of the masters had said that, had the colliers been more united the matters now in dispute would have long since settled. He very much regretted that colliers were not more united. What a pity it was that the thousands on miners in Staffordshire were not all connected with the Union. Unity would enable them to demand more efficient inspection of their mines, to secure better ventilation, and catastrophes like that at Black Lake would not be heard of.....”

#### County Advertiser 16/3/1872

“On Thursday night a meeting of East Worcestershire miners was held at the WHITE SWAN INN, Church Street, Oldbury, in reference to the nine hours' movement. There was a crowded attendance. The Chairman said the news they would hear would be of a gratifying nature.

Mr. Thomas Griffiths said he was very glad to be able to say that from what he had heard, on good authority, he believe the nine hours would be conceded to the men after next Monday, and that they would now have the pleasure of going to work at six in the morning, and ceasing at four in the afternoon. They had used legitimate means to gain this really great concession; but he could assure them that unionism had in no small degree contributed to the bringing about of this result.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/6/1872

“Last evening, a well-attended meeting of miners was held at the WHITE SWAN Museum, Church Street. Mr. Griffiths, the miners' agent for the district, stated, in the course of his address, that the union was being strengthened by the addition of 400 members monthly, and he urged upon the miners the advisability of not leaving their work over trifles. A resolution was passed, condemning certain clauses of the Truck Bill as amended by the Select Committee, and the meeting decided to resist the passing of the bill in its present form.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/6/1872 - Advert

“Brewers. For Sale, cheap, new round 30-strike Mash Tub.  
Apply, *Sadler's* OLD WHITE SWAN INN Museum, Oldbury.”

#### Advert 1873

“OLD WHITE SWAN Museum, Church Street, Oldbury, near Birmingham.

*Benjamin Sadler*, in tendering his grateful acknowledgments to his numerous friends for the liberal support bestowed upon him since taking to the above celebrated Museum, which stands unrivalled for its rare and beautiful collection of Nature's Wonders, begs to acquaint them that since his removal to his handsome and extensive premises, he has made choice and valuable additions to his splendid collection of novelties, and hopes, by continually introducing scarce and rare specimens of Nature and Art to his already valuable Museum, to secure a continuance of their kind patronage and support.

The premises are splendidly fitted up, having recently been beautifully re-decorated, and the magnificent room contains, in addition to his collections of Birds, Animals, Reptiles and Insects, a Powerful Mechanical Organ thus rendering it the most attractive Museum in the Midland Counties.

Wines, Spirits and Refreshments, of the first quality, and at reasonable charges.

Admission Free. Open Daily.”

*Benjamin Sadler* built the Museum Concert Hall next door. He was described as the proprietor of a museum of natural curiosities in 1880.

He issued tokens bearing OLD WHITE SWAN MUSEUM and MUSEUM CONCERT HALL.

#### 1881 Census

13, Church Street – WHITE SWAN

- [1] *Benjamin T. Sadler* (50), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary Ann Sadler* (48), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Benjamin Sadler* (22), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *William Sadler* (20), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Mary Ann Sadler* (14), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Samuel Sadler* (12), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Alfred Sadler* (7), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Eliza Asbury* (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

West Bromwich Weekly News 14/5/1881

“The inquest on the body of *Mary Pugh* (47), who committed suicide under circumstances reported in the *Weekly News* on Saturday last was held at the WHITE SWAN INN, Church Street.

*John Attwood*, a bailiff at the Oldbury County Court, said on Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> inst, he went to the house of *Joseph Pugh*, tobacconist, Church Street, Oldbury, to lay an authority for £12 8s 9d. He saw Mrs. Pugh, the deceased, and produced to her a copy of the warrant. She asked witness where it came from, and he told her. He (witness) then asked deceased if she would be able to pay the money, and she replied that she should. Deceased then asked him to go into the back kitchen, and she went about her work in the house for a few minutes. She subsequently proceeded upstairs, and shortly afterwards he heard deceased cry out in a loud voice, ‘The Lord have mercy on me, and forgive me for what I have done.’ She then went quiet, and fearing that all was not right, he went to Mrs. Hazlewood, living next door, and asked her to go up and see if anything was the matter. Mrs. Hazlewood went upstairs and found Mrs. Pugh dead.

Mr. Pugh returned home between four and five o’clock in the afternoon.

Dr. Lyddon said he was called to see the deceased about one o’clock on Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. He examined the body, but failed to find any marks of violence, or any unusual appearances. He then proceeded to give a description of the post mortem examination, and described all the organs as healthy, except the heart, which was slightly degenerated, but not sufficient to cause death. In the stomach he found strychnine, and to this he attributed death. He remarked that strychnine was contained in vermin killer, so that it was a very easy thing for people to get it.

A Juror called the attention of the Coroner to the conduct of the husband of the deceased, who was present. The Juror said he was conducting himself so strangely that the attention of the jurymen was being diverted. The Coroner (addressing Mr. Pugh): Are you sober? – Mr. Pugh: I hope so.

The Coroner: Because your conduct makes me think otherwise.

Mr. Pugh continued to interrupt at intervals, and persisted in reminding the Coroner that he courted enquiry.

Mrs. E. Hazlewood deposed to finding the body of the deceased as previously stated. Deceased had complained to witness, and said she had never felt comfortable since she had been at Oldbury. She generally began to cry when talking on this subject. Deceased always seemed to be in trouble.

In reply to the Coroner as to whether he wished to say anything, Mr. Pugh said he only wished to say that all their married life had been happy, but ever since they came to Oldbury, his wife had been despondent.

The police then handed in the letter which was published last week.

The husband said it was in the handwriting of his wife.

The Jury returned a verdict that deceased committed Suicide whilst in an Unsound State of Mind.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 10/9/1881 - Advert

“Re-opening of the OLD WHITE SWAN Museum (nearly opposite the County Court), Church Street, Oldbury.

*Benjamin T. Sadler*, in tendering his grateful acknowledgements to his numerous friends for their liberal support bestowed upon him since the Opening of the Celebrated Museum, which stands unrivalled for its rare and beautiful Collection of Nature’s Wonders, begs to state that he has made extensive and important additions to this valuable and interesting place of Amusement and Instruction, and he hopes to receive a continuance of their kind patronage and support. The Premises are splendidly fitted up, and the magnificent room contains, in addition to his beautiful collection of Birds, Animals, Reptiles, Insects, Etc, a Powerful Mechanical Organ, thus rendering it the most attractive Museum in the Midland Counties. All the most Popular Songs lately added.

Wines, Spirits, and Refreshments of the Finest Quality, and at Reasonable Charges.”

Wolverhampton Express and Star 20/12/1881

“Frederic Brown (37), navvy, residing at Oldbury, was charged with stealing from John Jay, Brades Village, £1 5s 9d. It appeared that on Saturday night the two men met at a public house at Greets Green and walked from there to the WHITE SWAN, Oldbury. On the way prisoner pleaded that he was hard up, and asked prosecutor to give him sixpence. This prosecutor refused to do, saying he could not afford it, but paid for three-pennyworth of bread and cheese for him. They remained in the WHITE SWAN for some time, and consumed the bread and cheese and two pints of ale, for which prosecutor paid. When the latter got up to leave the public house he missed his money, and as prisoner was the only person who had been sitting by him he suspected that he had robbed him. He communicated with the police, and on prisoner being arrested, a sovereign which corresponded with the one prosecutor had lost, and 7s were found in his pocket. The Bench sentenced prisoner to six weeks’ hard labour.”

The Era 25/2/1882

“A few days ago, some gentlemen connected with the profession, including the Brothers Rayner, Mr. Robert Hall, ‘Baron Parkes’ (Elephant and Castle, London), Mr. Johnny Ward, Mr. Charles Mawson, Mr. *B. T. Sadler* (Museum Concert Hall, Oldbury), Mr. Thomas Instone, and several ladies, made a descent, by invitation, in the Ramrod Coal Pit, Rowley Regis, belonging to the Earl of Dudley. The party explored the workings; and, having tried their hands at the ‘pick,’ returned to the Museum Concert Hall, where they enjoyed an excellent dinner.”

The Era 11/11/1882 - Advert

“Wanted, for the Museum Concert Hall, Oldbury, near Birmingham (one of the prettiest and best conducted little Halls in the Provinces), Talent in all branches from December 18<sup>th</sup> onwards. None but genuine Artists need apply.

NB. Mr. *Sadler* begs to return thanks to the Ladies and Gentlemen who kindly gave their services for the Benefit of the West Bromwich District Hospital.

Proprietor, Mr. *B. T. Sadler*; Sole Manager, Herr S. Bacharach.”

The Era 8/9/1883 - Advert

“The One-Legged Man to the Front.

J. Shields, the Greatest One-Legged Variety Artist on the Boards, finish Tonight, with great Success, Museum, Oldbury. Monday next, Gaiety, Southampton. J. B. P. send up the tarts.”

*Benjamin Thomas Sadler*, OLD WHITE SWAN, and proprietor of the museum of natural curiosities (containing a fine collection of birds, beasts and reptiles and many curious specimens of the freaks of nature), and of Oldbury Concert Hall. [1884], [1888]

Concert Hall and Museum of Natural Curiosities [1884], [1888]

The Era 20/12/1884 - Advert

“Vonare, the great Human Serpent and Premiere Contortionist of the World; also the Sisters Nellie and Beatrice, Acrobats, Pyramid Balancers. Just finished a most successful Engagement at the People’s, Manchester. Monday next, Varieties, Sheffield, third time; January 5<sup>th</sup>, People’s, Oldham; January 12<sup>th</sup>, Castleford; January 19<sup>th</sup>, Gaiety, Preston; Museum, Oldbury, to follow.”

The Era 7/2/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, Proprietor to Know that Mr. and Mrs. Alf Williams, Comic Sketch Artists and Comic Boxers, also Fred Watney, American Song and Dance Artist, High Pedestal and Champion Acrobatic Clog Dancer, are at Liberty, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Wire or write best offer to Museum Concert Hall, Oldbury.”

The Era 24/4/1886

“Museum Concert Hall, Oldbury. Proprietor, *B. T. Sadler*.

The respected proprietor, after upwards of four years’ catering, has at last been induced to take a complimentary benefit, which he did on Wednesday last, when he had a bumper, a great number of the principal tradesmen being present, whilst a number of artists came from a distance to render their aid. ....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 1/1/1887 - Advert

“Museum and Palace of Varieties, Church Street, Oldbury.

Proprietor and Manager, *Benjamin T. Sadler*.

Pianist, F. Goodred. Chairman, H. Downing.

Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and during the week, Special engagement for Six nights longer of Mr. Alexander Day, the famous one-armed Cornet Soloist and Vocal Comedian. See him in his entertainment ‘Twas in Trafalgar’s Bay.’

Important engagement for Six Nights only of Miss Tessie Vandean, Serio-Comic and Dancer.

Re-engagement for Six nights longer of Mr. Yankee Connor, Negro Comedian, Variety Entertainer, and Eccentric Top Boot Dancer.

Re-engagement for Six Nights longer of Miss Marie Santley, Characteristic Serio-Comic and Burlesque Actress.

Grand Special Night, Saturday, January 8, when extra talent will appear.

Doors open at 7, to commence at 7.30 prompt. Mondays and Saturdays half-an-hour earlier.

Admission, Body of the Hall, 3d; Side Galleries and Promenade, 4d; Balcony, 6d.

Half to be Returned in Refreshments every evening (except Benefits and Holiday times).

NB. Trams pass the door every half-hour.”

The Era 5/3/1887 - Advert

“Wanted, Six Nights, Monday next, by Derkaro, the only Japanese Performer, Top Spinner, Equilibrist, Manipulator.

Wire, Museum Concert Hall, Oldbury.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 10/9/1887 - Advert

“OLD WHITE SWAN Museum, Church Street, Oldbury. Notice! Notice! Notice!

Mr. *B. T. Sadler* wishes to inform the Public in general that he has at a great expense, had the Great Mechanical Organ renovated, and will be worked by steam three evenings a week, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

On Sunday evenings Sacred Music will be played.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/11/1888

“Last night Mr. E. Docker (coroner) held an inquest at the WHITE SWAN, Church Street, Oldbury, respecting the death of Kate Smith, aged six years, who was found drowned in the Birmingham canal on Thursday afternoon.

Rebecca Smith, mother of the deceased, stated that the child was deaf and dumb.

A girl named Tranter stated that she saw deceased struggling in the water, and Police-constable Bryan proved finding the body in the canal shortly afterwards.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

The Era 9/11/1889 - Advert

“Notice to Proprietors.

I, Jose Parker, Champion Back and Trick Jumper, hereby give notice that I have cancelled the authority of Thomas Keogh, SWAN HOTEL, Oldbury, to act as my Agent. All future engagements to be made by my Agents, Messrs. Wilder, Variety Agents, 29, Great Francis Street, Birmingham. Proprietors requiring a Novelty write at once. Dates fast filling up.”

Birmingham Mail 14/1/1890

“Today, at Oldbury Police Court, Mrs. Mary Ann Thomas, of Worcester Street, Birmingham, made an appli-

cation under the new Act of Parliament for a license for her child, May Thomas, eight years of age, to appear on the stage at Mr. *Sadler's* Museum Concert Hall, Church Street, Oldbury. Mrs. Thomas explained that the child would be eight years old in April next, and she had been performing for two years. She desired authority under the new Act of Parliament for her daughter to appear for 14 nights at the concert hall named. In reply to the magistrates' clerk, applicant explained that the child, in company with her elder sister, a child eleven years of age, danced between 8 and 9.30. A Mrs. Willmore, of the Black Boy Inn, Birmingham, said a friend of hers had the care of the children during their stay in the town. The application was granted."

#### Birmingham Mail 3/2/1890

"An action brought by Thomas Keogh, of the WHITE SWAN, Oldbury, against Jose Parker, a trick rider and jumper, to recover £21 3s, for commission for acting as defendant's professional agent, was referred to arbitration. Mr. A. Young appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Stubbins for defendant."

AND

#### Birmingham Daily Post 4/2/1890

"An action was brought by Thomas Keogh, publican, the WHITE SWAN, Oldbury, against Jose Parker, described as 'the renowned trick back and forward jumper – Darby's only rival,' to recover £21 3s (less a certain slight deduction), for commission for acting as defendant's professional agent.

There was a counter-claim for a sum considerably in excess of the claim.

Mr. A. Young (instructed by Messrs. Watts and Jobson, of Dudley) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Stubbins (instructed by Messrs. Robinson and Sons, of Birmingham) for the defendant.

Mr. Young, in opening the case, said that early in 1889 defendant, who called himself the champion jumper of the world, but who, though then aware of his talent, had not yet appeared in public, decided to come out as a professional jumper. With that view he applied to Mr. Keogh, who had been very successful in bringing out another celebrated jumper, and it was decided that if Mr. Keogh undertook the agency his commission should be 30 percent on the defendant's earnings. After Mr. Keogh had been favoured with a private view of defendant's performances in March last, an agreement was signed under which Mr. Keogh was to receive 30 per cent on all defendant's earnings for a certain period, including the sums received for engagements which Parker might get for himself. The defendant was successfully brought out by the plaintiff, and had a long list of engagements. There was a counter-claim.

At this point Mr. Stubbins intervened, and said that the counter-claim involved a complicated question of accounts, and negotiations had been going on to get the whole matter referred. As the result of a consultation, the parties agreed to refer the matter to Mr. Fitzgerald, and the case was adjourned pending the reference."

[At a jumping contest held at Dudley Castle, in May 1890, Jose Parker was beaten into third by Joe Darby and his novice, G. Short.]

#### 1891 Census

26, Church Street – WHITE SWAN

- [1] *Benjamin T. Sadler* (60), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Mary A. Sadler* (58), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Elizabeth A. Sadler* (28), daughter, barmaid, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Samuel Sadler* (22), son, clerk, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Alfred J. Sadler* (17), son, butcher's assistant, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Sarah S. Goode* (14), grand-daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Ann M. Sheldon* (55), visitor, born Oldbury;

#### Birmingham Daily Post 18/1/1893

"Yesterday, at Oldbury Police Court, Joseph Jenkins (22), a soldier, belonging to the South Staffordshire Regiment, at present on furlough, and residing in Inkerman Street, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and assaulting Police-constable Powell.

The officer said he visited the WHITE SWAN INN, Church Street, on Monday night, and found the defendant there drunk. The proprietor declined to allow him to enter the concert hall, and as he used bad language he was ultimately ejected. As he continued his disorderly conduct in the street, witness asked defendant for his name and address. He then tripped witness, and whilst he was on the ground kicked him on the head.

The assistance of two other constables had to be obtained to remove him to the police station. Defendant was fined £1 10s 6d, including costs, or in default twenty-one days' imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1893

"Oldbury. Licensed Victuallers' Association. A meeting of this association was held yesterday afternoon, at the WHITE SWAN INN, Church Street. Mr. W. Smith presided.

The auditor's report, presented by Mr. Perrott, showed that there was a balance of £85 12s 1d in hand. A discussion arose with respect to the holders of off-licenses being admitted into their association. The Chairman said it was important that all the licensed victuallers associations should get as many members in as possible, to unite for the purpose of protecting their own interests, especially at election times. (Hear, hear.) The Secretary was instructed to write to seek the advice of the Chairman of the National Defence League on the subject."

*Benjamin Thomas Sadler* was a trustee of the Oldbury Licensed Victuallers Association. [1894/5]

County Advertiser 16/5/1896

"The North Worcestershire Breweries Limited.

A good deal has been heard recently in a more or less vague way of a syndicate purchasing certain breweries and licensed victualling houses in this neighbourhood. The public will learn from the prospectus which we publish this morning that the North Worcestershire Breweries Limited, is the style a title of the new company, and that it has been formed to acquire and amalgamate the Stourbridge Brewery, Stourbridge; the Rowley Brewery, Blackheath; the WHITE SWAN Brewery, Oldbury; the Round Oak Brewery, Brierley Hill, Staffordshire; and also to acquire the TALBOT HOTEL, Stourbridge, and 135 freehold and leasehold fully-licensed public houses and beerhouses....."

Worcester Journal 21/11/1896

"John Duffill Clitheroe Tweedie (45), printer, pleaded not guilty to two charges of false pretences, at Oldbury. Mr. Shakespeare was for the prosecution.

The case for the prosecution in the first case was that the prisoner went to Harry Bowerman, who keeps a concert hall at Oldbury, and invited him to advertise in the 'Oldbury and Halesowen fixture card.' He represented that he had been sent by a Mr. Harry Wright, of the WREXHAM INN. It was on the faith of that statement that Mr. Bowerman ordered an advertisement and paid 7s 6d for it. The prisoner gave a receipt for the amount in the name of 'D. Clitheroe,' but the card was never published. Mr. Wright denied that he sent the prisoner to the prosecutor.....

The prisoner said that he had intended bringing the cards out but was prevented by circumstances over which he had no control. The circumstances were the bad weather. If he had the chance now he would get the cards out to the satisfaction of everyone. He attributed the prosecution to a rival printer who was bringing a similar card out. The jury found the prisoner not guilty, and he was discharged."

The Era 6/2/1897 - Provincial Theatricals

"Oldbury. Museum Concert Hall. Proprietor, Mr. Harry Bowerman.

A first-class entertainment is being given here by the following variety artists: Mdlle. Esmeralda, double-voiced vocalist; Miss Rosina Rickards, burlesque artist; the popular Miss Leo Ville; H. J. Kemble, comic vocalist; Will Spencer, comic; De Ora, gymnast; and C. H. Burns, banjoist."

*Benjamin Thomas Sadler* died on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1897.

Weekly News 3/4/1897

"We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. *Benjamin Thomas Sadler*, which took place at his residence, Wood View, Warley, on Saturday last, aged 66 years. The deceased had been ailing for the last two or three months, and had consulted a physician owing to an affliction of the heart. He took to his bed a fortnight ago, but died very suddenly at last. Mr. *Sadler* was born at Rounds Green and for many years kept the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, which was noted for the large museum of stuffed birds and curious animals.

About thirty years ago he built the WHITE SWAN in Church Street, Oldbury, and the music hall attached to it, where he conducted his business until last June, when he disposed of the premises to North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. He then retired to his own house in Warley, with the prospect of reaching a ripe old age. For about a quarter of a century he was a prominent member of the Oldbury Local Board of Health, about the time they took over the gas undertaking, and he took a deep interest in the charitable institutions in the district. He was an honorary member of the Ancient Order of Foresters, both in the Miners Glory and Court Englands Glory, and took great interest in friendly societies generally. He was universally respected, and one of the best known men in Oldbury.

The funeral took place at the Oldbury Cemetery on Wednesday last, amidst manifestations of sorrow on every hand. The mourners were Mr. *N. Sadler*, Mr. A. J. Sadler and Mr. S. Sadler (sons), Mr. F. E. Sadler (son-in-law), Mr. J. Sadler (uncle), Mr. J. Nash (brother-in-law), Mr. G. Good and Mr. T. A. Sadler (grandsons). The bearers were Mr. W. Jordan, Mr. J. Sadler (Broadwell Road), Mr. D. G. Harroway, councilor S. J. Sadler, Mr. T. Orange and superintendent Speke (Dudley). Dr. Rees and Mr. T. Bonser followed in private carriages. The coffin was covered with beautiful wreaths, among them being one from his widow (Mrs. Sadler), separate ones from each of his sons, and from Mr. W. Jordan, Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. T. R. Bonser, Mr. H. Harper, Mrs. Orange, Mrs. S. Round, Mrs. Bowerman, Mrs. Southall, Mr. R. Jones and family. The officiating minister was the Rev. J. Jones of Quinton.”

*Benjamin Thomas Sadler* – see also SPREAD EAGLE and WINDSOR CASTLE.

#### The Era 15/5/1897 - Adverts

“Notice. All Artists Holding Contracts with Harry Bowerman, Museum, Oldbury, are cancelled on behalf of himself. Going to Gaiety in same Town.

Churchill, Dunn, Ames write in. Now we can't go wrong.”

AND

“Museum, Oldbury. Under New Management. Proprietors, North Worcestershire Breweries.

All Contracts not Confirmed within Seven Days are hereby Cancelled.

Manager Downes, Brewery, Stourbridge.”

#### County Advertiser 16/10/1897

“*Vernom v North Worcestershire Brewery Company*.

Victor Vernom, comedian, Ashton-under-Lyne, sued the defendant company for £6 wages for a fortnight as a comic singer. Mr. J. Hinds appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. Parfitt represented the defendants.

Plaintiff stated that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May last, he was engaged as singer at the Museum Concert Hall, Oldbury, by the manager, Harry Bowerman. On the 10<sup>th</sup> he entered into a repeat engagement for a fortnight, to commence on August 9<sup>th</sup>. On that date he went to the hall to carry out his engagement, and he then saw Mr. Cartwright and Mr. Creuse, who told him that his services were not required. Bowerman was not there, but was at another establishment at Oldbury. When Mr. Creuse dismissed him, he said he was acting on instructions, but did not say whose instructions. Plaintiff had always been ready to fulfil his part of the agreement that had been entered into. Three days previous to the 9<sup>th</sup> August he received a letter from Mr. Creuse stating that it would be advisable for him to get another engagement, and he would give plaintiff a later date. He immediately sent off four telegrams, but was unable to secure an engagement.

Harry Bowerman stated that in May, 1897, he, as manager for the North Worcestershire Brewery Company, entered into an engagement as stated by plaintiff. He had been in the habit of making such engagements in the name of the company, and he paid the artistes, and showed that in his weekly accounts. He did not know that after his dismissal there was a notice in the *Era* cancelling Mr. Vernom's engagement.

For the defence, Mr. John Richard Downs, general manager of the Company, said that in February last he told Bowerman that he must not send out any more contracts for artistes, and he replied that it did not matter, he could always cancel them in the *Era*, a theatrical paper. He, however, undertook to give no more contracts, but he seemed to have wanted to get popular before he went away, and he had been giving contracts out right and left. A notice was put into the *Era* cancelling the contracts of the artistes that Bowerman had engaged, and plaintiff wrote a postcard in answer to the advertisement, stating that he was coming to the hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August.

His Honour gave judgement for the defendants, with costs, on the ground that the manager had no authority to make the contract.”

The Era 30/10/1897 - Advert

“Oldbury. Museum.

For Future Engagements write in to Fred Cartwright, Museum, Oldbury.

Only First-class Artistes Engaged.

Sole Proprietors, the North Worcestershire Breweries Limited.”

The Era 25/6/1898 - Advert

“Chester and Lee’s Marionettes conclude Tonight Tivoli, Walsall.

Monday, Museum, Oldbury. Birmingham to follow.”

The Era 17/3/1900 - Advert

“Presentation. On the 8<sup>th</sup> inst, Miss Belle Dinmont was the recipient of a handsome 18-carat Gold Diamond Ring at the Museum, Oldbury, presented by a few Oldbury and Birmingham admirers.”

The Era 5/5/1900 - Advert

“Museum, Oldbury.

Wanted, Known, that Harry Bowerman has Purchased the above, and is now Sole Proprietor.

Artistes in all Lines new to Oldbury, Please Write. Silence the usual.”

The Era 23/6/1900 - Advert

“Hart and Rudd, Sterling Success, Museum Palace, Oldbury.....”

1901 Census

26, Church Street

[1] *Thomas Madeley* (44), publican, born France (British subject);

[2] *Rebecca Madeley* (43), wife, born Lichfield;

[3] *Eliza Holland* (24), domestic servant, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Rose Clews* (23), domestic servant, born Walsall:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/4/1906

“At West Bromwich County Court yesterday Auguste Creamer, an actor, of Bristol Street, Birmingham, sued *Tom Pritchard*, of the Palace Theatre, Oldbury, to recover £4 as balance of wages.

Mr. C. H. Darby, for the plaintiff, explained that defendant engaged Creamer to perform at his theatre at Oldbury for a month at a salary of £2 10s a week. The first week complainant was at the top of the bill, but the second week he was lower down, and for the third week his name was omitted altogether. The defendant then informed him, through his manager, that he wished the engagement to terminate, and offered plaintiff £1, which he accepted on account, and now sued for the balance.

For the defence it was stated that an intimation was received by defendant that it was illegal to perform sketches at his hall, and thereupon defendant wished the complainant to appear as an elocutionist. The latter, however, declined to agree on the grounds that he was not engaged in that particular line, but as a sketch actor.

Judge Smith held that complainant was engaged as a sketch actor, and could not be called upon to take any other part during the term of his contract. He gave a verdict for the complainant, with costs.”

AND

Birmingham Mail 3/4/1906

“.....Having been engaged the plaintiff and his wife came to Oldbury, but they found that the Palace Theatre was not a theatre in the usual sense, but was a public house with a music and singing license attached.....”

The Era 14/7/1906 - Advert

“Wanted, to Sell, the Lease of the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Oldbury.



In consequence of the death of Miss Violet Friend, the lease of the above fully licensed Theatre is for Sale to immediate purchaser. The population within a radius of 2 miles is 120,000.

Particulars may be obtained of F. W. Green, Esq, Solicitor, Priory Street, Dudley, Worcs.”

The Era 22/9/1906

“Music Hall Cards.....

*Tom Pritchard*, Proprietor, Palace Theatre of Varieties, Oldbury, near B’ham.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/3/1907

“*Tom Pritchard*, of the Palace Theatre, Oldbury, was sued in the West Bromwich County Court yesterday by Madam Ida Collard, a music-hall artist now performing at Newcastle, for the recovery of £2 balance of salary, and 5s, the cost of bills. Madam Collard failed to appear, but Mr. Millichip, who represented her, proceeded with the case. He explained that *Pritchard* engaged Madam Collard in April, 1906, at a salary of £10 a week. She understood she was to perform at Oldbury, but it was arranged that she should appear at Bilston. At the latter place, however, *Pritchard* offered her only £6 a week. This she declined, but agreed to accept £8 a week. At the close of the week, however, she was only paid £6, and now claimed the balance. *Pritchard* told the judge that he met Madam Collard in Birmingham, and as she was out of an engagement she agreed to perform at Bilston for £6 a week, and at the end of her engagement he paid her £6 5s in full settlement.

The Judge gave a verdict for *Pritchard*, with costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/7/1907

“Application was made at the Oldbury licensing sessions yesterday for the transfer of the MUSEUM INN, Church Street, Oldbury, to which is attached the Palace Theatre, from *Thomas Pritchard* to *James Tyrer*, and sanction was also sought to make certain structural alterations. The Bench raised various objections to the sanitation and antiquity of the buildings, and also elicited the fact that there was no fireproof curtain, and that various staircases and exits were insufficient. After considering the matter in private, Mr. Chance said as that was the only music-hall in the town, the Bench thought the best possible advice should be obtained to bring the buildings thoroughly up-to-date. They refused the present application, but suggested that fresh plans on a more extensive and elaborate scale should be prepared so as to bring it up to a first-class music-hall.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/1/1908

“The quarterly licensing meeting of the Oldbury magistrates was held yesterday, and in considering the number of applications for the transfer of licenses, Mr. A. M. Chance, who presided, mentioned that no music licenses would be granted that day. They would be considered at the annual Licensing Sessions next Tuesday, when they intended to reduce the number of music licenses.....

Mr. Thompson, of Dudley, applied on behalf of *James Tyrer*, for permission to rebuild the MUSEUM INN, Church Street, Oldbury, to which is attached the Palace Theatre of Varieties. Mr. Chance said they intended to discuss the plans in private with the architect and then adjourn the application until next Tuesday, when there would be a full bench of magistrates. They wanted to diminish the number of music licenses in the town, and if this music-hall was to continue the entertainment should be of the best possible description.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/3/1908

“Mr. A. M. Chance presided at the Adjourned Licensing Sessions held at Oldbury yesterday.

The question of the rebuilding of the MUSEUM INN and Palace Theatre of Varieties, Church Street, Oldbury, was first considered. Mr. Chance said the magistrates were gratified at the way in which the owners had received the suggestions of the Bench and were endeavouring to provide for the town one of the finest music-halls in the Midland counties. The approved plans would provide wider gangways for exit, which necessitated a reduction in the seating accommodation in the pit and orchestra stalls. The building would meet all the requirements of the local authorities and the magistrates, and they were prepared to renew the licences for a period of eighteen months to allow the improvements to be carried out.”

### The Bioscope 18/9/1908

“The Palace, Oldbury. Mr. *James Tyrer* has a grand variety company in addition to the following films: Curfew shall not ring tonight, a very interesting picture, and the Witches Kiss, a magical coloured picture which fairly brings the house down nightly.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/2/1909

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. A. M. Chance presided at Oldbury. The report of Superintendent Hill stated that there were 126 licences in the district, a reduction of seven on the previous year, which compared with the estimated population, gave a ratio of one on-licence to every 354 of the inhabitants. One licence-holder only was convicted during the year, while eighty-eight persons were convicted for drunkenness, a decrease of forty-three on the previous year.....

With regard to the MUSEUM INN, Church Street, to which was attached the Palace Variety Theatre, new plans had been passed for re-construction of the premises, but a start had not yet been made, although temporary alterations had been carried out.

Mr. Thompson, of Dudley, appeared on behalf of the tenant of the MUSEUM INN, and said they had not commenced the re-construction because the past year had been a trying time for brewers.

Mr. Chance said the owners must understand that the plans must be carried out, as the Bench would not allow the house to continue as it was.”

### Tipton Herald 3/4/1909

“To Brewers, Music Hall Proprietors and Others.

Preliminary Announcement of Sale by Auction of a valuable, Fully-Licensed Freehold Property, the OLD WHITE SWAN INN, otherwise known as the MUSEUM, Church Street, Oldbury.

Occupying a very Central Position as above, comprising a Licensed Area of 592 square yards or thereabouts, with Frontages to Two Streets, having Music Hall attached, offering a unique opportunity to Music Hall Syndicates and others.....”

### Indenture 28/10/1909

“All that public house and premises now known as the MUSEUM but formerly known as the WHITE SWAN INN Church Street Oldbury in the County of Worcester together with the brewery at the rear known as The White Swan Brewery and the yard brewhouse buildings and appurtenances belonging thereto.....”

### The Stage 10/11/1910

“Electric Palace, Oldbury (Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. *James Tyrer*).

This new house opened on Monday evening, when the following artists appeared, all being well received: Sadie and Vone, Ivey Amour, Sisters Lavarra, Jack Johnson, Amber and Avon. A good variety of pictures are also shown.”

### Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1911

“The annual Licensing Sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday.....

Mr. Graham Milward, on behalf of the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, applied for permission to effect certain alterations at the WHITE SWAN INN, known as the MUSEUM, in Church Street. He explained that formerly part of the house was used as a music house, and the proposal was to cut this off from the licensed area, and that if the application was granted they would apply later for a cinematograph license for the hall.

Mr. F. Dawes, on behalf of Mr. *Tyrer*, formerly the tenant of the MUSEUM, opposed the application, which was refused.”

### 1911 Census

26, Church Street

[1] *Edwin Evans* (45), brewer's manager, born Madeley, Shropshire;

[2] *Emma Evans* (44), wife, married 15 years;

- [3] Nellie Evans (20), daughter, clerk, printing company, born Tipton;
- [4] Gladys Evans (14), daughter, school, born Oldbury;
- [5] Dorothy Evans (12), daughter, school, born Oldbury;
- [6] Nora Evans (9), daughter, school, born Oldbury;
- [7] May Evitts (19), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Mail 12/4/1911 - Advert

“General. Strong, experienced Girl Wanted.  
WHITE SWAN, Church Street, Oldbury.”

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 1912 plans were approved to reduce the licensed area more than a half and to cut off the Music Hall from the licensed premises and no communication between the premises as altered, and the premises cut off.

On 4<sup>th</sup> February 1913 the name was changed in the licensing register from MUSEUM (which had been there from at least 1906) to WHITE SWAN.

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/2/1913

“The Magistrates’ Clerk (Mr. W. F. Vernon) said there was an application to change the name of the license known as the MUSEUM, Church Street, which it was desirable should now be called the WHITE SWAN. The latter was the original name, and a part of the premises had now been altered to a cinematograph theatre, it was proposed to call the remaining part of the premises the WHITE SWAN.  
The Chairman: That will be granted.”

*Alfred Macefield* was fined £1 and 2s 6d costs, on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1916, for selling as the measure of one pint of intoxicating liquor, an amount exceeding that measure to the extent of 7½%.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1918 - Advert

“One 10-hp Crossley Gas Engine, one large Driller. Cheap immediate sale.  
*Morris*, WHITE SWAN, Oldbury.”

*Douglas George Young* – see also CHEMICAL.

*Thomas Jones* was born on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1872 in Aspull, near Wigan, Lancashire.  
He was the son of Robert Jones (brick setter / furnace builder) and Phoebe Charlton.  
He married Mary Ann Chambers on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1902 at Harborne Parish Church.  
See also ALBION, OLDE BULLS HEAD and CROSSWELLS  
He died in 1925.

*William Henry Hammond* was fined 40s and £6 14s 6d costs, on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1929, for permitting drunkenness on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1929.

*Ruth Hammond* was already in occupation at the time of the Licensing meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1936.

*Ada Gill* was already in occupation at the time of the Licensing meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1938.

*Herbert Leslie Bishop* – see also RISING SUN, West Bromwich.

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Central Darts League. [1939]

1939 Register

26, Church Street

[1] *Sydney Jones*, date of birth 10/7/1895, hotel manager, married;

[2] Annie (Gertrude) Jones, dob 9/2/1887, hotel manageress, married;

[3] Marian (Jones) Woollaston, dob 9/8/1924, draper's shop assistant, single:

Birmingham Mail 20/4/1942 - Advert

"Austin 16 '32 excel. cond. prev. chauffeur-driven nearest £35.

WHITE SWAN INN, Church Street, Oldbury."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/6/1958

"London Gazette. Bankruptcy Acts. Receiving Orders.....

*Arthur William H. Morgan*, of 76, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham, fried fish shop proprietor, lately carrying on business as a licensee of the WHITE SWAN, Church Street, Oldbury, and lately residing at 56, Parsonage Street, Oldbury.

Court – High Court of Justice.

Date of filing petition – May 6.

Date of Receiving Order – June 11.

Creditors' petition."

[1984]

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/11/1988

"The future of Sandwell Council's £50 million Civic Centre planned for Oldbury has taken a step nearer – after plans were unopposed at a public inquiry. The inquiry, at West Bromwich, to hear objections to a compulsory purchase order for the proposed site of the centre, was told all objections had been withdrawn.....

Chartered town planner Mr. John Mattox, chairing the inquiry for the Department of the Environment, was told a number of objections had originally been lodged. These included ..... Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries who own the WHITE SWAN public house.

Sandwell's assistant town clerk Mr. Nigel Summers said all the businesses were subject to the CPO, but had since withdrawn their objections.

Mr. Alan Winsor, group planner for Sandwell Council, said the council had been able to satisfy the bank and brewery with offers of replacement premises....."

Closed

Demolished

It was rebuilt on a site on the opposite side of the road.

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/6/1994 - Advert

"Get Out & Do It!

Ballooning; 4x4 off-road driving; powerboating; helicopter flying; formula Renault motor racing; microli-  
ghting.

10 Free Adventure Weekends To Be Won.

Banks's. Est 1875. Unspoilt by Progress. British Pubs Week 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 1994.

Visit any one of the following outlets between 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June to collect your free entry form. Only those aged 18 or over may apply.....

WHITE SWAN, Oldbury."

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/7/1994

"Rover's Return. The WHITE SWAN, Oldbury.

People have a habit of returning to their roots – and that is exactly what well-travelled *Chris Williams* has done. After working in various parts of the country, he has come home to run a pub – just 400 yards from where he was born. 'When I left the area all those years ago, I never thought for a minute that I'd ever return,' said *Chris*, landlord of this popular town centre pub. 'Funny how things work out, isn't it?'

*Chris* was area manager for Bass Charrington when he fulfilled his ambition of entering the pub trade back in 1981. Formerly landlord at the GEORGE in Oldbury, he will have been mine host at the SWAN three

years next week. The pub was only built in 1991 at a cost of £500,000 to replace a pub of the same name demolished across the road.....”

*Chris Williams* was married to Maggie.

[2021]

#### Halesowen News 27/2/2023

“An Oldbury pub has been put on the market with potential new landlords sought. The WHITE SWAN on Church Street is up for rent. Admiral Taverns is seeking a new landlord to take on the pub, with the rent priced at £16k a year. The listing states, ‘The pub is currently drinks focused and predominantly is driven by consumers looking for value during the day coupled with a solid Friday and Saturday night trade of karaoke and disco. There is no cask ale although there is the potential to re-launch and appeal to the cask ale enthusiasts. The pub operates a strong rhythm of the week alongside a strong football following which serves both the local team and the Sky fixture list. Whilst it is a town centre pub it does have the support of local sports teams.’

The pub boasts three bedrooms, a kitchen, office, bathroom and sitting room. The listing goes on, ‘This is a fantastic opportunity for the right operator to develop this chameleon operation, by day there is an opportunity to offer a place to rest after a hard day shopping, by evening this is a vibrant circuit pub offering a strong music / DJ led venue, not forgetting a strong focus on all sporting events.’ It adds, ‘Whilst there is not an operational kitchen, there is an opportunity to offer a small ‘back bar’ food offering.’”

#### Express & Star 25/8/2023

“A pub which has undergone a £230,000 makeover will be welcoming customers again next month. The WHITE SWAN in Church Street, Oldbury, which is part of Proper Pubs – the community wet-led operator division of Admiral Taverns – is set to reopen on September 8. Behind the bar is *Adam Riese*, who has managed the WHITE SWAN for three years and has 23 years of experience within the hospitality industry. Inside, the pub has undergone a complete transformation to create a brand-new look and feel with fresh décor. With a complete interior redecoration, the pub will feature a brand-new bar, flooring, and furniture throughout. Outside, the beer garden has been redeveloped, which includes new heating and seating to ensure use all year round. The pub will be celebrating the reopening with an action-packed weekend of live music, karaoke, and a DJ as well as plenty of live sports for customers to enjoy. The WHITE SWAN will be offering a wide range of drinks offers, including Wine Wednesday, where customers can get £2 off a bottle, Fizz Friday, offering customers a bottle of fizz for £10, along with cocktails, bottle and shot deals throughout the week.

Mr. *Riese* said, ‘The pub looks fantastic, and I can’t believe the transformation. I’m really excited to get behind the bar, meet all our customers and support our local community. We’ll be starting off by collecting food for a local food bank, and donations to get a defibrillator installed. Pubs are the hub of their community, and we can’t wait to be the hub of Oldbury.’ The WHITE SWAN will also host regular pool and darts team league evenings. Customers can also expect to enjoy regular weekend entertainment, such as karaoke and DJ nights as the pub hosts a late-night licence that allows it to operate until 2am.....”

[2023]

### **WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT**

Halesowen Street, Churchbridge, OLDBURY

#### OWNERS

## LICENSEES

Thomas Hanson [1850] – [1851]

## NOTES

### 1851 Census

#### Church Bridge

[1] *Thomas Hanson* (42), victualler and coke burner, born Oldbury;

[2] *Emma Hanson* (37), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Samuel Hanson* (16), son, apprenticed to father, born Oldbury;

[4] *Betsy Hanson* (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;

[5] *Isaac Hanson* (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[6] *Henry Hanson* (4), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[7] *Sarah Hanson* (2 months), daughter, born Oldbury;

[8] *Matilda Winmill* (20), house servant, born Oldbury:

### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/9/1851

“Notices from the *London Gazette* ..... Examinations of Insolvents.....

September 20. *Thomas Hanson*, Oldbury, Worcestershire, formerly a cokeman and victualler, but now a labourer, County Court, Oldbury.”

### Birmingham Journal 18/10/1851 - Notice

“In the County Court of Staffordshire, at Oldbury.

In the Matter of the Petition of *Thomas Hanson*, at present and late residing at Oldbury Green, in Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Labourer, previously residing in Hales Owen Street, in Oldbury aforesaid, Cokeman and Victualler, and formerly residing in Little Field, in Oldbury aforesaid, Cokeman as aforesaid.

Notice is hereby given, that the County Court of Staffordshire, holden at Oldbury, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October next, at Two o'clock in the afternoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shown to the contrary.

Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1851.

Henry Hawkes, Attorney, Birmingham.”

## **WHY NOT**

7, (43), Talbot Street, OLDBURY

## OWNERS

James Saunders, Oldbury

Thomas Saunders, Halesowen Street, Oldbury

Henry George Peers Snr. [1927]

Sarah Jane Peers, Poplar Road, Oldbury [1933]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1936]

## LICENSEES

Thomas Powell [1871] – [1873]  
Benjamin Duffield [1873]  
Joseph Shutt [1881] – 1904);  
Henry George Peers Snr. [1901] (1904 – 1910);  
Henry George Peers Jnr. (1910 – 1917);  
Henry George Peers Snr. (1917 – 1928);  
Henry George Peers (1928 – 1936);  
Reginald Thacker (1936 – 1938);  
Alfred John Houghton (1938 – 1940):

## NOTES

43, Talbot Street [1871], [1873], [1881], [1884], [1888]  
7, Talbot Street [1891], [1894], [1896], [1901], [1939]

It had a beerhouse license.

An upstairs room was used by Oldbury Wesleyan Reform Union.

### 1871 Census

43, Talbot Street – WHY NOT

- [1] *Thomas Powell* (25), blacksmith, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Maria Powell* (25), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Anna Maria Powell* (8 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Thomas Powell* (5), son, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Willie Powell* (2), son, born Oldbury;
- [6] *William Welsh* (28), boarder, currier, born County Carlow, Ireland;
- [7] *James Bell* (26), boarder, currier, born Malton, Yorkshire;
- [8] *John Taylor* (22), boarder, comedian, born Leeds;
- [9] *Elizabeth Kemp* (15), boarder, comedian, born Carlisle;
- [10] *Mary Jane Mackerell* (11), boarder, comedian, born Manchester;
- [11] *Mary Ann Taylor* (30), boarder, comedian, born Glasgow:

*Thomas Powell*, beer retailer, Talbot Street. [1872]

*Thomas Powell*, beer retailer, 43, Talbot Street. [1873]

### London Gazette 16/1/1874

“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 *Thomas Powell*, living in lodgings in the Oldbury-road, West Smethwick, in the county of Stafford, Labourer, and previously thereto of the WHY NOT INN, Talbot-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Retail Brewer.

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, No.55, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 30th day of January, 1874, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 13th day of January, 1874.

Wm. Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, Worcestershire, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

*Benjamin Duffield* = Benjamin Duffill

### Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1873

“At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, *Benjamin Duffill*, of the WHY NOT beerhouse, Talbot Street, was sum-

moned for permitting drunkenness on the 9<sup>th</sup> instant.

Police-constable Marshall went to the house on Saturday, and found several men there. One of the men was drunk and attempted to assault the constable, who called the landlady's attention to the man's condition. She, however, drew a pint of ale for the customer in Marshall's presence, and said that, as he had been drinking there all day, she believed she had a right to supply him. If the man had come to her house tipsy she should not have supplied him.

The defendant was fined 20s and costs."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1873

"Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

*Benjamin Duffield*, WHY NOT, Talbot Street; Rebecca Daniels, ROSE IN JUNE; and Ann Sheldon, JUNCTION INN, Low Town, again appeared in support of their applications to be allowed time to improve their houses so as to bring them up to the standard of value required by the Act. Mr. Rolason, surveyor and valuer, of West Bromwich, attended in pursuance of an order to certify as to the value of the houses, and from his report it appeared that two of the houses were below the qualification.

The Magistrates intimated that they had not the power to adjourn the meeting further, and they thought that ample time had been given the applicants if they had chosen to avail themselves of the opportunity.

The license of *Benjamin Duffield* was renewed, as he had complied with the statute, whilst the two other applications were refused."

*Joseph Shutt* = Joseph Shut

#### 1881 Census

43, Talbot Street

[1] *Joseph Shut* (40), furnace man, born Ocker Hill;

[2] Mary Shut (38), wife, born Sedgley:

*Joseph Shutt*, beer retailer, 43, Talbot Street. [1884], [1888]

#### 1891 Census

7, Talbot Street

[1] *Joseph Shut* (52), beer seller, born Tipton;

[2] Ellen Shut (49), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Ellen Middleton (15), domestic servant, born Tipton:

#### Smethwick Telephone 17/2/1894 - Advert

"Important Sale of Valuable Freehold and Leasehold Properties, situate in the Centre of the Town of Oldbury.

Mr. William Hackett has received instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. James Sanders to Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1894.....

Lot 3. All those Five Valuable Leasehold Messuages and Business Premises, with Large Warehouse, situate and being Nos.2, Tabernacle Street, and 1, 3, 5, and 7, Talbot Street, Market Place, Oldbury, in the occupations of Hurry, Danks, Devis, Day, and *Shutt*, producing in the whole the low rentals of £90 7s 8d per annum. Total apportioned Ground Rent £9 4s 3d per annum. Leasehold for a term of 90 years from the 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1846.

Included in Lot 3 a most Valuable Old-Established Home-Brewing Beerhouse, the WHY NOT INN, and is doing a large trade."

*Henry George Peers*, beer retailer, 7, Talbot Street. [1896]

#### Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1899

"Yesterday, the adjourned licensing sessions for the Oldbury Division were held at the Court House, the magistrates present being Messrs. G. Heaton, A. M. Chance, T. Lavender, and H. Heaton. A long time was



occupied in the consideration of applications for sanction to make alterations in licensed premises..... After deliberating in private, Mr. Heaton said the license of the WHITE HORSE would be granted ..... and the Bench wished it to be understood that in future alterations of licensed premises should not be made without plans being submitted and proper sanction of the justices being obtained. The other licenses were renewed, and the applications for alterations were approved, with the exception of the case of the WHY NOT INN, which was refused.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 24/3/1900

“A meeting of miners, under the auspices of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Miners’ Association, was held at the WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street on Thursday evening. Mr. W. Hughes presiding ..... referring to the wages question.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/9/1900

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Oldbury were held yesterday..... The Chairman (Mr. J. E. Wilson) said the justices had carefully inspected the licensed houses where structural alterations were proposed, and had decided to approve those of the BRADES ROAD TAVERN, GEORGE INN, Birmingham Road, NEW INNS, Langley, and to refuse those of the WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street, and the HOPE AND ANCHOR INN, Halesowen Street.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 15/9/1900

“At Oldbury Police Court on Tuesday – before Messrs. T. Lavender and H. Heaton – Mr. J. S. Sharpe, at the conclusion of the ordinary business at the Court, brought up a special point. He said that *Henry George Peers*, the licensee of the WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street, had his license renewed at the Licensing Sessions, but on the new license was written ‘The club room at these premises does not form part of these licensed premises.’ That room had formed part of the licensed premises since 1868, and had always been licensed year after year as part of the drinking area. Without the slightest notice, without the opportunity of any argument before the Court, without any intimation being given to the licensee, they got their license with that rider attached to it. They would be bound according to that note to close that room, which formed the larger portion and most convenient part of the house, and do no more business in it.

That arose out of a simple application at the Licensing Sessions with regard to the alteration of a window, which was refused without any comment being made, and that was the first intimation they had had of the matter. His client must really do something, for he could not allow, without any argument, the greater part of the premises to be taken away in that manner.

Mr. Lavender said the investigation of the case showed that that room was connected with the licensed premises without any authority to use it.

Mr. Sharpe replied that he was informed it was taken in, at the instance of the Excise authorities, some 32 years ago, because the rateable value of the premises without it was not sufficient for them. Ever since that time, the whole of the premises, including the club room, had been licensed, and the renewal had been granted without any question.

Mr. Shakespeare (Magistrates’ Clerk) pointed out that neither of the magistrates who inspected the property were sitting that day.

Mr. Lavender said Mr. Heaton and Mr. Danks inspected the premises, and Mr. Sharpe had better make his application when they were present to hear it.

Mr. Shakespeare pointed out that Mr. Sharpe could obtain from the Excise books what rooms were licensed, as that information was always contained in them.

Mr. Sharpe remarked that he thought it his duty to come to the earliest Court.

It was mentioned that the old license did not expire until October 10<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. Sharpe said he would bring the matter before the Court again before the license terminated.”

*Henry G. Peers* brewed his own beer.

#### 1901 Census

7, Talbot Street – WHY NOT INN

- [1] *Henry G. Peers* (39), beerhouse keeper, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Sarah J. Peers* (38), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Ethel Peers* (16), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Henry G. Peers* (11), son, born Birmingham;
- [5] *Wilfred J. Peers* (2), son, born Oldbury;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/9/1901

“Oldbury Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The following licence holders presented plans for alterations to their premises.....

*Henry George Peers*, WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street.....

The magistrates examined the plans, and Mr. Wilson stated that several of them had personally examined the premises ..... Refused.”

Birmingham Mail 18/12/1901 - Advert

“Collie Bitch (sable) Found; if not owned in three days will be sold.

WHY NOT INN, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/2/1903

“The adjourned licensing sessions were held at Oldbury yesterday. The Chairman (Mr. G. Heaton) announced that the magistrates had passed a resolution requiring all license holders to give six months’ notice, and deposit with the clerk to the justices plans of their licensed premises.

It was decided to grant the whole of the music licenses applied for, but the three licenses for dancing were granted on the understanding that no intoxicants were supplied in the rooms where it took place.

Mr. Heaton announced that the magistrates had decided to discontinue granting occasional licenses for football matches, as they were of opinion that there was sufficient provision for obtaining drink. They had also passed a resolution viewing with disfavour the establishment of air-gun clubs at public houses.....

They renewed the license of the WHY NOT INN, but would not include the club room as part of the premises.”

Birmingham Mail 19/1/1904

“At the Oldbury Police Court, today, a case of considerable interest to the licensed trade, and affecting particularly ante-1869 public house licenses, was heard. *Henry George Peers*, landlord of the WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, was summoned for having, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November last, sold intoxicating liquors in a club room at his house – adjoining his licensed premises, which was not authorised by his license for such sale. Mr. J. W. Clulow appeared to prosecute, and Mr. A. J. O’Connor (instructed by the Free License Holders’ Association) defended.

Mr. Clulow said the case would turn more upon a question of law than one of fact. It appeared that attached to the defendant’s house was a club room, which had a separate entrance. Some years ago that club room was used by a religious denomination for the purpose of holding services in, and it was subsequently used for trading purposes in connection with a printing business. That went on to about the year 1872, when a communication was made between the room in question and the old licensed part of the defendant’s premises. It appeared, however, that when the defendant or his predecessor came up for renewal of his license in the year 1900, the Justices, exercising a power which they had in common law, and which was subsequently conferred upon them by statute, endorsed, or, at any rate, put a memorandum upon the license to the effect that the club room did not form part of the licensed premises. He. (Mr. Clulow) contended that the Justices were perfectly competent and legally entitled to do that. It would, he presumed, be argued that because this was an ante-1869 licensed beerhouse the Justices were restricted in their powers, and were limited to the grounds of the Act. But when the defendant chose to cut off that room and let it for any other purpose whatever, whether to a religious denomination or for the purpose of trade, that room forfeited its ante-1869 privileges, and it became a post-1869 license. Therefore, when in 1872 the licensee converted this room back into its ante-1869 state, to form part of his premises, he did what he had no right to do, as he had sacrificed the protection which the License Act gave to him, and he could not reinstate that room with its pre-1869 privileges. The fact that the house or room had been continuously licensed by the Excise did not affect the

question, as they could not grant a license except in pursuance of the justices' certificate. The Excise might license part of a church, but it would not be a licensed building because it was only upon the foundation of the justices' certificate that the Excise could license any premises. The last justices' certificate issued in the early part of last year showed that the club room in question did not form any part of the licensed premises, and was not included in that certificate.

Superintendent Sheriff was called to prove that the club room was attached to the licensed premises. Between the licensing day in 1901 and the licensing day in 1903, the old entrance to the public house was abolished, and another doorway, which formed the entrance to the old house and the club room, was introduced. The proposed alterations were not assented to at the adjourned licensing sessions in the year 1900, when the application was made.

For the defence Mr. O'Connor called a witness named *Powell*, who said he sold intoxicants in the club room in question about 34 years ago. He left about 32 years ago.

Mary Ann Philpot caused a great deal of amusement in court by stating that over 30 years ago she used to serve beer in the room before and after the time the services were held there.

Mr. J. W. Wilson, MP, at this point said it appeared to the Bench that the evidence adduced should be considered at the Licensing Sessions. Without making any pronouncement in the case, it seemed to him and his colleague (Mr. Wheeler) that the point they had to decide was whether the sale which took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November was on premises which at the time were licensed or not licensed. It seemed to them perfectly clear that they were not licensed. It did not matter to them whether the magistrates were right or not in making the endorsement. They had to judge simply by that certificate.

Mr. O'Connor suggested that the case should be withdrawn, and he would then fight out the point at the Licensing Sessions. This Mr. Clulow declined to accept.

Mr. O'Connor contended that the endorsement by the magistrates upon the defendant's license was absolutely inoperative.

Mr. Shakespeare said the case would have to be adjourned, as one of the justices had to leave.

The further hearing was then adjourned until next Tuesday."

#### Birmingham Mail 26/1/1904

"Today, at the Oldbury Police Court, the case in which *Henry George Peers*, landlord of the WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, was summoned for selling upon premises which were not licensed for the sale of intoxicants, and which was adjourned from last Tuesday, had to be further adjourned until the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, in consequence of the illness of Mr. J. W. Wilson, MP, who was one of the sitting magistrates. The point at issue was as to a club room, which had at one time been used as a chapel."

#### Birmingham Mail 2/2/1904

"Today, at the annual licensing session at Oldbury Police Court, the case of the WHY NOT INN, of Talbot Street, Oldbury, came up for consideration upon the application of the landlord, *Henry George Peers*, for a renewal of his license.

Mr. W. Shakespeare (clerk to the justices) explained that his license would be renewed as before, but it would apply only to the licensed area, and that they did not regard the club room, concerning which a contention had been raised, as part of the licensed premises. They again placed upon the certificate an endorsement similar to those which had been made in previous years to the effect that the club room which adjoined the house did not form any part of the licensed premises and was not included in the certificate. The same endorsement, he was informed, would be placed upon his music license."

#### Birmingham Mail 6/4/1904

"Worcester Quarter Sessions.....

*Henry George Peers* appealed against the refusal of the Oldbury justices to renew the license of the club room adjoining the WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street. Mr. Vachell and the Hon. R. Coventry were for the appellant, and Mr. Matthews and Mr. Milward for the respondents.

Mr. Matthews, in explaining the case for the respondents, said the room in question formed no part of the licensed premises. It was formerly used by the Wesleyan body as a chapel and school, and was then let to a printer. No qualification appeared upon the license until 1900, when an endorsement was placed upon it no-

tifying that the club room formed no part of the licensed premises. All renewals since then were subject to that, and counsel contended that even if the appellant had grounds for appeal in 1901, he was now too late. Edward Wheeler, horse-keeper, Eel Street, Oldbury, who acted as secretary to the Wesleyans, said the room was rented by them between 1871 and 1874. It was over some shops, and the entrance to it was separate from the public house, the doors leading into which upstairs were nailed up. Cross-examined by Mr. Vachell, witness indignantly denied that any members of the flock had drink in the room in question.

William Jones, Park Lane, corroborated.

Frederick Roden proved the use of the room by his father as a printer before the Wesleyans had it, and by himself after they gave it up.

Superintendent Sheriff gave evidence as to the use of the club room by the appellant since the endorsement of the license. He admitted that no formal notice was given to the appellant in the last three years. A prosecution was instituted against him in November last, and the decision adjourned pending this appeal.

Mr. E. J. Fisher, excise officer, produced a book to show that the club room had been included as part of the licensed premises, and to be used for storage since 1894.

Mr. Vachell contended that the license being granted before 1869, even though this room had been used for the purposes described, it might still be legally regarded as part of the licensed premises, and that the justices had exceeded their powers by making the endorsement they did.

Appellant gave evidence in support of the contention that the room had been used for club purposes since his tenancy commenced in 1896, and since the endorsement in 1900.

Mr. *Thomas Powell*, of Handsworth, a former tenant, said the club room was part of his licensed premises, though he occasionally let it to other people.

William Cosgrave and *Joseph Shutt* supported the appellant's case as to the constant use of the club room, and Mr. Jones, architect, said that the club room and the inn were structurally identical without a break of the brickwork.

Mr. Vachell contended that the appellant could not be judicially deprived of the use of the room, and Mr.

Matthews argued that it was not proved that the room was part of the licensed premises before 1869.

The appeal was dismissed with costs, the Justices being of the opinion that the club room was not part of the premises licensed before 1869."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/4/1904

"Worcester Sessions.....

*Harry George Peers* appealed against the refusal of the Oldbury justices to renew the license of the clubroom adjoining the WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury.

Counsel explained that the justices first became aware that the clubroom was over some shops adjoining the inn when a photograph was produced to them. Thereupon the justices endorsed the license. The clubroom was not part of the inn.

Mr. Matthews, replying, said the appellant, not having taken the first opportunity of appealing against the magistrates' limitation of the licensed premises, had now no right to do so.

The appeal was dismissed."

Birmingham Mail 11/6/1904

"Worcestershire Licensing Appeals.....

Mr. Willis Bund presided at a special sitting of the Worcestershire Court of Quarter Sessions, today, to consider the question of costs in two licensing appeals, which were heard at Easter. The Court then dismissed, with costs, an appeal by *Henry George Peers* against the refusal of the Oldbury justices to renew the license of the WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street, and the Court now allowed costs against the appellant at £44 6s 5d."

Birmingham Mail 21/6/1904

"Today at Oldbury Police Court, *Henry George Peers*, landlord of the WHY NOT INN, Talbot Street, Oldbury, appeared upon an adjourned summons charging him with selling beer upon unlicensed premises connected with his house on the 7<sup>th</sup> November last.

Superintendent Sheriff explained that the case had been adjourned in consequence of an appeal which had been made by the defendant to Quarter Sessions against an endorsement made by the justices at the last

licensing session to the effect that the portion of the premises in question, which was used as a club room, formed no part of the licensed area. That appeal had been dismissed; but as the defendant apparently did not think he was doing wrong in using the room, the superintendent asked to be allowed to withdraw the summons on the payment of costs.

The Bench allowed this to be done, and the defendant paid £1 13s costs.”

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/1/1908

“The quarterly licensing meeting of the Oldbury magistrates was held yesterday, and in considering the number of applications for the transfer of licenses, Mr. A. M. Chance, who presided, mentioned that no music licenses would be granted that day. They would be considered at the annual Licensing Sessions next Tuesday, when they intended to reduce the number of music licenses.....

Mr. J. S. Sharpe applied on behalf of *George Henry Peers*, the licensee of the WHY NOT, Talbot Street, Oldbury, for permission to make several alterations. It was proposed to take away a staircase which connected the licensed premises with a club-room used as a Liberal Club, so that the rooms would be wholly disconnected with the licensed premises. A new staircase would be provided for the Liberal Club. The Bench granted the application.”

#### 1911 Census

7, Talbot Street – WHY NOT INN

[1] *Henry George Peers* Jnr. (22), publican, born Sparkbrook;

[2] Nancy Maria Peers (29) wife, married 1 year, born Oldbury;

[3] *Henry George Peers* Snr. (48), father, retired publican, born Birmingham;

[4] Sarah Jane Peers (47), mother, married 27 years, born Oldbury;

[5] Wilfred John Peers (12), brother, school, born Oldbury:

#### 1939 Register

7, Talbot Street

[1] *John A. (Alfred J.) Houghton*, date of birth 3/2/1898, public house manager, Auxiliary Fire Service, married;

[2] Lily Houghton, dob 11/7/1906, unpaid household duties, married:

It closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1940, and the license was surrendered.

## **WINDSOR CASTLE**

67, (36), Brades Road, Rounds Green, OLDBURY

### OWNERS

Benjamin Foster, Sparkbrook, Birmingham

Benjamin Thomas Sadler, Church Street, Oldbury (later at Wood View, Warley)

Nathaniel Sadler, Shaftesbury House, Dingle Street, Rounds Green, Oldbury

Thomas Alexander Sadler, Dingle Street, Rounds Green, Oldbury [1924]

Grigg and Brettell Ltd. [1927]

Atkinsons Ltd. [1935]

Peter Walker and Co. Ltd. [1938]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

### LICENSEES

Joseph Foster [1850] – [1861]  
Benjamin Thomas Sadler [1862] – **1868**);  
Mrs. Alice Hadley (**1868** – [1880]  
Nathaniel Sadler [1881] – **1900**);  
William Timmins (**1900** – **1902**);  
Mrs. Harriet Timmins (**1902** – **1913**);  
George Edmund Sharp (**1913** – **1946**);  
James Freer (**1946** – **1950**);  
R Lewis (**1950** – **1956**):

## NOTES

36, Brades Road [1871], [1873], [1881]  
67, Brades Road [1891], [1892], [1901], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921]

*Joseph Foster* = Joseph Forster

### Birmingham Journal 10/8/1850 - Advert

“Exhibition of Industry of All Nations, 1851.

To enable Parties to witness the Exhibition in London, a Club is forming at Mr. *Foster*'s, WINDSOR CASTLE, Rounds Green, Oldbury; to commence on Tuesday Next, the 13<sup>th</sup> instant. Payments will be easy, and expenses small.

Rounds Green, Oldbury, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1850.”

### 1851 Census

Rounds Green

[1] *Joseph Foster* (40), coal miner, born Tipton;

[2] Ann Foster (47), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] Marion Foster (11), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Elizabeth Bayley (20), house servant, born Bewdley;

[5] Elizabeth Malpah (73), mother-in-law, widow, formerly laundress, born Lichfield:

### Birmingham Journal 9/8/1851

“The Consequences of a ‘Lark’ at a Public House.

An inquest was held at Mr. John Faulkner's, the NAVIGATION INN, on Wednesday last, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of Samuel Howe, who had been found in the canal near Titford, the same morning, by one of the Canal Company's men, named John Warwick. It appeared that the unfortunate man was drinking at the WINDSOR CASTLE, on Saturday night, and while asleep, some meat was taken from his basket, and two pounds of candles, the property of the landlord, substituted in its place. The candles being missed in about two hours after he left the house, the police traced them to deceased's house, and they were found on Sunday morning. He was quite tipsy when he left the house, and knew nothing about the candles, but having been employed at the Brades Works for many years, Messrs. Hunt discharged him, as soon as they heard of what had occurred. This seemed to prey upon his mind, and for several days he was under such depression of spirits that no doubt existed but he had committed self-destruction. However, an open verdict of Found Drowned was returned. He had hitherto born an excellent character; a wife and five children are left unprovided for.”

### Birmingham Journal 11/6/1853 - Advert

“Sale at the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, Rounds Green, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday Next, the 13<sup>th</sup> of June.

A Quantity of excellent Pit Tools, Thirty-seven Thick-coal Slipe Skips, several tons of Rings, Pikes, Dress-

ers, and Hammers, Rakes, Baskets, and Dog-hooks, Horse-net, Gearing, Tackling, Chains, Palisading, two Iron Gates, Vice and Bellows, Double-bodied Phaeton, two excellent flat Pit Chains, about 200 yards each in length, light Spring Furniture Van, Spring Trap (Bollin's Patent Axletree), Pony Gig, deal Open Boat, and other useful Articles; belonging to Mr. *Joseph Forster*, who has no further use for the same. Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock. Conditions as usual."

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/1/1858 - Marriages

"December 21, at West Bromwich, Mr. James Simkin, of Hill Top, to Hannah Marian, daughter of Mr. *Joseph Foster*, of the WINDSOR CASTLE, Rounds Green, Oldbury."

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 28/12/1859 - Deaths

"On the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, at her son-in-law's, Mr. *Joseph Foster*'s, WINDSOR CASTLE, Rounds Green, Oldbury, in her 82<sup>nd</sup> year, Mrs. Elizabeth Malpass, late of Birmingham."

#### 1861 Census

Brades Road – WINDSOR CASTLE

[1] *Joseph Foster* (50), victualler, born Tipton;

[2] Ann Foster (58), wife, born Walsall;

[3] Joseph Foster (20), son, carpenter, born Oldbury;

[4] Ann Barber (24), servant, house work, born Brood [Brewood?], Staffordshire:

#### Smethwick Telephone 18 & 25/12/1953

'Smethwick and Round About' by W. Ellery Jephcott

"*Benjamin Thomas Sadler* became the licensee of the WINDSOR CASTLE INN. Here he formed a collection of stuffed beasts and birds which included curiosities and freaks, such as cats with eight legs and lambs with two heads.....

The fact seems to be that *Benjamin Thomas Sadler* purchased the SWAN and the adjoining building which he converted into a concert hall. In this he displayed his remarkable collection, removed from the WINDSOR CASTLE INN. This is borne out by the fact that in 1892 the latter house was described as 'formerly BIRD SHOW' ..... He took a deep interest in the charitable institutions of the locality and was a prominent figure in the Friendly Society movement. For a short time he served on the Local Board of Health. He was a leading member of the Licensed Victuallers' Association for about 25 years, during much of which time he acted as its treasurer. In 1896 he sold the 'Bird Show' to a brewery company and went to live in retirement in Warley, where he died in April 1897 at the age of 66."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 11/7/1862 - Advert

"WINDSOR CASTLE Museum, Rounds Green, near Oldbury.

Mr. *Sadler*, the proprietor of this Celebrated Establishment, begs to inform his friends and the public generally, that in addition to the above wonderful Leverian specimens collected from all parts of the world, he had made an extensive purchase of one of the Largest Mechanical Continental Organs in Europe (worked by steam), performing some of the most popular and classical operatic music from Handel, Rossini, Auber, &c. NB. The Museum is Open Every Day. The Organ will perform every day, but on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday evenings by Steam."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/12/1865

"Ancient Order of Foresters. The third anniversary of Court Miners Glory, No.4035, was celebrated on Tuesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> inst, at the WINDSOR CASTLE MUSEUM INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, when upwards of thirty members and friends, including Brother J. Beatty, surgeon, enjoyed the good things provided by the host Brother *B. Sadler*. On the removal of the cloth, Brother D. Nightingale, CR, was called to the chair, and was ably supported by Brother J. Wright, PCR, and Brother S. D. Holyoake, secretary. Brother S. Foster was called to the vice-chair. The first toast given was 'The Queen; and may all Foresters prove loyal, by obeying the laws that protect them.' Some very good singing, by Brothers F. Etheridge, J Fowler, PCR, and W. Griffiths, then alternated between the following toasts: 'The Prince and Princess of Wales;

and may peace reign all over the world,' 'The Ancient Order of Foresters; and may none of us ever regret having joined it,' 'The West Bromwich Miners District of the Order.' Brother S. D. Holyoake, in responding to this toast, gave a very encouraging report of the financial state of the district. Then followed 'The Health of Brother J. Beatty, surgeon;' 'The Host, his wife and family;' 'Prosperity to the Court Miners Glory,' 'The Chairman,' 'The Press,' &c, all of which were duly responded to; and after enjoying a very pleasant evening, the company broke up at an early hour."

*Benjamin Thomas Sadler* – see also SPREAD EAGLE and WHITE SWAN.

#### Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1869

"At Oldbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, before Mr. W. H. Dawes and Mr. H. Chance, a 'dog trainer,' named Edward Wilkinson, was charged with assaulting Edwin Marwick, a beerhouse keeper, residing near the Seven Stars Bridge. Mr. W. Shakespeare appeared for the complainant.

On the evening of the 8th inst, the complainant met the defendant in the BIRD SHOW, Church Street, when the latter charged the former with having been the originator of various reports reflecting upon his character, which were untrue. Complainant expressed his desire not to have anything to say to him, when the defendant struck him thrice upon the nose, which caused him to have two black eyes for nearly a week.

A witness, named John Shakespeare, said he saw the defendant 'loose out three good blows, and no mistake,' upon the complainant.

Defendant had been several times previously convicted, and was now fined £1 and costs, in all 33s, or in default fourteen days' hard labour."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/3/1871

"At the Police Court yesterday, before the Rev. W. Ker and Mr. Barrows, a forgerman, of Brades Village, named William Careless, was charged with an assault, at the instance of Edward Kelly, a puddler, residing at Toll End. Mr. Sheldon appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Travis defended.

The evidence showed that on Sunday evening, the 26<sup>th</sup> ult, complainant met defendant at the BIRD SHOW INN, Oldbury. A quarrel took place, and the latter and his friends were turned out of the house. In consequence of a threat, complainant was afraid for some time to leave. The landlord at length let him out at the back-door, and he proceeded home with his friends, and when they arrived mid-way between the BLUE BALL INN, and the Tividale Gate, a lonely spot on the road, Careless and his party came from under the hedge and waylaid them. Some words ensued, and the defendant struck Kelly very violently in the mouth with a formidable weapon. Seven of complainant's teeth were knocked out, his lips severely cut, and his jaw much injured.

The evidence for the defence was that Kelly offered to fight defendant, struck at him and missed, and then Careless hit complainant in the face with his fist, but not with a weapon. In cross-examination, however, the witnesses were proved to be perfectly unreliable, and the Bench characterised them as the most disgraceful that ever entered a court.

Defendant was fined £5, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment with hard labour."

#### 1871 Census

36, Brades Road – WINDSOR CASTLE MUSEUM

[1] *Alice Hadley* (61), widow, publican, born Oldbury;

[2] Sarah E. Hadley (30), daughter, assistant, born Oldbury;

[3] Nathaniel Hadley (26), son, whitesmith, born Oldbury;

[4] Elizabeth Payne (18), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1871 - Advert

"Wanted a Furnaceman, for a Hoop Mill.

Apply, OLD BIRD SHOW, Rounds Green, near Oldbury."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/4/1877

"*Alice Hadley*, of the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, Rounds Green, was summoned for permitting drunkenness



on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. The offence was proved, and she was fined £2 and costs, but as she had previously conducted her house respectably her license was not endorsed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/8/1877

“Oldbury Annual Licensing Session.....

Superintendent Kemp, inspector for the division, presented his report, from which it appeared there were held within the division 142 license of all descriptions. Since the licensing meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August last year, 8 licensed victuallers had been summoned for offences against the Licensing Acts. For permitting drunkenness 3 were fined, and 1 ordered to pay costs; for keeping open during prohibited hours 2 were fined, and 1 ordered to pay costs, and 1 was dismissed. One beerhouse keeper had been fined for selling during prohibited hours, and 3 had been summoned for permitting drunkenness – 1 was fined, 1 ordered to pay costs, and 1 was dismissed. During the same period there had been 133 males and 22 females brought before the justices for drunkenness, as against a total of 98 last year, showing an increase of 57. 153 persons were convicted and 2 discharged; 15 of the offenders were charged with drunkenness upon licensed premises, and the remainder upon the public highways.....

The whole of the applications for renewals were granted with the exception of the following, which were adjourned for further consideration to the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.....

*Alice Hadley*, WINDSOR CASTLE, Rounds Green.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/9/1877

“Oldbury Adjourned General Licensing Meeting.....

The applications for renewals of licenses which were held over for consideration for the general meeting, in consequence of convictions which had been recorded, were now granted.”

Dudley Herald 24/1/1880

“On Thursday night a meeting of miners at Oldbury and the surrounding districts was held at the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, Rounds Green, to consider what course should be adopted to secure an alteration of the present arrangement known as the ‘Birmingham Agreement’ which regulates the wages of the men according to the selling price of the coal.....”

1881 Census

36, Brades Road

[1] *Nathaniel Sadler* (24), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Elizabeth Sadler* (18), sister, housekeeper, born Oldbury;

[3] *Margaret Platt* (18), general servant, born Oldbury:

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/10/1881

“On Thursday night a well-attended meeting of miners was held at the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, Rounds Green. Mr. James Poole was voted to the chair. He said he invited Mr. Barnes to come over to hold that meeting because he thought a place like Rounds Green ought to do more for the union than they did. They had only one lodge with about twenty members. He pointed out the advantages to be derived from joining the Association, not only as regards trade matters, but also in times of sickness. He was pleased to say that there was a prospect of a large accession of members to the local lodge.

Mr. Barnes, secretary, said he was very glad to meet them. If ever there was a time when men ought to be united it was now. They were aware that a conference was being held in Birmingham concerning the sliding scale and at the conference there were representatives from the men in those districts, governed by the sliding scales. There were delegates representing 265,000 men, who were working under the sliding scales in England, Scotland, and Wales, and it was a fact that there was not a single scale in existence that was satisfactory to the men as they were all in favour of the masters.....

A resolution was passed pledging the meeting to do their utmost to induce all the miners in the district to join the union.”

Smethwick Telephone 8/3/1884

“Oldbury Police Court. John Connor was fined 5s and costs for being drunk in the WINDSOR CASTLE INN on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult. Police Constable Smith proved the case.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/3/1889

“Last night a meeting of miners was held at the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, under the presidency of Mr. Hollyhead. The Chairman advised the men to abolish strikes and strengthen the association, and pointed out that if they would only induce the men to join the association it would prove a benefit to the public and also to the masters. Mr. H. Rust and Mr. H. Barnes addressed the meeting, and a resolution was passed that the meeting was of opinion that it was of the greatest importance that all men should pay to the Wages Board already established; also that all men should unite to improve their condition.”

#### 1891 Census

67, Brades Road

[1] *Nathaniel Sadler* (34), licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] Ann Sadler (31), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Thomas A. Sadler (6), son, born Oldbury;

[4] John Jordan Sadler (4), son, born Oldbury;

[5] Ethel Ann Sadler (3), daughter, born Oldbury;

[6] Edith Mary Sadler (1), daughter, born Oldbury;

[7] Annie Slater (20), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

#### Birmingham Daily Post 1/2/1892 - Advert

“Messrs. Thomas Harford and Son are instructed to Sell by Public Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, This Day (Monday), the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, at Seven o’clock in the Evening (subject to conditions to be then produced, incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society), the following Valuable Freehold Property.

All that Freehold Full-Licensed Inn, with the Land, Out-buildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate in Brades Road, Rounds Green, Oldbury aforesaid, known as the WINDSOR CASTLE, formerly as the BIRD SHOW, now in the occupation of Mr. *Nathaniel Sadler*, at a rental of £25 per annum.

This Property occupies an important position, and possesses every convenience for doing a very large trade. The House and Premises contain three Bed Rooms, Club Room, Tap Room, Bar, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Stabling, Brewhouse, Malt Room, and usual Out-buildings, with enclosed paved Yard.

NB. The Premises are held upon a Lease for a term of twenty-one years, of which nine are unexpired on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1892.

Additional particulars may be obtained on application to the Auctioneers, Junction Chambers, West Bromwich; or to Thomas E. Rowley, Solicitor, West Bromwich and Great Bridge.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 6/2/1892

“On Monday last, Mr. D. Harford (of the firm of Thos. Harford and Son, Auctioneers, West Bromwich) submitted to public auction eleven lots of freehold property, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury. Included in the sale was the well-known, full-licensed Inn (the BIRD SHOW INN). There was a large attendance of buyers and after a spirited competition the following lots changed hands.....

Lot 7. Full-licensed Inn, the rental of £25 per annum, known as the OLD BIRD SHOW, realised £805.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/3/1894 - Advert

“Rounds Green, Oldbury. This Day (Monday), March 19.

Messrs. Thos. Harford and Son will Offer for Sale by Public Auction, on the above date, at the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, formerly the BIRD SHOW, Brades Road, Rounds Green, Oldbury, at 7.30 in the evening, the following Freehold Properties.....”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 19/4/1894

“Last night a meeting, under the auspices of the West Bromwich Amalgamated Association of Miners, was held at the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, for the purpose of considering the sliding

scale, and also to appoint a representative on the Wages Board. A miner presided.

Mr. John Richards, in the course of an address, said they found the sliding scale was not what they required, and they wanted the men to take united action with the view of improving it. He pointed out that in 1893 they had the books audited, but they showed a large reduction in prices. When they asked for an advance in wages the employers threw that in their faces, and said they had only just righted themselves. The books were again audited for September, October and November, and resulted in the wages remaining at 7s 5d per ton. The representatives then considered that an alteration to the scale might prove beneficial to the miners, and accordingly steps were taken to obtain alterations which it was hoped would be equal to 10 per cent increase in their wages, and would also reduce the basis of coal ruling the wages from 7s 5d to 6s 9d. The employers, whilst speaking in favour of the alteration, were of opinion that it should be worked on the automatic principle. The representatives of the men could not grant the employers their wish without having the opinion of the men. He himself was opposed to such a principle being introduced into the scale, and he advised them not to accept it, as he considered it would be detrimental to them. (Applause.)

Mr. H. Rust (agent) also addressed the meeting, and explained that hitherto they had secured the 40 per cent increase, and he had no doubt but what they would continue to maintain it. (Hear, hear.) They were all sorry to see the result up to the present of the Conciliation Board. He knew the miners of the Black Country would remember the remarks by one of the leading coal-owners against Lord Shand at the first meeting of the Board.

The following resolution was passed: 'That this meeting does not accept the automatic arrangement in the revised scale, seeing the cost it would incur, but insists on having the revised scale on the principle now existing.

Mr. H. Rust was appointed as the representative on the Wages Board for the ensuing year.

A resolution in favour of sending a delegate to London with regard to the Eight-hours Bill was passed."

*Benjamin Thomas Sadler* died on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1897.

#### Weekly News 3/4/1897

"We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. *Benjamin Thomas Sadler*, which took place at his residence, Wood View, Warley, on Saturday last, aged 66 years. The deceased had been ailing for the last two or three months, and had consulted a physician owing to an affliction of the heart. He took to his bed a fortnight ago, but died very suddenly at last. Mr. *Sadler* was born at Rounds Green and for many years kept the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, which was noted for the large museum of stuffed birds and curious animals.

About thirty years ago he built the WHITE SWAN in Church Street, Oldbury, and the music hall attached to it, where he conducted his business until last June, when he disposed of the premises to North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. He then retired to his own house in Warley, with the prospect of reaching a ripe old age. For about a quarter of a century he was a prominent member of the Oldbury Local Board of Health, about the time they took over the gas undertaking, and he took a deep interest in the charitable institutions in the district. He was an honorary member of the Ancient Order of Foresters, both in the Miners Glory and Court Englands Glory, and took great interest in friendly societies generally. He was universally respected, and one of the best known men in Oldbury.

The funeral took place at the Oldbury Cemetery on Wednesday last, amidst manifestations of sorrow on every hand. The mourners were Mr. *N. Sadler*, Mr. A. J. Sadler and Mr. S. Sadler (sons), Mr. F. E. Sadler (son-in-law), Mr. J. Sadler (uncle), Mr. J. Nash (brother-in-law), Mr. G. Good and Mr. T. A. Sadler (grandsons). The bearers were Mr. W. Jordan, Mr. J. Sadler (Broadwell Road), Mr. D. G. Harroway, councilor S. J. Sadler, Mr. T. Orange and superintendent Speke (Dudley). Dr. Rees and Mr. T. Bonser followed in private carriages. The coffin was covered with beautiful wreaths, among them being one from his widow (Mrs. Sadler), separate ones from each of his sons, and from Mr. W. Jordan, Mr. J. Morgan, Mr. T. R. Bonser, Mr. H. Harper, Mrs. Orange, Mrs. S. Round, Mrs. Bowerman, Mrs. Southall, Mr. R. Jones and family. The officiating minister was the Rev. J. Jones of Quinton."

WINDSOR CASTLE Brewery was founded by *Nathaniel Sadler*.

What's Bottling December 2012

“In 1900 a new brewery was built around the corner from the public house to supply the WINDSOR CASTLE and 10 other tied outlets. Thomas Alexander Sadler took over the operation of the brewery in 1921, and continued to 1927, when brewing ceased.”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 13/1/1900

“On Saturday evening about 46 workpeople from Mr. J. W. D. Pratt’s sat down to a capital spread at the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, Rounds Green (host Mr. *N. Sadler*). . . .”

#### West Bromwich Weekly News 17/2/1900

“On Wednesday evening last, an inquest was held at the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, Rounds Green, by Mr. Hebbert, coroner, on the body of William Williams, a marlhole man, who expired in a fellow workman’s arms as he was leaving the marlhole at dinner time on Monday last. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

*William Timmins* married *Harriet* Plant on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1871.

#### 1901 Census

67, Brades Road

- [1] *William Timmins* (49), steel worker, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Harriet Timmins* (50), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] George Timmins (25), son, steel worker, born Oldbury;
- [4] Geoffrey Timmins (22), son, steel worker, born Oldbury;
- [5] Florrie Timmins (20), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Hannah Timmins (17), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Harriet Timmins* (11), daughter, born Oldbury:

*William Timmins* died on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1902.

#### Leominster News 28/11/1903

“On Tuesday, an inquest was held at the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, by Mr. A. H. Hibbert, respecting the death of Frederick Briggs, aged sixteen months, whose parents reside in Dingle Street, Rounds Green. The child died on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst from the effects of scalds sustained at home on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. During the temporary absence of his mother, deceased upset a can containing boiling water, and the contents ran over his chest, causing terrible scalds. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

#### 1911 Census

67, Brades Road – WINDSOR CASTLE

- [1] *Harriet Timmins* (60), widow, licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Harriet Timmins* (21), daughter, assisting in the business, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Maggie Williams* (14), domestic servant, born Brades Village:

Six-day spirit off-license granted on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1912.

*Harriet Timmins* died on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1913.

#### Smethwick Telephone 16/7/1927 - Advert

“Oldbury. Freehold Dwelling House Property, Brewery, Garage, Hairdressing Saloon, Business Premises and Building Land.

To be Sold by Auction by Messrs. Jones, Son and Vernon, FAI, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday Next, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1927. . . .

Rounds Green, Oldbury (with Vacant Possession).

Lot 7. Freehold Villa, known as Shaftesbury House, No.39, Dingle Street. . . .

Lot 8. The well-built Three-Storey Freehold Brewery and Premises, adjoining the above House, and former-

ly known as the WINDSOR CASTLE Brewery. These Premises have a frontage of 16 yards 1 foot 7 inches to Dingle Street, a frontage to Sand Street of 11 yards 1 foot 0 inches, and a total area of 521 square yards. Total area of floor space in the brick-built structure is 4,275 super feet. Also the Brewing Plant, comprising 15ft 0in Boiler, Horizontal Engine, 20 Barrel Copper Boiler, Fermenting Vessels and numerous other items.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/3/1936

“Oldbury justices yesterday refused application for.....

The removal of the licence of the WINDSOR CASTLE, Graves Road, Rounds Green, to premises known as the BEECHES, Bristnall Hall Road, Warley.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/3/1937

“Rowley Regis licensing justices adjourned meeting at Old Hill yesterday.....

Although 96 per cent of residents in the Bristnall Hall Road district of Warley want a new public house, the Oldbury Justices said ‘No’ to their demand yesterday. Atkinsons Brewery applied for the removal of the licence of the WINDSOR CASTLE, Brades Road, Oldbury, to premises proposed to be erected on a site at Bristnall Hall Road.

Mr. Douglas Jenkins, for the brewery company, said there were 525 houses nearer to the site than to any other licensed premises, and there was land available for the erection of a further 621.

Opposition was made by local clergy, who contended that the proposed building would be near three schools.

The application was refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1939

“Oldbury adjourned Licensing Sessions yesterday.....

Atkinsons Ltd, Aston, applied for a provisional order sanctioning the removal of the full licence of the WINDSOR CASTLE, Brades Road, Oldbury, to premises known at the BEECHES, Bristnall Hall Road, Warley.

Mr. Douglas Jenkins (for the applicants) said that the position had changed since a similar application was made in 1936. More houses had been erected and today there were 644 houses nearer to this site than to any licensed house in the area. The effect of granting the application would be to remove a licence from a somewhat congested area to a district where no facilities exist. The brewery company was prepared to surrender the licences of two further houses that were doing considerable business.

Objection to the application was offered by the Rev. F. A. Payne (Warley Methodist Church) and the Rev. H. C. Hawkins (Oldbury United Ministerial Fellowship), who contended that facilities in the area are adequate. The application was granted, subject to certain alterations in the plans of the proposed building.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/4/1939

“Mr. E. Guy Bigwood, who has succeeded the late Alderman Frank Smith as chairman of Worcestershire County Licensing Committee, presided at the annual meeting for the confirmation of new licences at Worcester yesterday.....

The following applications were granted.....

John Leslie Kimberly, Littlemoor Hill, Smethwick. Removal of the licence of the WINDSOR CASTLE INN, Rounds Green, Oldbury, to premises to be known as the BEECHES, Bristnall Hall Road, Warley.”

[This might have been delayed in consequence of the war.]

1939 Register

Brades Road – WINDSOR CASTLE

[1] *George E. Sharp*, date of birth 11/2/1871, licensed victualler (own account), married;

[2] *Mary A. Sharp*, dob 27/8/1871, unpaid domestic duties, married:

*James Freer* was already in occupation at the time of the licensing meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1946.

The license was removed as from 11<sup>th</sup> July 1956 to the BEECHES, Bristnall Hall Road.

## WONDER

44, (71), Dudley Road West, TIVIDALE

## OWNERS

J. Rolinson and Son Ltd.  
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

## LICENSEES

### WONDER HOTEL

James Hughes [ ] – **1861**);  
William Skidmore (**1861 – 1869**);  
Thomas Shenton (**1869 – 1872**);  
Edward Shenton (**1872** – [1876]  
William Harper [1878]  
John Jordan [*1880*] – **1881**);  
William Hensman (**1881** – [1900]

### WONDER INN/HOTEL

Thomas Harris [*1845*] – [*1854*]  
A Harris [1854]  
James Hughes [1858] – [*1863*]  
Mrs. Sarah Hughes [*1864*] – **1882**);  
Henry Bishop (**1882** – [ ]  
Benjamin Attwood [1872]  
William Hensman [1901]  
Alfred Hinsman [ ] – **1903**);  
William Jones (**1903 – 1904**);  
John Thomas Jones (**1904 – 1905**);  
John William Beck (**1905 – 1906**);  
William Hartshorn Morris (**1906** – [ ]  
William Henry Elliott [*1908*] – **1910**);  
Enoch Roderick (**1910**);  
Claude Vincent (**1910** – [1911]  
Joseph Woodhall [*1912*]  
John George Smith (**1913**);  
George Richard Aston (**1913 – 1914**);  
Alfred Sheldon (**1914 – 1915**);  
William Wheale (**1915 – 1922**);  
Harold Augustus Farley (**1922 – 1926**);  
Bertram Williams (**1926 – 1928**);  
Alexander 'Alex' Pearson (**1928 – 1932**);  
Joseph Thomas Willis (**1932 – 1933**);  
William Edward Barton (**1933 – 1935**);  
Albert Victor Troman (**1935 – 1938**);  
William Thomas Kings (**1938 – 1939**);

Sidney Canning (1939 – 1945);  
Doris Rogers (1945 – 1947);  
William Edward Darby (1947 – 1955);  
Ronald Yale (1955 – [1965])  
J Dunn [1991] – [1993]  
Nicola Johnson [2002]  
Heather Boyden [2013]  
Ryan Morris (2016 – [ ]  
Leigh Maskell [2019] manager

## NOTES

71, Dudley Road [1881], [1891], [1892], [1896], [1900], [1901], [1904]  
44, Dudley Road [1908], [1911], [1932], [1939], [1940]  
44, Dudley Road West [1916], [1940]

NEW WONDER [1862]

The WONDER and the WONDER HOTEL was one long building, front to back, with the hotel to the rear of the pub.

Originally separate licences were held.

### Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/2/1849

“On Saturday last an inquest was held at the WONDER INN, Tividale, before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the bodies of Sampson Bate, his son, Joseph Bate, and his nephew Joseph Bate. They were employed in Mr. Round’s pit at Tividale, and on Friday morning last descended the pit at six o’clock in the morning. They were the only three men working in the pit and were employed to drain a headway. About nine o’clock the overlooker of the pit heard an explosion when he was on the bank, he immediately went to the pit and got into a skip for the purpose of descending the shaft, but when he had been lowered a short distance the sulphur was so strong, that he was compelled to ascend again, and it was two hours before any person could go down; he then descended and found the bodies of the deceased, who had been killed by the explosion. The overlooker had tried the lamp the previous morning, and, the deceased, Sampson Bate, who was an experienced miner, took the lamp down the morning the explosion occurred for the purpose of trying it himself, he being the doggy of the pit. It was proved by the testimony of two witnesses, that there were pipes on the bank to be used for the purpose of conveying air into the pit and the manager had several times requested Sampson Bate to use them, but he refused to do so, as he always said there was sufficient air in the pit. The explosion forced a plank off the top of the shaft, and was heard a mile although the pit is 200 yards in depth. There was no blame to be attributed to any person, unless it was the deceased, Sampson Bate, and the Jury, after hearing the evidence, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

*Thomas Harris* was also an agent. [1851]

### 1851 Census

Tividale

- [1] *Thomas Harris* (62), colliery agent, born Madeley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Maria Harris* (66), wife, born Cradley;
- [3] *Sabina Harris* (41), daughter, domestic, born Sedgley;
- [4] *Alfred Harris* (25), son, iron roll turner, born Kingswinford;
- [5] *Mary Ann Harris* (23), daughter, domestic, born Kingswinford;
- [6] *Edwin Harris* (29), son, visitor, iron roller, born Rowley Regis;

Birmingham Journal 17/6/1854 - Advert

“Sale at the WONDER INN, Tividale, near Dudley.

By Charles Gray. To be Sold by Auction, upon the Premises, without reserve, on Monday Next, June 19<sup>th</sup>. A Portion of the Household Furniture, feather Beds, Bedsteads, Glass, China, Earthenware, the whole of the Public House Fixtures, Screens, back rail and other Forms, Drinking and other Tables, 20-bushel Mash Tub, 100-gallon Iron Boiler, 40-gallon ditto, Wood Backs with Lead Piping into Cellar, sixteen well-seasoned Oak Casks, ranging from 8 to 120 gallons, Kitchen Requisites, light Spring Trap, Licenses and Possession, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *A. Harris*, who is declining the public business.

Catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale, or at the Offices of the Auctioneer, High Street, Dudley, and Walsall.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock in the morning. Conditions as usual.

Sales settled with Employers on the Day of Sale.”

#### County Advertiser 14/2/1857

“On Thursday last a fatal accident occurred to a man named James Edwards, aged 38, whilst at work at the new canal tunnel near Netherton, by an empty skip falling on him, and killing him on the spot. An inquest will be held on the body this day (Saturday), at the WONDER INN, Tividale.”

#### Brierley Hill Advertiser 27/3/1858

“*James Hughes*, landlord of the WONDER public house, Rowley Regis, was charged by PC Lucas with keeping open his house for the sale of liquor after eleven o’clock on the night of Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> instant. Defendant stated that he had certainly forgotten to fasten his door exactly at eleven o’clock, but the persons in his house were members of his own family who had been on a visit to him. Superintendent Mills having stated that the house was generally well conducted, the Bench thought the statement of the defendant was probably true, and therefore dismissed the case.”

*James Hughes* was also a brickmaker. [1860]

#### Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/9/1860 - Advert

“Tividale, near Tipton. A Capital Old Licensed Public House, the WONDER INN, situate at Tividale, afore-said.

The old house known as the WONDER INN, having been taken down and a new house erected, adjoining the old site, is now To Be Let, and consists of four lofty cellars, bar, hall, parlour, tap room, and kitchen, five bed rooms, and a large club room, the outbuildings are a good brewhouse, with malt room over, three stall stable, gig-house, and loft over both, piggeries and cisterns, an entire yard, with entrance gates and fence walls. The House adjoins the Dudley and Oldbury Turnpike Road, and is in the immediate neighbourhood of extensive iron, coal, and other works.

To treat, apply to Mr. S. Powell, Surveyor, Tipton.”

#### 1861 Census

Dudley Road – WONDER INN

- [1] *James Hughes* (54), publican, born Dudley;
- [2] *Sarah Hughes* (52), wife, born Kingswinford;
- [3] Daniel Hughes (25), son, born Kingswinford;
- [4] Hannah Hughes (19), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [5] Emma Hughes (17), daughter, born Tipton;
- [6] James Hughes (13), son, scholar, born Tipton;
- [7] George Bullock (53), messenger, born Alton Prior, Wiltshire:

#### The Era 10/3/1861

“At a special meeting of the magistrates, on Monday, at Wordsley, Staffordshire, the following transfers were granted.....

WONDER, Tividale. In this case *William Skidmore* applied under the following circumstances. The former occupier, *James Hughes*, having neglected to apply at the last licensing meeting at Stewponney for a renewal



of license, the present tenant (*Skidmore*) now made the necessary application, which was granted.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/11/1864

“On Wednesday evening an accident of a shocking and fatal character, attended with an awful sacrifice of human life, eight human beings being suddenly launched into eternity, occurred at the Counterfield Colliery, situated in the parish of Dudley, and belonging to Messrs. Nock. The pit, it appears, had been at work all day, and the chain to which the skip was suspended had worked in the usual manner. The skip was sent down the shaft the last time before the accident at about a quarter-past six o'clock, with a boy in it, and a number of pikes which were required for use by the miners on the night turn. The ‘hanger on,’ a man named John Slater, noticed that when the skip was about to be drawn up the shaft, eight persons were in, and by his direction one man named Thomas Bateman got off, as there was a sufficient number of men in already. As the skip was ascending, one of the boys jumped on. The skip, with its living human freight, had ascended more than eighty yards up the shaft when a voice was heard to exclaim, ‘O, Lord,’ followed by a piercing scream, and immediately after the skip went crashing to the bottom. All the men were dead when Slater saw them at the bottom of the pit. The first body he recognised was that of his unfortunate brother (William Slater), a youth of 17 years, whose head was cut off by the chain. About 85 yards of the chain fell to the bottom of the pit on to the deceased. The chain had broken when the skip was about half way up the pit. The engineer, Francis Downing, seeing the chain drawn up to the pulley, and suspecting something wrong, at once shut off the steam. On examination he found that the chain had broken, and that a yard of it had gone over the horn and was hanging over the shaft of the drum. The bodies of the unfortunate men at the bottom of the shaft were conveyed to their respective homes to await the Coroner's investigation into the circumstances connected with their untimely fate.

The inquest on the body of William Slater was opened yesterday by Mr. Edwin Hooper, District Coroner, at the SPRING HOUSE INN, Rowley Regis. Mr. J. P. Baker, the Government Inspector of Mines, attended the inquest. At the commencement of the inquiry the Coroner dismissed four jurors because they were connected slightly with the proprietors of the Counterfield Colliery by business transactions, and the jury was made up by others entirely disinterested in the matter.

The jury, having viewed the body and examined the machinery, John Slater, a miner, living at Springfield, and brother to the deceased, was called, and deposed to the identity of the body, after which the Coroner said he thought that possibly greater justice would be done to the public, the deceased, and other men employed at the pit by having an adjournment. The jury had had the opportunity of seeing the machinery inclusive of the pit frames and the chain. He had taken upon himself to order a part of the chain to be cut off and placed in the hands of a practical person to be tested by hydraulic pressure, that they might be satisfied that there was no fault in connection with it. A report had been spread to the effect that it had been an old chain; he did not know himself personally, but he had, as he had before informed them, taken the proper means to ascertain. If he found that scientific evidence was necessary, he should get such evidence as would satisfy them. He thought it much better that they should see the machinery themselves than hear a description of the same from the mouths of witnesses, so that they might form their own opinion on the subject. The inquest was then formally adjourned until Friday, December the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The second inquest was held at the WONDER INN, Tividale, in the parish of Rowley, on the body of Thomas Bowater, who met his death at the same colliery. The Coroner explained what had transpired at the previous inquest, and intimated his intention of adjourning the investigation touching the death of Thomas Bowater until after the first inquiry had been held, as the same witnesses would be required at all the inquiries, though the verdict of one jury would not necessarily affect that of the other. The father of the deceased was then called, and gave evidence of the identity of the body, and the inquest was then adjourned till Tuesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> proximo.

The Coroner desired the jury to inspect the machinery, as the previous jury had done, and place a police-officer at their disposal who would show them over the works, Messrs. Nock having promised to afford them every facility, and courting a complete and searching investigation. As far as can be ascertained, the catastrophe appears to have been occasioned by the framework having by some means become disarranged, the chain in working over the ‘horn’ got thrown out of its horizontal position and inclined to one side of the horn, instead of working equally over the whole, and the chain would of necessity become worn and thinner in those parts where the friction took place. When the men were ascending the pit on Wednesday night the

chain would appear to have been working out of its proper adjustment in the manner described, to have been caught in the horn and swagged over on to the drum, where it snapped in two, as clearly as if it had been cut by a machine.

The inquest on the bodies of the other six unfortunate deceased was opened yesterday afternoon by Mr. B. Robinson, coroner for Dudley, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, but no further evidence was taken beyond that of establishing the identity of the bodies, and the inquiry was then adjourned for a week for reasons previously enumerated.”

London Evening Standard 7/12/1864

“Yesterday morning the inquest was resumed at Dudley on the body of Thomas Bowater, who was, with seven other men, killed as they were ascending the shaft of the Counterfield Pit, on the colliery of Messrs. Nock, at Withymore, near Dudley. Mr. Edwin Nock, Zachariah Mason, and James Leadham had previously been committed to take their trial at the assizes for manslaughter. The jury in the present case found a verdict of manslaughter against Francis Downing; but they entirely exonerated Messrs. Nock, Mason, and Leadham from any blame whatever in the matter. Downing was fully committed for trial, but was admitted to bail in two sureties of £25 each, and himself in £50.”

[At Staffordshire Lent Assizes Thomas Downing, the engineman, was acquitted.]

Birmingham Daily Post 8/12/1864

“Mr. Hooper held an inquest on Tuesday, at the WONDER INN, Tividale, on the body of Emma Paskin, aged twenty-seven years, whose death resulted from severe burning. The deceased, it appeared, fell upon the fire while in a fit several days ago, and received such severe injuries that she expired on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Advertiser 11/3/1865

“William Guest was charged with assaulting James Jones, on the night of the 25<sup>th</sup> ult, in the WONDER public house, Tividale. Fined 6d and costs, or twenty-one days.”

Stourbridge Observer 26/8/1865

“At the Petty Sessions on Wednesday, Stephen Joyns and James Cook, both of Tividale, were charged with refusing to leave the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, when requested. Police-constable Wyley said that he was passing by the above hotel on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst, at 10.45pm, and he heard a disturbance within. He entered into the house and found the two defendants drunk, and in the act of fighting. The landlady requested them to leave but they refused, and she then requested witness to put them out. He accordingly did so, and they became very abusive whilst in the street. They were fined 1s each and costs; in default 7 days’ hard labour.”

County Advertiser 7/10/1865

“On Wednesday, at the Police Court, before Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and J. Pursey, James Thomas, a tramp, was charged with stealing a jacket, the property of James *Hughes*. It appeared that between nine and ten o’clock on Tuesday morning the prisoner went to the WONDER INN, Tividale, kept by Mrs. *Hughes*, and called for some drink. Having been served with what he wanted he sat down in the taproom. The servant girl had occasion to leave the room for a short time, and on her return the prisoner was putting on a jacket belonging to Mrs. *Hughes*’s son James, and which had been hanging just above where the prisoner was seated. The girl told her mistress, who went to the room where the prisoner was, but he instantly decamped. After running some distance he was stopped by a young man named Long and brought back. The jacket was on him, under his own, and he was at once handed over to the custody of Police-constable Wiley. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to two months’ hard labour.”

County Express 19/1/1867

“Samuel Bushell and William Skidmore, two boys aged between ten and eleven years of age, were placed at the bar, charged with stealing a purse containing £16 in gold, the property of *Sarah Hughes*, of the WONDER INN, Tividale. Mrs. *Hughes* is Bushell’s grand-mother, and she had employed him for the last fort-

night or so running errands. About eleven o'clock on Saturday morning, she brought her money down stairs, and placed it in the desk in the bar. There was £16 in gold. It was in a purse, and she laid it beside some silver in the bottom of the desk. She did not know how much silver there would be; she would not miss any if taken. She left the keys in the desk while she went about the bar. About three o'clock, she had occasion to give change last. On going to the desk, she found the purse gone. Bushell was out at the time, but she called her son, who went in search of, and found him on the turnpike road. He brought Bushell back to the house, and asked him where the little bag was he had taken out of the desk. He said he had not taken it. The son then put his hand in one trouser's pocket, and brought out a supply of peppermints, &c; from the other he brought forth £14 in gold, and 9s 6d in silver. When asked what he had done with the purse, he said he had given it to Billy Skidmore, and that was either a sovereign or half-sovereign in it. The boy Skidmore is a very respectable-looking lad. On his being taken into custody, the sum of £1 6s 6d in silver was found upon him, which he readily admitted as having received, accompanied by some cock-and-bull story, plausible enough to a boy of ten.

Mr. Addison appeared for the boy Skidmore, and argued on his client's respectability, and contended that he had just (as any boy of his age might) fallen into the dangerous company of a bad boy.

The Bench gave consideration to this view, and dismissed Skidmore with an admonition. Bushell was sentenced to receive twelve lashes, and be imprisoned for one month."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 14/9/1867 - Advert

"Found, September 9, a Liver-and-White coloured Spaniel Dog. If not owned in three days will be sold to pay expenses.

Apply, Mr. Daniel *Hughes*, WONDER INN, Tividale near Tipton."

#### Birmingham Daily Post 31/1/1868 - Advert

"WONDER INN, Tividale.

By Hipkins and Thomas. To be Sold, the valuable Goodwill and Possession of that very excellent House and Business, containing Bar, Smoke Room, Parlour, Tap Room, Kitchen, Club Room, five Sleeping Rooms, four Cellars, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stabling, &c.

The House is situated in the midst of Collieries and Ironworks. The Tividale Cricket Club is also held there, and we may confidently say that to an energetic and persevering man it is an opportunity rarely to be met with.

For particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Dudley Port, Tipton."

#### Aris's Birmingham Gazette 3/10/1868 - Advert

"To be Let, that Old-licensed Public-house, the WONDER INN, Tividale, Rowley, surrounded by Collieries, Brick-kilns, and Ironworks, doing a good business.

For particulars, apply to Hipkins and Thomas, Auctioneers, Horsley Heath, Tipton."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/4/1869

"The general meeting of the Tividale Cricket and Quoit Club was held at the WONDER HOTEL on Monday evening....."

#### Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/9/1869

"On Saturday afternoon the proprietor of Hall Bridge Colliery, Tividale, and one of his men, met with death in an awfully sudden manner. The colliery, which belonged to Mr. F. W. Hipkins, required to be closed about a week ago in consequence of the occurrence of a fire. In order to shut out the air, and thus deprive combustion of support, a scaffold was fixed in the shaft, and the mouth of the pit was also carefully covered. Between two and three o'clock on Saturday afternoon the pit mouth was opened, and one of the miners, a young man named John Briscoe (21) descended the shaft to the scaffolding, which was placed about thirty yards from the surface. He went down to ascertain how far the water had risen, and whether the fire was becoming extinguished. A few minutes after he had left the bank those who remained there became greatly concerned, for no sound was heard below, and response was not given to repeated calls. Fearing that the man had succumbed to the deadly influence of 'choke damp,' Mr. Hipkins resolved to make an immediate

attempt to rescue him. He was cautioned as to the danger of the undertaking, and his brother, who happened to be present, urged him to wait until he obtained a rope with which to secure him to the 'bowk.' He repudiated, however, all idea of fear, and being anxious to save the poor fellow in the shaft, he went down at once. Those upon the bank listened anxiously, and Mr. Hipkins had only been lowered a few yards when they were appalled to hear him fall. He had become the second victim of the poisonous gas, and had lost his life in an act which was praiseworthy, but too self-forgetful.

Half an hour elapsed before any further attempt dare be made to descend the shaft. A large quantity of water was thrown down in order to dilute and disperse the dreaded gas. When it was thought this had been sufficiently effected, a man named Evans volunteered to fetch up the unfortunate men who had been so suddenly deprived of life. The descent was this time made in safety, and the dead bodies of the colliery owner and miner were soon brought to the pit mouth. They were afterwards taken to their late residences – that of Mr. Hipkins being at Kates Hill, Dudley; and John Briscoe's at Tividale."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/10/1869

"On Tuesday last an inquest was held before Mr. Hooper, at the WONDER HOTEL, on the body of John Briscoe, who met with his death on Saturday last, in a manner described in these columns. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

*William Skidmore*, beer retailer, Tividale. [1870]

*Thomas Shenton* = Thomas Shenston

*Thomas Shenton*, beer retailer, Tividale. [1870]

He issued tokens from here, bearing WONDER HOTEL.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/1/1871 - Advert

"Lost, on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, a small Black-and-Tan Terrier Bitch. Answers to name of 'Vic.' If detained after this notice, will be Prosecuted.

Apply, James *Hughes*, WONDER INN, Tividale."

1871 Census

Dudley Road

[1] *Thomas Shenton* (51), licensed victualler, born Claverley;

[2] *Charlotte Shenton* (47), wife, born Aston, Shropshire;

[3] *Edward Shenton* (21), son, labourer, born Birmingham;

[4] *Susannah Shenton* (17), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;

[5] *William Shenton* (14), son, scholar, born Tipton;

[6] *Thomas Shenton* (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Fanny Shenton* (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[8] *Eleanor J. Shenton* (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[9] *Elizabeth Hobley* (15), general servant, born Rugby:

AND

Dudley Road

[1] *Sarah Hughes* (60), widow, licensed victualler, born Kingswinford;

[2] *James Hughes* (22), son, born Tipton;

[3] *Mary Bushell* (16), grand-daughter, servant, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/5/1871 - Advert

"Taken from the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, Tipton, a Horse, Trap, and Harness, on Monday Night, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1871, the property of Mr. Farley, West Bromwich. Handsome Reward will be paid for the recovery of the same."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1871 - Advert

“By Mr. Jno. Bent, This Day (Monday), August 28, at the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale. The whole of the Public House Fixtures, superior six-pull Beer Machine, together with the Household Furniture and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Thomas Shenton*, under an execution for Rent. Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.”

London Gazette 5/12/1871

“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 *Thomas Shenton*, of Tividale, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Brickmaker.

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 Stokes, No.1. Priory-street, Dudley, in the county of Worcester, on the 14th day of December, 1871, at eleven o’clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 27th day of November, 1871.

Jos. Stokes, 1, Priory-street, Dudley, Attorney for the said Debtor.”

County Advertiser 17/2/1872

“John Vipend was charged with assaulting *Benjamin Attwood*, landlord of the WONDER INN, Tividale, on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. Defendant was in complainant’s house, and some altercation took place between the parties, when defendant said he would knock complainant’s teeth out, and struck him on the mouth. Mr. Stokes, who appeared for the defendant, called witnesses to prove that the complainant had provoked the assault, and that he was much more in fault than the defendant. A man named Henry Bradley said that the complainant took hold of the defendant and attempted to make him fight, which caused defendant to strike the blow. The case was dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/5/1872 - Advert

“Sheet Rolling Mills. Wanted, a steady Furnaceman, and Two Puddlers.

Apply personally, or by letter, at once, to Mrs. *Sarah Hughes*, the WONDER INN, Tividale.”

Dudley Guardian 11/4/1874

“The Oddfellows. On Monday. Mr. *Shenton*, of the WONDER INN, Tividale, gave the members of the Loyal Eagles Hope Lodge a substantial dinner, to welcome the members removing to his house from the MINERS ARMS.....”

County Express 14/8/1875

“*Edward Shenton*, publican, was charged with permitting gaming in his house on the 24<sup>th</sup> July. Police-constable Given said that on the day in question he visited defendant’s house, the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, at about ten o’clock, and found some men playing at cards. There was some money on the table. Defendant said that he was not aware there was any gambling going on in the house. Defendant’s son was playing with the others. Defendant was fined 10s and the costs.”

County Advertiser 28/8/1875

“Old Hill Licensing Sessions.

The following licenses were renewed: Old-licensed houses, 94; beerhouses, 54; wine licenses 5.

The licenses of ..... *Edward Shenton*, who had been convicted were suspended until the adjourned meeting.”

County Advertiser 2/10/1875

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The following publicans who had been convicted during the year, having been cautioned, had their licenses renewed.....

Thomas Shentone [sic], WONDER HOTEL, Tividale.”

County Advertiser 3/6/1876

“William Leysham was charged by *Edward Shenton* with having refused to quit licensed premises, the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, when requested to do so. The case was proved by Mrs. *Shenton*, the landlady of the house, and defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

AND

County Express 3/6/1876

“William Leyshun, roller, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, on the 20<sup>th</sup> ult. The landlady stated that on the night in question she heard a noise in a taproom and on going in, found the defendant holding a man up in the corner and striking him. She ordered the defendant out, but he refused to comply. He however left after being ordered by one of the company. Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.

There was a further charge of using obscene and profane language in the street but this case was dismissed.”

Dudley Herald 15/12/1877

“Annual dinner of Tividale Cricket and Quoit Club held at WONDER, Tividale....”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/6/1878 - Advert

“Lawn Mower. For Sale, a capital Lawn Mower, 24in, by Green. No reasonable offer refused. Apply, Secretary, Tividale Cricket Club, WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, near Dudley.”

County Express 22/6/1878

“Joseph Harper, a respectable looking man, living at Tividale, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *William Harper*, WONDER HOTEL, Tividale. Defendant was further charged with assaulting Police-constable McGourty.

It appeared from the evidence adduced that defendant went into the hotel at about 10.15 on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, but as he was in an intoxicated state the landlord refused to fill him any ale, and requested him to leave. He refused to do so, but with some assistance he succeeded in ejecting him. Police-constable McGourty subsequently saw defendant in the Dudley Road. On being advised to go quietly home defendant assaulted the officer.

As this was the first time he had been charged, defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs in each case, with the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/8/1878 - Advert

“WONDER HOTEL to Let, at Tividale. Roadside, on Birmingham road, near Dudley. Unusual advantages; rent comparatively nothing; other engagements; cricket and other clubs; splendid residence. Apply, Edward Ellis, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1878 - Advert

“Really Good Old-licensed roadside Inn to Let. A favourable opportunity. Other engagements. Apply, WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, near Tipton; or Edward Ellis, Auctioneer, Wednesbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/12/1878 - Advert

“WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, near Dudley.

Capital opportunity. Goodwill and possession, £100. Fixtures, &c, at valuation. Close to important iron-works and collieries.

Apply, Whitehouse, Auctioneer, Dudley.”

London Gazette 3/1/1879

“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 *William Harper*, of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, in the parish of Tipton, 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 office of Messrs. Stokes and Harper, No.1, Priory-street, Dudley, in the county of Worcester, on the 14th day of January, 1879, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

Dated this 30th day of December, 1878.

Stokes and Harper, 1, Priory-street, Dudley, Solicitors for the said Debtor.”

#### Dudley Herald 18/1/1879

“A meeting of the creditors of *William Harper*, of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, was held at the office of Messrs. Stokes and Harper, solicitors, on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> inst, at which a resolution was passed by the creditors to wind up the estate in liquidation, Mr. Bywater, auctioneer, being appointed trustee.”

#### Dudley Herald 25/1/1879 - Notice

“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 *William Harper*, of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, Tipton, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Jabez Bywater, of Princes End, Tipton, 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 1879.

Thos. Walker, Registrar.”

#### London Gazette 31/3/1879

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1870. In the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley.

In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition, instituted by *William Harper*, of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, Tipton, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler.

Notice is hereby given, that a General Meeting of Creditors of the above estate will be held at the office of Messrs. Stokes and Harper, No.1, Priory-street, Dudley, in the county of Worcester, on Tuesday, the 1st day of April, 1879, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, for the purpose of auditing the Trustee's accounts; declaring what remuneration shall be allowed the Trustee for his services for winding up and collecting in the estate; for the consideration of granting the discharge of the debtor; and to appoint a day to close the liquidation and release the Trustee; and to pass any other resolution the creditors may deem necessary.

Dated this 19th day of March, 1879.

Stokes and Harper, 1, Priory-street, Dudley, Solicitors to the Trustee.”

#### Dudley Herald 3/7/1880

“Harry Cook, Tividale, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises and refusing to quit the same, and damaging a door to the amount of 30s, on the 26<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr. Addison was for the complainant, and Mr. Shakespeare for the defendant.

*William Hensman* said the defendant came to the WONDER HOTEL drunk. He asked for some ale and upon being refused he became violent, and committed the offence complained of.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs, and 30s for damage done to the door.”

AND

#### County Express 3/7/1880

“Harry Cook, a young man, was charged with refusing to quit the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, and also with doing damage to windows to the amount of 30s. Mr. Addison prosecuted, and Mr. Shakespeare (Old-bury) defended.

On behalf of his client Mr. Shakespeare admitted the offence, and expressed his sorrow, and determination to abstain from drink in the future.

The Bench fined defendant 5s and costs, and the damage.”

#### 1881 Census

82, Dudley Road

[1] *Sarah Hughes* (71), widow, licensed victualler, born Thorns, Worcestershire;

[2] Daniel Hughes (46), widower, son, traveller, born Thorns, Worcestershire;

[3] Mary Ann Aston (40), general servant, born Pedmore, Worcestershire:

AND

71, Dudley Road – WONDER HOTEL

[1] *William Hensman* (32), licensed victualler, born Saddington, Leicestershire;

[2] Sarah Hensman (24), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] William Hensman (1), son, born Tividale;

[4] John Hensman (1 month), son, born Tividale;

[5] Annie Jordan (21), sister-in-law, unmarried, born Oldbury;

[6] Deborah Stopp (17), domestic servant, born Burnt Tree:

#### Wednesbury Herald 19/11/1881

“On Monday, Edwin Hooper, Esq, coroner, held an inquest at the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, near Rowley, touching the death of Daniel *Hughes* (46) who had lately resided with his mother at the WONDER INN. The evidence showed that deceased had been a traveller in the employ of Mr. Matthew Smith, brewer, Dudley, and lately he had given way to drink. On Thursday night he returned home the worse for drink, and after partaking of supper went down the yard. In consequence of his being a long time away a search was made for him, and on the pig sty were found his coat and hat, and in a disused well was found his body, his feet only being out of the water. A verdict of Committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity was returned. The Coroner gave instructions to the police to see that the well was properly sealed.”

AND

#### Dudley and District News 19/11/1881

“On Monday the District Coroner (Mr. E. Hooper) held an inquest at the WONDER HOTEL touching the death of Daniel *Hughes* (46), tinsplate roller, who lived at the OLD WONDER INN, and whose body was found in a well in the back yard there on the previous Thursday.

Mary Ann Aston, servant, stated that deceased went out of the house, after having his supper, at ten pm on the day in question. As he did not return witness went in search of him, and found his jacket and hat on a stone near a well ten feet deep. On looking down the well she saw his body in the water head downwards. She called for aid, and with the assistance of *William Hensman* and Attwood Parsons, had the body conveyed to the house. Witness had observed the deceased had been subject to fits of abstraction for some time. PC Winfield stated that he had made enquiries as to deceased’s financial affairs, and found everything apparently satisfactory.

After duly considering the case, the jury, through their foreman, Mr. D. Wale, returned a verdict of Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 13/2/1882 - Advert

“WONDER INN, Tividale, near Dudley, to Let, at a very low rent. Immediate possession. Good garden and premises, full-licensed.

Apply to Mr. W. H. Pass, Auctioneer and Public-house Valuer, Oldbury Road, Smethwick.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 8/4/1882 - Advert

“Lost, on March 31, Fox-terrier Dog, young, black head, black spot on back; answers to Spot.

Anyone returning the same to WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, will be suitably rewarded; if detained will be prosecuted.”

#### 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.”

AND

County Express 22/4/1882

“Mr. Stokes applied for the transfer of the license of the WONDER INN, Tividale, from *Sarah Hughes* to *Henry Bishop*.

Supertintendent Woollaston opposed it on the ground that the applicant had been committed for trial on charges of fraud, although the charges had been ultimately dismissed.

Mr. Stokes said the applicant had been a licensed victualler from 1858 until 1876, and had never had a complaint brought against him. He had since been a commercial traveller, and the alleged frauds had been committed under the advice of a solicitor. All charges against him had fallen to the ground, and there was now an action pending against his former employers for malicious prosecution. The Bench granted the application.”

Dudley and District News 10/6/1882

“On Tuesday morning, the 30<sup>th</sup> ult, no little alarm was occasioned to the inhabitants who reside between the COACH AND HORSES [WAGGON AND HORSES] and the WONDER INN, in the Tividale Road, when it appeared that the road between the above-mentioned houses had subsided and caved into some depth, through mining operations. The fountains of the deep seemed to have broken up, for the hollow formed by the subsidence was soon filled with water, owing to the bursting of a large main belonging to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, which flooded the road, and rendered it quite impassable to pedestrians and vehicles, the water lodging in the entries, and rising nearly to the doorsteps of the houses.

On Wednesday the stable and coach-house of the COACH AND HORSES fell in with a crash, suddenly and unexpectedly, one part falling into the road, and the other inside, causing a perfect wreck.....”

London Gazette 12/1/1883

“Notice is hereby given, that the Eagle’s Hope Lodge, late of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity Friendly Society, Register No.2012, held at the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, in the county of Stafford, is dissolved by instrument, registered at this office, the 4th day of January, 1883, 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.

J. M. Ludlow, Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 28, Abingdon-street, Westminster, the 4th day of January, 1883.”

County Advertiser 27/9/1884

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division was held at Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday.....

Mr. Shakespeare made application for the renewal of the license the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, which house, he pointed out, had been late unoccupied owing to damage caused by mining operations. The application was granted.”

County Advertiser 3/10/1885

“Application was made for the renewal of the license of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale. The renewal of the license had not been signed on account of the dilapidated condition of the house, but it was stated that the house would now be put in repair as soon as the ground which had been disturbed in consequence of mining operations had subsided. The Bench granted the application.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/8/1886

“The annual Licensing Sessions for Old Hill was held yesterday.....

Mr. Shakespeare applied for the renewal of the license of the WONDER INN, Tividale. For two or three years it had not been tenanted owing to mining operations, which caused subsidence of the land. It being thought the subsidence was settling it was proposed to rebuild the house. The application was granted.”

AND

County Advertiser 28/8/1886

“The annual licensing session for the Petty Sessional division of Old Hill was held today.....

Mr. Shakespeare applied for the renewal of the license to the WONDER INN, Tividale. He stated that the house was not at present occupied, as the road had subsided and caused the former tenant to leave. The house, however, would be repaired, and it would then be re-opened. This application was granted.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/1/1887

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire coroner) held an inquest at the WONDER INN, Dudley Road, on Monday, touching the death of James Hardington (26), miner, Dudley Road, who was killed by a fall of coal at Messrs. Round’s Colliery, on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst.

Mr. W. B. Scott, the Government Inspector of Coal Mines, was in attendance to watch the proceedings. Whilst deceased and other men were engaged in removing a quantity of coal out of a stall deceased got into a dangerous place, and was knocked down by a large quantity of loose earth. He was buried for two hours, and when reached he was found to have suffocated.

In reply to the Coroner, Mr. Scott said the regulations of the Coal Mines Regulation Act had been complied with by the proprietors of the colliery, and the deceased was himself responsible for the unfortunate occurrence.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Express 12/1/1889

“Mr. Edwin Hooper held an inquest on Wednesday at the WONDER INN, Dudley Road, Tividale, respecting the death of Henry Darby (18), miner, Darby End, Netherton, who had been found drowned in the Birmingham canal at Groveland. The deceased was employed at the Rattle Chain Brickyard, and on the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> ult he left his home at 5.45 in a dense fog to attend his work. His body was discovered in the canal on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst by Police-constable Winfield.

The mother of the deceased said her son was always very attentive to business, and in his anxiety to get to his work promptly she believed he walked into the canal during the fog.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

It is stated that fourteen persons have lost their lives in the South Staffordshire district during the recent fog.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1890

“A largely-attended meeting of colliers was held at the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, near Dudley, on Saturday night, to hear addresses on the subject of the Coal Trades Wages Board.....”

1891 Census

71, Dudley Road – WONDER HOTEL

[1] *William Hensman* (42), licensed victualler, born Saddington, Leicestershire;

[2] Sarah Hensman (34), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] W. H. Hensman (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

- [4] John A. Hensman (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Frederick Hensman (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Frank J. Hensman (1 month), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Elizabeth Lappage (20), domestic servant, born Tipton:

#### County Advertiser 1/8/1891

“Mr. *William Hensman*, of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, made an application to the magistrates for an occasional license to sell intoxicating drinks in the Tividale cricket field.

Inspector Bishop said he must oppose the application, because the last time an occasional license was granted a man named Gale was seen to come off the field drunk, and was convicted before the magistrates. The applicant could not look after his hotel and the refreshment bar on the cricket field.

The applicant said he had never seen a drunken man on the field. He had been the landlord of the WONDER HOTEL thirteen years and not a single complaint had been made.

Police-constable Winfield said he saw the drunken man leave the field, but he could not say whether he got drunk on the field or not.

Applicant: I am quite positive the man was not supplied with drink on the field.

The magistrates granted the application, but cautioned the applicant.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 12/3/1892 - Advert

“To Publicans, Investors, Colliery Owners, and Others.

Important Sale of Valuable Property, Old-Licensed Inn, Residential Property, Cottages, and Land, situate at Tividale, near Dudley, all Freehold.

By E. Cox, on Tuesday, April 5, 1882.....

A Moiety of the WONDER INN, an old-established House, situate on the Dudley Road, Tividale.”

#### County Advertiser 19/11/1898

“On Thursday morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, concerning the death of George Nuttall (59), formerly residing in Dudley Road, Tividale, who committed suicide on Tuesday last.

Ernest Thomas Nuttall, gardener, of Edgbaston, identified the body, and said his father, about 13 years ago, was a colliery proprietor, but of late years he had been doing nothing except carrying on a bit of an agency for a colliery proprietor named Marsh. He had never noticed any change in his manner until this week when he visited his house, and seemed to be peculiar in manner. He had never heard deceased threaten to take his life, and he could assign no reason for the act. He received notice of his father’s death on Tuesday evening. In reply to a jurymen, witness said his father resided with a woman named Whale where he was well cared for.

Catherine Ann Whale, a widow, stated that she had known deceased for about 19 years. Her husband when he died allowed deceased to live rent free, and also gave him 10s a week. Deceased appeared to be very depressed of late and complained of pains in his head. He had never threatened to take his life. On Tuesday morning she last saw him alive when he seemed very low spirited. He said he could not sit down as his head pained him so much. He expressed his intention of taking some of witness’s children to a Catholic re-union at Dudley, but went home to lie down. He made no mention of any attempt to take his life, but in the morning, he said, ‘I wish I was with my old friend,’ referring to witness’s husband.

Sarah Shenton stated that on Tuesday afternoon she went to call deceased up when she saw him sitting in the arm chair with his throat cut, his head being almost severed from his body. There was a large quantity of blood about the floor, and a pocket knife lay near.

Evidence was also given by *William Hensman*, a neighbour, and Police-constable Robinson.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind.”

#### Dudley Herald 17/12/1898

“The annual dinner in connection with the Tividale Gardeners’ Protection Association was held at the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, on Monday night.....

After full justice had been done to an excellent repast served in the host’s best style, the business part of the

proceedings was proceeded with.

Mr. T. Cooksey (hon. secretary) presented his annual report, which stated that the association was formed on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 1893 and in the end of September in the succeeding year a small show was held at the WONDER HOTEL when about £4 were given in prizes. The association then had 22 members and he believed there was a slight profit on the first show. In the next year, 1895, they thought fit to take the show from the WONDER HOTEL, and held a public one on the Tividale Cricket Ground.....

The committee was re-elected, and Messrs. Walton, *Hensman*, and S. Evans were elected trustees. Mr. *Hensman* was re-elected hon. treasurer.....

During the evening songs were rendered by Messrs. Plant, Wilkes and others. An enjoyable evening was spent.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 8/7/1899 - Advert

“Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1899. Important Sale.....

Dudley Road, Tividale.

Lot 6. A Valuable and Important Piece of Freehold Building Land, fronting the Main Road, at Tividale, and forming the site of the Old WONDER INN, together with the Garden Ground in the rear, as shown on Plan, which will be produced at Sale, and coloured red. Total area, 882 square yards or thereabouts.

Lot 7. All that Piece of Freehold Building Land, near to Lot 6, and coloured red on Sale Plan, and containing an area of 844 square yards or thereabouts.”

#### Smethwick Telephone 15/7/1899

“Mr. Samuel Jones conducted a very successful sale of freehold properties at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday night. There was a large attendance.....

A piece of building land, fronting the main road at Tividale, formerly the site of the Old WONDER INN, containing an area of 882 square yards, was disposed of for £40; and a piece adjoining this lot, containing 844 square yards, also sold for £40.”

#### County Express 3/2/1900

“Daniel Whale, Tividale Cottage, Tividale, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, and refusing to quit the same when requested; and also assaulting the landlord, *Hensman*, on 20th January.

*William Hensman*, the landlord, said the defendant was in his house, and about seven o'clock he became objectionable, and witness requested him four or five times to leave. The defendant did not leave, and witness requested the servant to go for the police just before eight. Defendant could hear what was said, and he walked out. As he passed out, witness was standing in the doorway, and defendant caught him by the throat. Witness got away from him and went into the bar, and as witness passed a small window the defendant spat in witness's face.

Susan White, servant, said she heard her master order the defendant out four times, because he was disorderly.

The defence was that the case for the prosecution on the charge of refusing to quit must fall through on the landlord's own evidence, as the defendant offered to go out if the landlord would give him the money which he stated was due to him. When the 1½d was given him he left. They denied that the defendant caught hold of the landlord's throat; he merely pushed him as he was going out the house. The landlord's story was absolutely without corroboration.

The defendant, Joseph Spicer, and Edward Shenton gave evidence in reply to the charge.

The case was dismissed.”

#### Dudley Herald 3/3/1900

“The annual dinner in connection with the Tividale Horticultural Society was held at the WONDER HOTEL on Monday evening, when a capital repast was served up in Host and Hostess *Hensman*'s well-known style.....”

#### County Advertiser 14/4/1900

“Jesse Heath, Britannia Street, Tividale, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *William Hensman* on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst; and was further charged with being drunk and disorderly in the public highway. *William Hensman*, landlord of the WONDER HOTEL, stated that on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst defendant came into his house, drunk. Witness ordered him to leave, but he refused to go.

Police-constable Robinson stated that on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst he found defendant drunk on the licensed premises of last witness. Witness put defendant outside, where he was very disorderly, and had to be brought to the police station.

Defendant was fined 10s in each case.”

AND

Dudley Herald 14/4/1900

“Jesse Eades, of Britannia Street, Tividale, was summoned for drunkenness, and also with refusing to quit the WONDER HOTEL on the 7<sup>th</sup> April.

*William Hensman*, the landlord, said that on the day named defendant came to his house in a drunken condition, and refused to leave when requested.

PC Robinson said he assisted *Hensman* to get Eades out. He became very abusive outside. He locked him up, and for three hours he went on like a madman in the cell.

Defendant was fined 10s in each case.”

1901 Census

71, Dudley Road – WONDER INN

[1] *William Hensman* (52), married, licensed victualler, born Saddington, Leicestershire;

[2] William Henry Hensman (21), son, assistant school master, born Tividale;

[3] John Arthur Hensman (20), son, engine fitter, born Tividale;

[4] Frederick Hensman (18), son, railway goods clerk, born Tividale;

[5] Frank Jordan Hensman (10), son, born Tividale;

[6] Katherine Lilian Hensman (5), daughter, born Tividale;

[7] Susan Wright (27), housekeeper, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/9/1904

“Mr. A. A. Betham (Deputy Coroner for South Staffordshire) held an inquest at the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, yesterday, on Charlotte Walford, the infant child of James Edward and Drusilla Walford, of Groveland Road, who had been found dead in bed on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> inst.

A few weeks ago a woman residing at Bloxwich visited the residence of the Walfords when suffering from itch, with the result that nine persons contracted the disease, including the deceased, who was only ten weeks old, and the irritation was so great as to cause her death.

The Coroner said the Walfords occupied a very insanitary dwelling, totally unfit for habitation.

Police-constable Heatherley said the whole family had suffered very intensely from the itch.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Convulsions, accelerated by the itch, and directed the police to report the case to the Rowley Regis sanitary authorities.”

County Advertiser 18/2/1905

“John William Deakin, of Canal Street, Tipton, was charged with stealing 4d, belonging to *John Thomas Jones*, landlord of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst.

It appeared that money had been thrown to the ceiling at prosecutor’s house in aid of a fund for feeding the poor school children. On the date named defendant went into the house, and it was alleged that during the landlord’s absence he took four-pence from the ceiling.

The Bench described it as a mean theft, and fined defendant £1 5s, including costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 1/4/1905

“Edward Smith, galvaniser, of Dudley Road, Tividale, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, kept by *John Thomas Jones*, on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst [sic]. A cross-summons was issued charging *Jones* with assaulting Smith on the same date.

The landlord stated that defendant used bad language and became disorderly. Witness requested him to leave the premises, but he refused to go, and had to be ejected. Smith denied that he was requested to leave and alleged that the landlord said he had killed many 'Boers' and could strangle him. He then rushed at him, and, after committing a violent assault upon him, ejected him from the house. He (Smith) sustained severe injuries as a result of the landlord's violence. *Jones*, however, contended that Smith received his injuries in the struggle. The Bench fined Smith 5s and costs for refusing to quit, and dismissed the case against the publican."

*John William Beck* = John William Bick

#### County Advertiser 6/1/1906

"*John William Bick*, landlord of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, was charged with assaulting James Edward Walford, of the same locality, on Boxing Day. There was a charge preferred against Walford of refusing to quit the licensed premises. Mr. W. Waldron represented *Bick*, and Mr. F. Dawes appeared for Walford. The latter alleged that during a dispute over a debt *Bick* struck him on the left side of the neck. He also dealt him another blow upon the face, and threw him down the steps, dislocating his shoulder, and causing injuries of such a serious character as to necessitate his removal to the hospital. The assault was denied, and it was alleged that Walford refused to leave the premises and received his injuries by falling upon a jar whilst being ejected. Eventually the Bench fined Walford 20s for refusing to quit and dismissed the case of assault."

#### County Advertiser 5/5/1906

"Samuel Rogers, of Greenaway Street, Small Heath, and John Coghill, of St. John's Place, Birmingham, were charged under the Highways Act with failing to have control over their horses on the 18<sup>th</sup> ult. Police-constable Heatherley stated that he saw six horses and two wagons standing in Dudley Road, Tividale. After watching them for fifteen minutes witness went into the WONDER HOTEL, and found the defendants eating their dinners. They were each fined 10s, including costs."

*John William Beck* – see also KNIGHTS QUEST (GEORGE AND DRAGON), Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

#### Dudley Chronicle 22/1/1910

"The following licenses in Rowley division were transferred.....  
WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, from *William Henry Elliot* to *Enoch Roderick*.  
Inspector Needham pointed out that the applicant was convicted in 1904 for permitting gaming but had since kept a public house at Tipton in a satisfactory manner.  
The application was granted."

*Enoch Roderick* – see also BOAT, Tividale.

#### 1911 Census

44, Dudley Road

- [1] *Claude Vincent* (40), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Selina Vincent (36), wife, married 17 years, born Oldbury;
- [3] William Vincent (15), son, office boy, born Oldbury;
- [4] Kenneth Vincent (12), son, school, born Oldbury;
- [5] Gertrude Vincent (9), daughter, school, born Oldbury;
- [6] Fanny Sherwood (16), domestic servant, born Tividale:

*Claude Vincent* – see also BROWN LION, Tividale, BROWN LION, Oldbury, and ODDFELLOWS, New Street, Oldbury.

*Joseph Woodhall* = Joseph Woodall

#### Dudley Chronicle 25/1/1913

“The sequel to some lively scenes at Tividale were heard at Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, when a number of men were summoned for disorderly conduct and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, on the 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Mr. J. T. Higgs (Brierley Hill) appeared to prosecute, and stated that the public house had recently changed hands, and on the 12<sup>th</sup> January a fresh licensee came into the premises. At eight o'clock on the Sunday evening these men arrived at the WONDER INN. They began shouting and quarrelling, and challenged other customers in the house to fight. In consequence of their conduct the manager requested them to leave the house. They did not appear to take any notice, but continued to act in a disorderly manner, practically taking possession of the whole of the licensed premises. They turned the house inside out and created a general riot. The manager sent for the police, the windows of the house having been broken. PC Heatherley arrived and arrested the defendants. *John George Smith*, the licensee, admitted that he had told his wife to fetch his rifle to clear the house.

As a result Henry Woodcock (Smethwick), John and George Henney (Smethwick), Jesse Smith (Dudley Port), Joseph Dudley (Dudley Port), and Thomas York (Smethwick) were fined sums of 10s and 5s.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 5/4/1913

“At Old Hill on Wednesday, *John George Smith*, of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, was summoned for permitting gaming on licensed premises. Mr. J. W. Clulow (Brierley Hill) stated that the offence took place on Friday and Saturday, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March, when PC Rowbotham and another person visited the WONDER HOTEL and there saw a number of working men playing a game known as ‘pyramids pool.’ A penny each was placed in the pool, which was collected by a man who acted as marker. On the conclusion of the game, the money was paid out and drinks brought to the winners. The landlord came in during the progress of one of the games. On the following day a game was played, which consisted of knocking down a match placed between three billiard balls, on which bets were exchanged. The landlord came in, and evidently suspecting that the police were present, said, ‘No more gambling tonight.’

Mr. J. T. Higgs, for the defence, said knowing the extremely fair way in which the police gave their evidence, his client would be advised to place the case at the mercy of the Court. He submitted the offence was not a serious one. It was one of those trifling games which working men would play, and would have their pennies or two-pence on. The landlord admittedly ought to have been a little more careful.

A fine of 10s and costs was imposed in the first case, and the second case was dismissed.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 2/8/1913

“Thomas Smith, James Bromwell, and Job Gardener, all of Birmingham, who had all left their waggons and horses unattended outside the WONDER INN, Tividale, were fined 10s inclusive. PC Heathly and PC Simkins gave evidence, it being stated that the road was completely blocked, and the tram had to pull up.”

#### Dudley Chronicle 8/11/1913

“*George Richard Aston* was granted interim authority to sell at the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale. Superintendent Johnson stated that the license had been transferred nine times in recent years; he had no objection to the applicant.”

#### Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1914

“The licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

Superintendent Johnson objected to the renewal of the licenses of ..... the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, on the ground of previous convictions.

The Bench decided to renew both licenses, but cautioned the license holders as to the future conduct of the houses.”

#### Birmingham Mail 10/6/1914

“At Old Hill Police Court today, in connection with an application for the transfer of the license of the WONDER HOTEL, Tividale, from *George Richard Aston* to *Alfred Sheldon*, the Dudley footballer, Superintendent Johnson said there was no opposition to the character of the applicant, but he thought it necessary to

point out that the license had been transferred ten times in eleven years, the last one being in December last. The Bench granted the application.”

Dudley Chronicle 27/3/1915

“John Morris, of Rounds Green, was summoned for assaulting *Alfred Sheldon*, of the WONDER HOTEL. Complainant alleged that the defendant came to the hotel and accused him of taking his job from him at Brades Steel Works. He finished up by striking him in the face. A fine of 5s and costs was imposed.”

Dudley Chronicle 1/5/1915

“At Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday *William Wheale* applied for the transfer of the license of the WONDER INN, Tividale. Supt. Johnson stated that there had been a large number of transfers of this license, there being four prior to 1911 and seven previous to that date. The Bench granted the application. The late tenant, *Alfred Sheldon*, who is engaged on Government work, was excused from attendance.”

Dudley Chronicle 4/12/1920

“To defray the cost of making good the depredations in the fencing and seats at the Tividale Recreation Ground – provided for the village by the generosity of Councillor W. Barnett, JP – a couple of cricket matches were recently held. In celebration of the win a dinner was given at the WONDER INN on Saturday night. Mr. Ellis presided, and in the speeches made Councillor Barnett was warmly thanked for his generosity in providing the field as a recreation ground, and regret was expressed that the youngsters and the ‘oldsters’ had destroyed what was intended solely for the public good in the way of seats and fencing. Councillor Barnett said all would be put right in the early part of the new year, and a committee of vigilance would see that all was kept right. Councillor Barnett was warmly congratulated on his recent appointment as a Justice of the Peace.”

Dudley Chronicle 27/8/1925

“Tividale Parade. For the Help of the Hospitals.

Although it has been in existence for only eight months, the efforts of those who are responsible for the activities of the Tividale Hospital and Friendly Societies’ Committee for the hospitals, are most praiseworthy. During the eight months there has been collected at the WONDER HOTEL £5 9s, MINERS ARMS £4 15s 9d, Tividale E.M.S. £1 9s, ASH TREE INN 3s, a total of £11 16s 9d. From this amount there has been sent to the Dudley Guest Hospital £3, Dudley Dispensary £1 10s, Birmingham Orthopaedic 7s.....

The Tividale parade on Sunday week was a great success ..... it consisted of members of Friendly Societies, Sick and Dividend Clubs, Schools, Adult Schools, R.A.O.B. Societies, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Police and Fire Brigades. Included among them were representatives of ..... R.A.O.B. (WONDER, Tividale) ..... The R.A.O.B. wore their fine golden regalia.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/10/1925

“A fishing contest took place on Saturday in the waters of the sewage outfall works at Tividale, Rowley Regis. Mr. Hughes, the foreman at the farm, which is part of the system belonging to the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board, is an ardent fisherman, and in May last he conceived the idea of stocking with fish what is known as a humus tank. The tank, into which water goes after passing through the various processes connected with its purification, is 18ft deep and contains some 600 fish. The farm is probably the only one of its kind in existence where fish are accommodated, and the fact that they have thrived so well is evidence of the purity of the water as it leaves the farm.

Local anglers have occasionally fished in the tank, and when Mr. Hughes suggested to the officials of the WONDER Angling Society, Tividale, that a contest at the farm, apart from its uniqueness, would provide an afternoon’s sport, the idea was immediately taken up.....”

*William Thomas Kings* – see also RED LION, Tipton.

1939 Register



44, Dudley Road

[1] *Sidney Canning*, date of birth 23/4/1894, manager public house, married;

[2] Flora M. Canning, dob 22/4/1899, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[5] Margaret (Canning) Ray, dob 27/5/1933, at school, single:

Tipton Herald 30/4/1955

“Mr. *William Edward Darby* (67), licensee of the WONDER INN, Dudley Road, West Tividale, was found dead in the bar on Thursday morning by his daughter.”

The Warley Model Railway Circle held their first meeting here in 1966.

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/11/1991

“Fund-raising Oldbury sky-diver Genie Forbes has vowed never to go parachute jumping again – though pleased with her efforts for cancer research. Genie was the only woman among eight regulars from the WONDER public house, Dudley Road West, Tividale, to help raise £1,540 for Cancer Research Campaign funds through a sponsored parachute jump at Langar, Nottinghamshire. But reflecting on the effort she said today, ‘The fellows loved it but I hated it. However, everybody said I had done a really good job so it was worth it in the end.’

The cheque was presented to Mr. Lawrence Banner, Midland area organiser of the Cancer Research Campaign, at the ceremony at the WONDER.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/7/1992

“They’re the pubs that YOU think are the best in the Midlands – and now they’re all in the running for our prestigious Midland Town and Country Pub of the Year.....

The *Evening Mail* has teamed up for the contest with the Midland Counties Brewers’ and Licensed Retailers’ Association, to raise a toast to the very best of our region’s pubs. Now it is up to the judges, who face a huge task choosing the two winners from the enormous entry. They’ll be looking for service and standards of comfort demanded by today’s discerning pub-goer. And they will be awarding marks for another important ingredient of a successful pub – the part it plays as a hub of social life in the community.....

WONDER, Tividale.”

It was one of the last eight finalists in the *Evening Mail* Midland Pub of the Year competition in 1992.

Tividale WONDER Football Club was established in 1994.

*Leigh Maskell* – see also OLD HOP POLE, West Bromwich.

[2021]